
Information about itinerant trades

Activities that are exempt from the itinerant trade rule

[§§ 55 a](#) and [b](#) of the German Industrial Code (GewO) state that some activities are exempt from the obligation to carry an itinerant trade card. These include:

- The occasional offering of goods at trade fairs, exhibitions, public festivals, or on other special occasions with a permit from the relevant authorities
- The sale of self-produced products (farming and forestry; the growing of vegetables, fruit and plants; poultry farming; beekeeping; hunting; fishing)
- The purchase and sale of goods, the seeking of orders, and the offering of services and the seeking of orders for service provision within the local community (no more than 10,000 inhabitants) in which the itinerant trader resides or holds their commercial office
- The provision of milk and milk products with a permit in line with [§ 4 of the Milk and Margarine Law](#)
- The brokering/conclusion of insurance and building loan contracts as an insurance broker in line with [§ 34 d para. 3, 4, 5 German Industrial Code](#) (the same applies to the employees of the commercial operation)
- The job of insurance adviser as described in [§34 e German Industrial Code](#) in conjunction with [§ 34 d para. 5 German Industrial Code](#) (the same applies to the employees of the commercial operation)
- The practising of a trade that requires a permit in accordance with national or regional law, the practising of which demands reliability and for which the itinerant trader requires the necessary permit
- The sale of groceries and other convenience goods from a non-fixed selling point or a different facility at the same location at regular intervals (the prohibition described in [§ 56 para. 1 No. 3 b German Industrial Code](#) does not apply here)
- The offering of printed items on public pathways, roads and in other public places
- The seeking of other people as part of a business operation

Activities that are not permitted as itinerant trades

In accordance with [§ 56 German Industrial Code](#), the following activities are not permitted as itinerant trades:

- The sale of poisons and goods containing poisons; the seeking of orders for pesticides, insecticides and wood preservatives for which a test certificate with an approval has been issued in line with building regulations is permitted
- The sale of hernia trusses as well as medical trusses, braces and bandages, orthopaedic foot supports, glasses and eyeglasses; protective goggles and ready-to-wear reading glasses are permitted
- The sale of electrical medical devices; devices with a direct warming effect are permitted
- The trading of bonds, lottery tickets, coupons and shares on securities and lottery tickets; the sale of lottery tickets as part of authorised lotteries for charitable purposes on public pathways, roads and squares and other public places is permitted*)
- The sale of writings with the promise of prizes/winnings
- The offering and purchasing of precious metals (gold, silver, platinum and platinum bimetals), alloys containing precious metals as well as goods with precious metal plating; silver jewellery with a sales price of up to 40 EUR and silver-plated goods are permitted
- The purchasing and sale of precious gemstones, synthetic stones and pearls
- The offering of spirituous beverages; beer, wine and other alcoholic drinks sold in closed containers are permitted ([§ 67 para. 1 no. 1, 2nd and 3rd clause of the German Industrial Code](#)*)
- The conclusion and brokerage of repurchase transactions ([§ 34 para. 4 German Industrial Code](#)) as well as the brokering of lending activities for which the borrower has to pay*
- The offering of trees, bushes and shrubs for the operation of an orchard, garden or vineyard ([§ 56 para. 3 German Industrial Code](#))

*) The bans marked in this way do not apply to activities at a non-stationary premises for a credit institute or company as stated in [§ 53 b para. 1 sentence 1 or para. 7 of the German Banking Act](#), if these premises are solely used for standard banking practices for which the company is authorised in line with the German Banking Act.

→ The Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology can permit exceptions to the restrictions listed in paragraph 1 by statutory decree with the approval of the Federal Council, insofar as this would not endanger the general public, public safety or law. The same power is awarded to regional governments for their respective region, insofar as the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology has not made use of its authority. In individual cases, the responsible authority can permit exceptions to the bans of section 1 for its region with reservation of the right to revoke and for a period of up to five years, in cases where no concerns arise in relation to the personality of the applicant or from other circumstances; [§ 55 para. 3](#) and [§ 60 c para. 1 German Industrial Code](#) apply accordingly to the exemption permit.