

EXPLAINED: WHY SHOPS IN GERMANY WILL SOON BE FORCED TO GIVE YOU A RECEIPT

A new law comes into force on January 1st that means bakeries, hairdressers, restaurants and other retailers in Germany will have to issue receipts to customers. Here's why and what people think about it.



Do you need a receipt with every purchase?

When you buy something at the supermarket you're probably asked if you want a receipt with your purchase. But usually at smaller shops, hairdressers, cafes or bakeries it's often the norm to not get a receipt (unless you specifically ask for one).

That's all set to change in Germany:

The "Law on the Protection against Manipulation of Digital Records" (Kassengesetz), which was passed back in 2016, means from next year German retailers will have a "receipt obligation" (Bon-Zwang or Bon-Pflicht) and must issue a record of the item or service they have sold to customers.

The move is intended to make tax evasion more difficult – but as it means more bureaucracy and paper waste, some people are not happy about it, [as German media reported this week](#).