

1 Presentation of PTB

1.1 Services offered

PTB is a federal incorporated public-law institution without legal capacity under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action; it is a federal higher authority.

As the national metrology institute and the highest technical authority for metrology, it has to establish the fundamentals for metrology in science, economy and society and to perform control tasks. The activities required for this are often closely connected or are even mutually dependent.

PTB has been entrusted with various legal tasks, in particular by the Units and Time Act, by the Measures and Verification Act and by the Medical Devices Act. A list of additional laws, ordinances and directives by which specific tasks are assigned to PTB is to be found in [Annex 6.2](#). An overview of PTB's tasks is given in the annual Budget Act (chapter 0913 of the Federal Budget) of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The tasks comprise:

- **Realization of the legal units, their maintenance and dissemination; realization and dissemination of legal time**
 - ⇒ Traceability of the reference standards (e.g. of the verification authorities, of the state-approved testing laboratories, of the DAkkS calibration laboratories, of competent institutions and of the conformity assessment bodies) to the national standards and standard measuring devices
 - ⇒ Traceability of the national standards of foreign metrology institutes to SI units
- **Research and development**
 - ⇒ in all fields of metrology, in particular for the development, realization and maintenance of the units, to assure the national and international uniformity of the measures, as well as in the area of metrological information technology
 - ⇒ to solve scientific problems in the field of metrology, exploiting the capabilities of existing high-order research facilities
- **Conformity assessments, e.g. tests required by law, approvals and other authorizations, in particular:**
 - ⇒ for measuring instruments in accordance with the Measures and Verification Act
 - ⇒ in the field of Medical Devices Law Implementation Act
 - ⇒ in the field of industrial safety and environmental protection
 - ⇒ in the field of safety engineering
 - ⇒ in the field of radiation protection
 - ⇒ in the field of civil arms and proof testing
- **Special metrological services, e.g. measurements on components, investigations of device properties, testing of equipment and materials unless reserved for other agencies**
- **Knowledge and technology transfer in the field of metrology**
- **Cooperation, the rendering of advice, and reporting within the scope of its tasks:**
 - ⇒ cooperation in national, European and international organizations and boards
 - ⇒ cooperation in the drafting of laws and other regulations
 - ⇒ participation in the international technical cooperation
 - ⇒ reporting on the results of its work
 - ⇒ assessor activities

A survey of the specific service offers of the different PTB areas is to be found in the quality manuals of the individual divisions/bodies.

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