

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

Can receipts be sent electronically?

Yes. Receipts can also be issued as e-mails or sent to mobile phones. But it doesn't seem likely that your local baker or small shops will go for this option (at least at first).

Germany is also notorious for being slow on moving forward in the digital world (*cash is still king in Deutschland*) and places importance on data privacy so many people might feel uncomfortable about handing over their email addresses to retailers.

Can anyone get out of this?

An exception to the rule is possible in rare cases when it's "reasonable" – for example when goods are sold to a large number of people in cash.

Bars or kiosks, for example, which have several walk-in customers, may be exempt from the obligation to record the receipt. To do this, an application must be submitted to the relevant tax office, which can be approved, but also revoked at any time.