

Trade unions stand up for the rights of workers. They also stand up for your rights even if you come from another country. We want you to be able to work in Germany under fair conditions!

Contact us if you have any questions about your rights!

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Faire Mobilität – Advice and counselling for workers from Central and Eastern Europe

www.faire-mobilitaet.de
kontakt@faire-mobilitaet.de

If you have a labour law problem at your workplace in Germany contact the free hotline of Faire Mobilität:

Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian

0800 0005776 / upit@faire-mobilitaet.de

Bulgarian

0800 1014341 / konsultacia@faire-mobilitaet.de

Czech

poradenstvi@faire-mobilitaet.de

Hungarian

0800 0005614 / tanacsadas@faire-mobilitaet.de

Polish

0800 0005780 / doradztwo@faire-mobilitaet.de

Romanian

0800 0005602 / consiliere@faire-mobilitaet.de

You can find labour-law information in your language under
www.fair-arbeiten.eu

For a direct contact to one of our advisory centres please go to:
www.faire-mobilitaet.de/beratungsstellen



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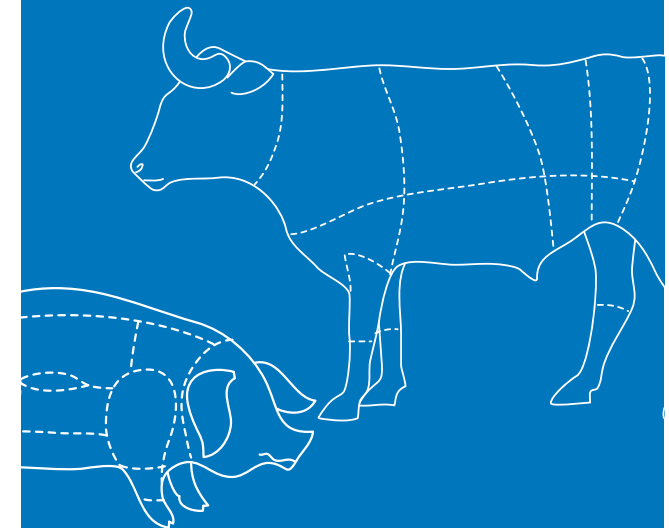


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Arbeitnehmerfreizügigkeit
sozial, gerecht und aktiv

Working in the slaughterhouse

Your rights in the meat industry
in Germany



englisch

Do you work in the meat industry in Germany?

There are important changes from 2021

As of 01 January 2021, **subcontractors are prohibited in the meat industry!**

All workers must be employed directly by the general contractor - this is guaranteed by a new law.

From **01 April 2021**, with only a few exceptions, **subcontracted work** will also be banned in the meat industry.

The new situation is a **great opportunity** to fight together for better wages, more holidays, allowances and overall better working conditions!

Do you receive a fair wage?

Trained butchers earn between **17-18 euros** gross per hour in Germany. Assistant butchers earn **12-13 euros gross per hour** in **companies that have collective agreements.**

In Germany, working conditions as well as wages, holiday entitlement, allowances and Christmas bonuses are regulated by **collective agreements**. **Collective agreements** are negotiated between the Nahrung-Genuss-Gaststätten (NGG) trade union and the company, and only where workers are organised in the union.

The state only guarantees low minimum wages, no collectively agreed wages, no allowances, no bonuses.

The current minimum wage in Germany is **9.50 euros gross per hour**. From **01 July 2021**, the minimum wage will be **9.60 euros gross**, and from **01 January 2022**, **9.82 euros gross**.

If you work as a **temp**, you are entitled to at least **10.15 euros gross** in the West German Länder and **10.10 euros gross** in the East German Länder. From **01 April 2021**, the minimum wage in temporary agency work will be **10.45 euros gross nationwide**, and from **01 April 2022**, **10.88 euros gross**.

Does a **collective agreement** that guarantees higher wages, more holidays, Christmas or holiday allowances and bonuses apply to your employment relationship? You can find out from your works council members, from the NGG trade union or from an advisory centre. Get in touch!

How many hours do you work?

According to the law:

- a maximum daily working time of **10 hours (or 48 hours per week)** must not be exceeded;
- you have the right to a break after **6 hours** of work at the latest;
- the break must be for recreational purposes only;
- you are entitled to paid leave (at least **4 weeks** per year).

Important note: All companies with more than 5 employees have the right to elect a works council in Germany! The job of the **works council** members is to support employees, monitor compliance with occupational safety and maximum working hours, and ensure that supervisors treat all colleagues fairly. They can also negotiate works agreements that help improve working conditions for all staff.

Employers are obliged to record working hours accurately. You should nonetheless document your working hours yourself! You will need these records in the event of a dispute!

The highest German labour court has ruled:

- that the times you need to change in the cubicle as well as the transit times within the factory (e.g. from the locker room to the assembly line) are working hours and must be paid (this also applies to preparatory activities, such as sharpening the knives);
- that the cleaning of work clothes is the employer's responsibility (he may not deduct the cleaning costs from your wages!);
- that for the most part you are entitled to an allowance for night work.

By law, your employer must provide you with your work, protective or hygiene clothing and work equipment (knives, gloves, etc.).

If the employer charges you money for this, you can claim it back!

What to do in case of dismissal (orally, without notice)?

A notice of termination must **always be given in writing**. In addition, a notice period must be observed.

Termination without notice can have negative effects on your unemployment benefit claim. **You do not have to sign** a notice of termination handed to you by the employer!

Contact your trade union or a advisory centre immediately if you have received a notice of termination! You only have **3 weeks** from receipt of the dismissal to defend yourself against it!

How is your accommodation?

Your accommodation must meet certain standards and must not be unreasonably expensive.

If you are threatened with termination of your accommodation or even forced eviction, contact an advisory centre quickly or call the police immediately (110)! You do not have to leave your accommodation overnight if it makes you homeless!

Do you want to learn German?

Do you know about the possibility of attending a subsidised German language course in your area?

This is often possible. Find out more!

Find out about your rights early on and contact us! Our counselling is free of charge and confidential.