

Legal Forms of Business Organizations

Every country has its own jurisdiction form which is reflected in the different legal forms of companies and other similar business organizations. Even in English speaking countries, e.g. Britain, the USA or Australia, there are not only differences in terminology, but also alterations in the legal meanings.

German	British	American
Alleininhaber/Einzellkaufmann Geschäftsinhaber Geschäftsteilhaber	~ Sole Proprietor/Sole Trader ~ Proprietor ~ Co-Proprietor/Co-Owner	~ Sole.-Proprietor ~ Proprietor ~ Co-Proprietor/Co-Owner
OHG (Offener Handelsgesellschaft) Gesellschafter Geschäftsführender Gesellschafter	~ General Partnership ~ Partner ~ Managing Partner	~ Ordinary Partnership ~ Partner ~ Managing Partner
KG (Kommanditgesellschaft)	~ Limited Partnership	~ Limited Partnership
eG (eingetragene Genossenschaft)	~ registered cooperative	~ registered cooperative
GmbH (Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung) Geschäftsführer Vorstand Vorsitzender der Geschäftsführung Gesellschafter Gesellschafterversammlung	~ Ltd (Private Limited Company) ~ MD (Managing Director) ~ Board of Directors ~ Chairman ~ Associate/Partner ~ Associates' Meeting/Company General Meeting Australia/South Africa: ~ Pty Ltd (Proprietary Limited Company)	~ LLC (Limited Liability Company), Corp./C-Corp. (Closed Corporation), S-Corp.. (Subchapter-S Corporation) ~ CEO (Chief Executive Officer) ~ Board of Directors ~ Chairman, President, CEO ~ Associate/Partner ~ General Meeting
AG (Aktiengesellschaft) Vorstand Vorstandsvorsitzender Stellvertretender Vorsitzender des Vorstands Aufsichtsrat Generalbevollmächtigter Prokurist Handlungsbevollmächtigter Verwaltungsrat Beirat Hauptversammlung	~ plc (Public Limited Company) ~ Board of Management ~ MD(Managing Director), Chairman of the Board of Management ~ Vice Chairman of the Board of Management ~ Supervisory Board ~ General Manager ~ Authorised Manager ~ Assistant Manager ~ Administrative Board ~ Advisory Board ~ Shareholders' Meeting/General Meeting	~ Inc. (Incorporated Company) ~Executive Board ~ President, CEO, Chairman of the Executive Board ~ Deputy Chairman of the Executive Board ~ Supervisory Board ~ General Manager ~ Authorized Manager ~ Assistant Manager ~ Administrative Board ~ Advisory Board ~ Stockholders' Meeting