

Charter of the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB)

of March 12, 1996

Section 1 Name, legal nature

- (1) In accordance with section 12 of the Law on Metrology and Verification (Verification Act) of July 11, 1969, as published on March 23, 1992 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 711) and as last amended on December 21, 1992, the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (Bundesanstalt) is a statutory body under public law without legal capacity within the sphere of action of the Federal Ministry of Economics. It is a higher federal authority and has its seat in Braunschweig and Berlin.
- (2) Pursuant to section 1 of the Agreement on the Take-over of the Physikalisch-Technische Reichsanstalt, Berlin-Charlotten-burg, by the Federal Republic of Germany and its merging with the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt in Braunschweig on September 21, 1953 (Federal Gazette No. 188 of September 30, 1953), the Bundesanstalt is the successor to the Physikalisch-Technische Reichsanstalt which was founded in 1887.

Section 2 Scope of activities

- The activities of the Bundesanstalt cover
1. the realization, conservation and dissemination of the physical units (units in metrology) to assure the national and international uniformities of the measures and the determination of fundamental constants;
 2. the scientific handling of physicotchnical metrology, especially precision measuring technology;
 3. the investigation of substances for their structure and physical properties;
 4. the promotion of science and economics by research and development, calibration, testing and approval, advice and information within the scope of its scientific and technical capabilities.

Section 3 Tasks

- (1) The Bundesanstalt carries out the tasks entrusted to it by law or ordinance in the fields of the units, verification, safety technology, medicine, radiation protection and nuclear safety as well as other tasks assigned to it by legal regulations or special mandate.
- (2) The Bundesanstalt represents the Federal Republic of Germany in the fields of activities assigned to it by law before institutions of foreign countries and international organizations in technical matters.
- (3) The Bundesanstalt advises and assists the Federal Government in the preparation and carrying out of decisions relating to economic policy and other decisions on scientific and technical questions relating to its scope of activities.
- (4) In its scope of activities the Bundesanstalt carries out commissions of third parties and of economy in particular.

Section 4 Reporting, working programme

- (1) The Bundesanstalt submits annual reports on the work carried out and the results obtained to the Federal Ministry of Economics and to the public.
- (2) To fulfil its tasks, it prepares a working programme to be annually adjusted.
- (3) The Bundesanstalt reports to the Federal Ministry of Economics and the Board of Trustees on its strategic objectives.

Section 5 Management and representation

- (1) The Bundesanstalt is managed by the President; his permanent representative is the Vicepresident and - should the latter be prevented - the further representative appointed in the Standing Rules.

- (2) The President - and in case of his being prevented, one of his permanent representatives - represents the Federal Republic of Germany legally and generally in all matters relating to the Bundesanstalt.
- (3) The President is appointed on the proposal of the Federal Ministry of Economics by the President of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Board of Trustees of the Bundesanstalt puts forward suitable candidates to the Federal Ministry of Economics.

Section 6 Internal organization

The internal organization of the Bundesanstalt as well as the course of business are laid down in its Standing Rules.

The Standing Rules are enacted by the President; they are subject to approval by the Federal Ministry of Economics.

A cost and services accounting system serves to increase the efficiency of handling the tasks.

Section 7 Board of Trustees

- (1) The Bundesanstalt has a Board of Trustees. It advises the Bundesanstalt and the Federal Ministry of Economics in important questions relating to the Bundesanstalt.
- (2) The departmental head in the Federal Ministry of Economics responsible for the Bundesanstalt is the President of the Board of Trustees.
- (3) The Board of Trustees consists of not more than 30 honorary members from scientific and economic circles. The Board of Trustees proposes to the Federal Ministry of Economics members to be appointed or dismissed. The appointment is made for five years; reappointment is permitted.
- (4) Furthermore, the following persons take part in the meetings of the Board of Trustees:

the President,
his permanent representatives,
the departmental heads of the Bundesanstalt,
agents of the Federal Ministry of Economics.
- (5) The Board of Trustees adopts standing rules which are subject to approval by the Federal Ministry of Economics.

Section 8 General Assembly for Verification

- (1) The Bundesanstalt has a „General Assembly for Verification“. It advises and decides in technical verification matters which are of importance for the application and development of verification law.
- (2) Decisions of the General Assembly are recommendations for the work of the Bundesanstalt and of the verification supervision authorities in the implementation of the Verification Act.
- (3) The members of the General Assembly are the President of the Bundesanstalt and the employees appointed by him as well as the heads of the verification supervision authorities as representatives of the federal states.
- (4) The General Assembly is presided by the President of the Bundesanstalt.
- (5) The Federal Ministry of Economics is permanently represented at the General Assembly.
- (6) The Standing Rules of the General Assembly are enacted by the President of the Bundesanstalt; they are subject to approval by the Federal Ministry of Economics.

Section 9 Effective date

This Charter enters into force on the day of its publication in the Federal Gazette.

At the same time, the Charter of the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) in Braunschweig and Berlin of August 1, 1977 (Federal Gazette No. 151 of August 16, 1977) is invalidated.

Bonn, March 12, 1996

The Federal Minister of Economics
Dr. Günter Rexrodt

Source: Federal Gazette No. 64 of March 30, 1996