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National standardization:
(d) Administrative structure of
national names authorities

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF NATIONAL NAMES AUTHORITIES
IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Paper presented by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

Abstract

According to the federal structure of the Federal Republic of Germany the Länder (Federal States) administrations of the Interior, in partial consultation with the communes, are responsible for the spelling of geographical names.

The Survey Offices of the Länder - reporting to the Land Ministry of the Interior, and in certain Länder to the Land Ministry of Finances - use on the topographical maps the geographical names as officially determined where such a form exists. Failing this, they make the best possible use of the traditionally most current names in conformity with the general rules on the application of geographical names.

The spelling of place or commune names is determined by decrees issued by the administrations of the Interior.

The spelling of parcel names is determined by the cadastral administration; it is recorded on the cadastral plan or on the German Basic Map 1:5,000. Wherever names of the small-scale cadastral plan or of the German Basic Map are used on the official topographical map series, these names are authoritative.

Only in a few cases is the spelling of the names of waters and lakes determined by a decree of the administration of the Interior. In general, it is adapted to the spelling used in the decrees issued by the Land Ministries of Agriculture. In the case of very extensive or supra-regional waters, the spelling is determined by federal regulation.