

House rules of the European Central Bank (house rules)

§ 1 Scope of application

1. These house rules apply to all persons that enter the ECB's premises other than ECB staff. These are contractors (the 'Contractors') as well as their directors, agents, staff, free-lancers and subcontractors (collectively referred to as 'External staff') and other persons ('Visitors').
2. For Contractors the house rules form an integral part of the contract between the ECB and the Contractor. The Contract sheet may specify that different conditions shall apply.
3. ECB business areas may specify these house rules, within reasonable limits, by way of instructions to External staff working for them and may issue further guidelines and instructions on how to behave on the ECB's premises.
4. Contractors shall comply with, and ensure that their External staff comply with, these house rules and any additional guidelines and instructions issued by the ECB business area for which they are working.
5. In case of minors the accompanying adult shall ensure that the minor complies with the house rules.

§ 2 Access to ECB premises; badges

1. To access the ECB's premises a personalised security badge, an escorted visitor badge or an unescorted visitor badge is required.
2. Visitors may need to undergo a security screening before entering the ECB's premises.
3. Badges are for personal use only and are to be worn visibly at all times. In case of loss, the holder of the badge shall inform the ECB's Security Division (Extension: 069/1344-5000) thereof without undue delay.
4. On the ECB's premises, access to certain highly secured areas is restricted. External staff and Visitors shall not enter into such offices or areas unless explicitly authorised to do so. The access to highly secured areas requires a special personalised badge including biometric enrolment.

§ 3 Security clearance

1. External staff that have to perform duties and tasks on behalf of the Contractor at the ECB's premises, and, to this end need to move freely and unescorted on the ECB's premises, shall have a personalised security badge or an unescorted visitor badge. The issuance of such badges is subject to prior security clearance. The process to be followed can be found on the ECB's website: https://www.ecb.europa.eu/careers/html/index_secrules.en.html
2. The ECB will within a reasonable time after receipt of the required documents, conduct a security clearance check for each External staff in accordance with its security clearance rules and inform the Contractor about the decision taken.
3. The ECB reserves the right to refuse access to the ECB's premises to External staff for whom no security clearance has been given.

§ 4 General security rules, domiciliary right

1. External staff and Visitors shall comply with the following security rules:
 - Follow the instructions by security staff on duty;
 - Do not bring dangerous or prohibited items, such as explosives, weapons or drugs;
 - Do not bring animals;
 - Do not use open flames;
 - Valuable personal belongings shall not be left unattended. Any loss or suspected theft of either ECB or personal property shall be reported to the ECB's Security Division immediately. Lost and found items shall be reported or handed in to the ECB's Lost and Found Desk or security staff;

- Private electrical devices that consume 50 watts or more are only to be used on the ECB's premises with prior authorization of the ECB (DIV/PRE);
 - Do not take photos of or film security installations or security staff on the ECB's premises.
 - Visitors who participate in a guided tour shall not separate from the group without the permission of the tour guide
2. The ECB's Security Division may issue further guidelines and instructions to ensure security and safety on the ECB's premises. External staff and Visitors shall comply with such guidelines and instructions as communicated to them.
 3. In case the security rules are breached the ECB may make use of its domiciliary right (Hausrecht). This covers preventing the access of persons to the ECB's premises, restricting their movement within the premises and their expulsion from the premises.

§ 5 Emergencies

1. In case of an emergency, sudden illness, injury or accident, External staff and Visitors shall call the ECB's in-house 24-hour emergency Phone number which is 111 (069 1344 111). They should avoid placing emergency calls directly to the police, the fire brigade or external medical services.
2. In case of an emergency, External staff and Visitors shall follow the instructions broadcasted via the public address system.
3. In case of a crisis situation affecting access to the ECB's premises, External staff shall call 0800/1344-1344 for further guidance. Visitors shall follow the guidance provided by their ECB host.

§ 6 Use of ECB equipment; parking facilities

1. External staff and Visitors shall use all rooms, facilities and equipment made available by the ECB solely for the fulfilment of their duties or for the purpose of their visit and handle all facilities and equipment with due care.
2. External staff are not authorised to use the ECB's parking facilities. Visitors may use the visitor parking facilities.
3. If External staff carries out technical works on the ECB's premises, they shall comply with the applicable German regulations on health and safety at work.

§ 7 Use of the ECB's IT facilities

1. If External staff or Visitors are granted access to the ECB's information Technology (IT) facilities, they shall use such facilities solely for the fulfilment of their duties or for the purpose of their visit and shall handle all facilities with due care.
2. When using the ECB's IT facilities, External staff shall comply with the ECB's rules on information systems (IS) security and the rules on the use of IT facilities and the Internet as published on the ECB's intranet. External staff shall, in particular:
 - observe the rules on the use of their personal user identification and the secure use of their workstation and the information therein;
 - comply with the rules on the protection and regular change of assigned passwords, as well as protection of other security devices and tools (e.g. encryption keys and smart cards);
 - not abuse the IT facilities to annoy, harass, terrify, intimidate, threaten, offend, or bother any other person or conduct illegal activities;
 - not introduce, access, store, distribute or display inappropriate material or access inappropriate websites or pages containing material which could adversely affect the ECB's reputation (e.g. related to racism, pornography, violation of human rights, etc.);
 - respect the rights and property of other users and third parties and comply with relevant legal requirements (intellectual property, copyrights, software licences, etc.);
 - not duplicate or install any software unless authorised to do so;

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- not connect any non-ECB laptop or workstation to the ECB network;
 - not use any unauthorised USB storage devices to store ECB-related data;
 - not download data from unauthorised removable media;
 - not initiate any actions that may be interpreted as legally committing the ECB to third parties such as ordering goods and services via e-mail, joining chain letters or accepting 'get rich quick' offers;
 - not open any suspicious e-mails or download any software or documents from the Internet unless explicitly requested by ECB staff;
 - not forward their ECB internal mail automatically to other external mailboxes. Manual forwarding is subject to the confidentiality rules;
 - not publish detailed information about their tasks or responsibilities at the ECB and refrain from making statements about their personal opinions or beliefs which may be perceived as statements representing the ECB on websites which are accessible to the general public, including private homepages or social network sites;
 - use their ECB e-mail account (if any) for any ECB business communication. Other Internet tools, such as instant messaging portals, shall not be used;
 - not exchange or store ECB-related information via unauthorised Internet storage services.
3. If in exceptional cases External staff are entrusted with an ECB laptop, they are personally responsible for its physical and technical security at all times. To protect the laptop, External staff shall comply with the following rules:
- a carry case shall be used during travel to minimise damage to hardware during transport. The laptop shall not be left unattended;
 - the laptop shall be locked using a physical lock or stored in a locked cabinet when not in use;
 - the attached identification labels shall not be removed;
 - the screen shall be locked or the currently logged-on user needs to be logged off when the laptop is not in active use; External staff shall verify that the screensaver is functioning properly;
 - External staff shall protect themselves against the risk of shoulder surfing and use a screen filter which can be ordered from the ECB;
 - passwords used on laptops shall comply with the ECB's policy on passwords. Passwords shall never be written down and stored with the laptop;
 - transfer of data from the laptop to another PC should be executed using the encrypted USB stick provided by the ECB;
 - when using a network connection outside the ECB, External staff shall minimise risk exposure by (i) closing all other connections to other networks when using the laptop to access the ECB network remotely and (ii) whenever possible, use Ethernet cable connections instead of wireless connections. Encrypted WPA2 wireless connections shall be used when no cable alternative is available;
 - the laptop shall be brought back to the ECB and connected to the ECB LAN every month, or when requested by the IS Service Desk, in order to implement security updates. This opportunity shall be taken to save all documents created or updated offline on the laptop;
 - installation and set-up of the laptop may not be changed.
4. External staff and Visitors shall promptly report any incident related to the use of IT facilities to the ECB business area for which they are working or the IS Service Desk (Extension: 069/1344-7777). They shall not seek to conceal such actions or to rectify such incidents themselves.

§ 8 Use of telephones and fax equipment

If External staff have an office work place on the ECB's premises, they may use the ECB's telephone facilities and the fax equipment for the fulfilment of their duties under their Contract. The use of such facilities for other purposes is prohibited unless the External staff use a personal, pre-paid telephone account.

§ 9 Storage of documents; confidentiality

1. External staff shall store and record any information, data or documents in accordance with the instructions given to them by ECB staff.
2. External staff shall treat in strictest confidence and not divulge to unauthorised persons any information, data or documents concerning the ECB, its staff, the Contract or its performance, which the ECB designated orally or in writing as 'ECB-Restricted', 'ECB-Confidential', or 'ECB-Secret' or which a reasonable contractor would consider to be confidential (the 'Confidential information'). External staff shall only use such Confidential information for the purpose for which it was disclosed and shall not use or exploit such Confidential information for their own benefit or for the benefit of any other person.
3. External staff shall not reply to requests from the media or other external parties and shall forward any request for information or documentation to the ECB business area for which they are working.
4. External staff shall store documents classified as Confidential information in locked cabinets or containers.
5. External staff shall not take Confidential information outside the ECB's premises and shall not forward such Confidential information by e-mail, fax or any other means to any external party unless explicitly authorised to do so. If, exceptionally, External staff are authorised to take Confidential information outside the ECB, they shall take all reasonable measures to ensure that unauthorised persons do not obtain access to such documents.
6. External staff shall dispose of Confidential information only in the confidential waste containers available on each floor.

§ 10 Leaving the ECB

1. If External staff leave the ECB or work for another ECB Business area, they shall inform their contact person at the ECB in good time before their last day so that electronic data (files on the users' local and network drives and e-mail folders, etc.) can be preserved to the extent needed by the business area.
2. External staff shall return all items received from the ECB, including their security badge, keys, books and IT equipment, if any.

Instructions for health and safety on the ECB's premises

These instructions specify the house rules that shall apply to all persons that enter the ECB's premises, other than ECB staff, at any time and in particular during a health emergency (e.g. a critical health situation or a pandemic). These instructions will be updated as necessary.

1. You must comply with the health and safety rules and regulations of the State of Hesse and the German Federal Government that are in force, including during a health emergency (e.g. a critical health situation or a pandemic). These may include (but are not limited to) requirements regarding maximum group size, social distancing, mask wearing, testing or vaccination, and similar obligations.
2. Before coming to the ECB's premises, and in particular when travelling, you must familiarise yourself with the [entry and quarantine regulations in Germany](#)¹. Mandatory testing, proof of recovery and/or proof of vaccination might be required.
3. You are not permitted to enter the ECB's premises if, and for as long as, you are required to quarantine in accordance with the applicable [public health regulations](#)².
4. The ECB's Security Division may issue guidelines and instructions to ensure compliance with rules and regulations applicable to health and safety on the ECB's premises.
5. Contractors, external staff and visitors must comply with all guidelines and instructions related to health and safety on the ECB's premises, as communicated to them.

¹ https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/coronavirus/2317268#content_0

² <https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/ifsg/>