

Introducing the Secure Release Order at German Ports

From 1 October 2025, the Secure Release Order will become mandatory for all companies involved in the container import process at the ports of Hamburg, Bremerhaven and Wilhelmshaven.

This change is based on new regulations that require all stakeholders to switch from the current PIN-based release process to a more secure, digital procedure. The new Secure Release Order is designed to:

- ✓ Improve security by only allowing authorised parties to release containers and consequently reduce misuse or fraud in the container release process
- ✓ Simplify and standardise procedures through a fully digital, transparent workflow
- ✓ Ensure clear traceability with a documented chain of responsibility for authorities

The platform German Ports provided by dbh and DAKOSY enables all process participants to comply with these new regulations.

Mandatory Process Changes Under New Legislation

There will be the following specific changes for freight forwarders and haulage companies:

- 1) There will no longer be PIN codes, release references, release numbers or anything similar. Instead, you will need a digital Pick-Up Right to collect a full container from the terminal.
- 2) You must register with German Ports to be able to receive a GermanPorts ID and consequently receive Pick-Up Rights. Registrations can be completed via <https://germanports.com/en/anmeldung/>. Technical documentation is available via the following link in English and in German: <https://germanports.com/en/spediteur-und-logistiker/>
- 3) The Secure Release Order process applies to all modes of transport (truck, rail and barge). This means that container pick-ups using a PIN is no longer possible, regardless of the transport type.
- 4) By 1 April 2026, all haulage companies must ensure that their driver lists are maintained within the relevant IDP (Identity Provider) applications. Only registered drivers listed in the systems will be authorised to collect containers from the terminal by truck.

Preparatory Steps

- 1) Review your current container release processes.
- 2) Review technical and functional documentation for German Ports.

Gather information about the new Secure Release Order process available on the German Ports website and/ or by taking part in one of the regular German Ports webinars (<https://germanports.com/events/>). Assess what changes are needed for your systems and estimate how much time implementation will likely require.

- 3) Register your organisation via <https://germanports.com/en/anmeldung/>. Registrations are needed to prepare the contractual agreement for your organisation and to set up your technical access and account within the platform.