

Austrian Laws

RIS - Manual

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1 Overview

This application is part of the Austrian Legal Information System (RIS) and contains a selection of Austrian laws in English translation. The reader should bear in mind that some provisions of these laws will not be understandable without a certain background knowledge of the Austrian legal and political system.

Even though these documents have been meticulously prepared and translated, some linguistic compromises had to be made.

Please note that these laws may be amended in future so check occasionally for updates.

It is expressly pointed out that the Legal Information System (RIS) is a online-source of Austrian laws which at the same time serves as the Federal Announcement Platform for austrian legal acts.

Therefore, **no legal assistance** can be provided.

All documents are supplied with additional information (metadata), which makes the search for desired documents a lot easier.

Furthermore, it is possible to save each RIS page as a link. Please note that JavaScript must be enabled in the browser for some functions.

2 Structure of the documentation

2.1 Document types

In this application you will find selected Austrian legal provisions in English translation from the following areas:

- Federal Constitutional Laws (= Bundesverfassungsgesetze)
- Federal Laws (= Bundesgesetze)
- Ordinances (= Verordnungen)
- Agreements (= Abkommen)

2.2 Structure of the documents

The content of each document is divided into individual elements. For example, the title of a federal law is stored in a separate element.

3 Query mask

3.1 General information

There are several input fields available to you when searching within a federal law.

You can use all search operators (see point 3.2) in the following input fields:

- Search terms
- Title
- Source

Entries in different input fields are linked with **"and"**.

3.2 Search operators

The following search operators are available to support your document search:

and / space

If the operator "and" is entered, all search terms must be found within the document (**cumulative search**). Instead of "and", you can also enter a space between the search terms.

Table 1: Multiple search terms with operators "and"/space - input and result

Entry	Search result
energy rent energy and rent	All documents containing both the term "energy" and the term "rent" will be displayed.

or

If the operator "or" is used, the documents containing one of the two search terms will be found (**alternative search**).

Table 2: Multiple search terms with operator "or" - input and result

Entry	Search result
Energy or rent	The documents containing either the term "energy", the term "rent" or both terms will be displayed.

not

When using "not" as a search operator, documents containing the first search term entered before the "not" operator will be displayed, but not the second search term entered after the operator (**exclusive search**).

Table 3: Multiple search terms using the search operator "not" - input and result

Entry	Search result
energy not rent	Documents containing the term "energy" will be displayed, but not documents containing both, the word "energy" and the word "rent" at the same time.

()

If different operators are linked in a query, it is necessary to use parentheses.

Table 4: Various operators, query with parentheses - input and result

Entry	Search result
(energy rent) or (insulation house)	Documents containing the terms "energy" and "rent" or the terms "insulation" and "house" will be displayed.

* (asterisk)

Words containing one or more characters instead of "*". The masking can take place at the beginning, in the middle or at the end of a search term, whereby "*" can also be used twice (but then only at the beginning and at the end) in a search term.

Table 5: Term with wildcard "*" - input and result

Entry	Search results
*ministrative	<u>ad</u> ministrative, etc.
employ*	employ <u>e</u> d, employ <u>m</u> en, employ <u>e</u> es, etc.
minist	Ministry, <u>ad</u> ministrative, minister <u>e</u> , etc.
pre*ion	Pre <u>s</u> entation, etc.


Phrase search

When seaching for a phrase, please enter the phrase with a single quotation mark or apostrophe.

Table 6: Phrase search - input and result

Entry	Search results
'mental disturbance'	Documents containing the searched phrase "mental disturbance" are found.
"mental disturbance"	

3.3 Query fields

The icon  (=help) is located in front of each input field. Selecting this icon displays instructions for this input field.

Search terms

This query field is used for queries in all elements (= metadata, e.g. author of the translation) of the document, including those for which a separate query field is not defined in the query mask, and in the content of the documents.

All character strings entered in this query field are searched for in all elements, this field can be used to search "across the entire document".

Title

This form field is used to search for a title or the abbreviation of a legal norm.

This query field contains a suggestion function. After entering at least three characters, possible terms will be displayed. A term can be selected by clicking on it.

Examples of entries:

- Federal
- Federation

Source

Basically you can search for a particular document number of an Austrian Federal Law Gazette where a law has been published (original version or amendment). There is also a note about the key-date, meaning that the law was in effect on that particular date.

Later amendments to the law are not considered in the text.

Available since

Here you can search for these documents which have been taken up or modified within a given period of time.

You have the following selection:

- one week
- two weeks
- one month
- three months
- six months
- one year

3.4 References

On the right-hand side of the query screen under "Information" you will find the following references:

List of laws in English

Here you can find a list of laws that have been translated into English.

Manual

Here you can find the query manual.

Info, Contact

Here you will find brief information about the RIS application and the contact details (e-mail addresses) concerning documentation and search or technical questions.

4 Hit list

4.1 General information

In the hit list, which is divided into columns, the documents found as a result of the query are displayed with brief information.

By default, the entire hit list is sorted in descending order according to the title of the law.

You can change the sorting by clicking on a column heading, whereby it should be noted that JavaScript must be activated in the browser.

4.2 Reference to the documents found

1st column – Title of the law

The title of the particular law will be displayed here. This entry is displayed as a link that leads to additional information or metadata (e.g. author of the translation) and to the link of the document.

2nd column – Source

Information on the Number of the Federal Law Gazette where the original version of the legislation was published and, if required, the latest amendment to the legislation.

You will also find a reference to the date of the version which has been translated into English.

4.3 Multiple selection




On the left side of the "Title of the law" column, there is a checkbox which enables you to select each individual document, in case you wish to select several

documents, for text display. By clicking on "Open selected documents" you will get the selected documents displayed.

If you select the box on top of the column, on the right side of the "No." (select all rows), then all displayed documents on the hit list will be automatically selected.

4.4 Displaying a document by clicking on an icon

You have the option of calling up a document in three different file formats by clicking on the icons at the end of each row.

- - HTML (icon )
- - RTF (icon )
- - PDF (icon )

Please note, that only the "main document" of the legal regulation can be accessed directly from the hit list. Any attachments to that file are only visible within the text display.

5 Text display

5.1 General information

In this view, the additional information (= metadata) of the document is displayed. The content of the legal act, including any attachments, is only visible via the icon.

The references to the materials of the state parliament (e.g. date of the state parliament resolution, number of the government bill) are linked to the website of the respective state where applicable.

5.2 Description of the individual elements

Title

Information on the title of the legal act.

Source

Contains the Federal Law Gazette Number of original version and of the last amendment of the legal act.

You will also find a reference to the date of the version which has been translated into English.

Author of the translation

The name of the author of the translation, usually a Federal Ministry.

Last change

The date the last change of the legal document was made.

Internal number of the document

Information on the unofficial (technical) document number, which is used to uniquely identify a document

5.3 Marking the search terms in the text

If you enter search terms in the input fields

- Search words
- Title
- Source

search terms are highlighted in blue in the metadata. This means that these terms are easily recognizable in the text.

However, if you look up a document via an icon, the search term displayed will not be highlighted.

By selecting "**To first highlighted search term**", you will be taken to the first result of the search term in the metadata.

If a search term appears more than once in the metadata, you will find the symbol (<) before the term and the symbol (>) after the term. Selecting one of these arrows will take you to the previous (<) or next (>) occurrence of the word you are looking for.

5.4 Printing a document

A "print preview" is available on the top right hand side of the page for displaying the document in a print-preview. By not using this function, some characters may get lost on the right margin of the printout.