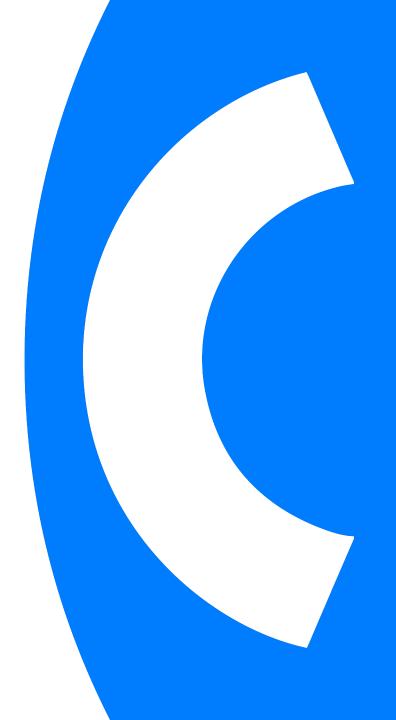


WORKING GROUP ON THE

DIGITALIZATION OF TRADE DOCUMENTS

1 APRIL 2025



Promoting Paperless Trade

ICC Germany April 2025



Paperless Trade in Germany

Legal Environment

- In 2013 introduction of a digital opening clause in the commercial code back allowing the use of electronic bills of lading, e-consignment notes, e-warehouse receipts, e-waybills and e-sea waybills
- Prerequisite for equal treatment of paper and electronic documents: authenticity and integrity of an electronic bill of lading
 - Direct reference to the UNCITRAL MLETR
- Authorization of the Federal Ministry of Justice to regulate the details of the issuance, presentation, return and transfer of an electronic bill of lading.

Paperless Trade Initiative Germany

ICC Germany as leading voice of trade digitalisation Part 1

- Mid 2021: Launch of a working group with Federation of German Industries, the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce, the Association of German Banks and Insurance Companies, transport and logistics associations
- Mid 2022: Presentation of a proposal to the Federal Ministry of Justice for a
 "regulation on the details of electronic freight and warehouse documents and a
 legal framework for electronic transport insurance certificates"
- Jan. 2023: Amendment to HGB and VVG for electronic transport insurance policies
 - > Germany is 99% MLETR compliant, missing: e-bill of exchange

Paperless Trade Initiative Germany

ICC Germany as leading voice of trade digitalisation Part 2

- Mid-2024: Joint statement with other business associations: no downgrading of the form of consignment notes and other freight and storage documents to text form.
- <u>Feb. 2025</u>: Exchange with German Judges on the handling of electronic records in court proceedings
- Renaissance of the (electronic) bill of exchange

Paperless Trade Initiative Germany

Private Sector Involvement

- Support of and advise to the German private sector in going (trade) digital
- Support of IT service partners to gain access to the German market
- Coordination of pilots of digital cross-industry, cross-country trade transactions
- Helping companies develop strategies to reduce costs and increase paperless trade: pain point analysis, digitization potential, quick wins

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