Grüne Woche
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Knife Sales at Trade Fairs – A Brief Overview for Exhibitors

This overview explains the sale, display, and safe transport of knives at Grüne Woche. In general, knives intended for everyday use may be sold. The specific design and intended use of the knife, as well as any prohibitions under § 35(3) of the Weapons Act (WaffG) or Annex 2 of the WaffG, are decisive factors. The transport requirements listed in Section 3 apply to every transfer.

1. Which knives are allowed to be sold on-site?

Knife Type	Sale with Immediate Possession
Kitchen knives and common household knives, such as chef's knives, bread knives, and paring knives	Generally possible; please note the shipping requirements in Section 3
Standard garden and utility knives, such as grafting, harvesting, and carving knives	Generally possible, provided the item is not classified as a weapon or subject to any prohibitions; see section 3
Standard pocket knives, such as Swiss Army knives and folding knives that require two hands to open	Generally possible, provided the item is not classified as a weapon or subject to any prohibitions; see section 3
One-handed knife with a lockable blade	Case-by-case assessment required; not considered a weapon solely because it can be operated with one hand. Must generally be transported in a locked container (Section 3).
Bladed and bludgeoning weapons, such as daggers or combat knives designed as weapons	As a general rule, a ban on distribution and transfer pursuant to § 35(3) of the Weapons Act (WaffG); official exemptions must be reviewed separately
Prohibited types of knives, such as butterfly knives, switchblades, brass knuckles, and spring knives, unless a legal exception applies	Handling is generally prohibited; legal or regulatory exceptions must be demonstrated in advance

Important: It is not the name of the knife that matters, but rather its design, construction, and intended use. The categories may overlap. Even a standard chef's knife with a fixed blade longer than 12 cm is also subject to § 42a of the Weapons Act (WaffG).

If you have any questions regarding the classification of your product line under firearms laws, please contact the Berlin Police Firearms Authority (LKA 514) in a timely manner: waffenbehoerde@polizei.berlin.de.

Please direct any questions regarding implementation at the convention center to event-security@messe-berlin.de.

2. What is allowed at the trade fair?

Activity	General Assessment
Displaying and Showcasing Knives	Commercial display is generally permitted (§ 42(4a), sentence 2, no. 5 of the Weapons Act (WaffG)). Additional requirements apply to firearms and prohibited knives; the exception for display does not waive the prohibitions on handling such items.
Sell and hand over standard kitchen, garden, utility, or pocket knives on site	Generally possible, provided the item is not classified as a weapon or subject to any restrictions. Delivery is permitted only using the shipping packaging described in section 3.

3. The sale and carrying of knives require different assessments

§ 35(3) of the Weapons Act (WaffG) governs the sale and transfer of, in particular, bladed and blunt weapons at the events listed therein. Ordinary utility knives that do not qualify as weapons are not covered by this provision solely because they are knives.

§ 42(4a) of the Weapons Act (WaffG) generally prohibits the carrying of all knives at events, regardless of blade length or design. A legal exception applies to the transportation of knives that are not readily accessible (§ 42(4a), sentence 2, no. 3, WaffG).

A knife is not considered readily accessible if it can be reached only after more than three steps (Annex 1, Section 2, No. 13 of the Weapons Act). Simple packaging, a loose bag, or a blade guard does not automatically ensure this. The lack of ready accessibility constitutes an exception to the prohibition on carrying; it does not, however, eliminate the act of carrying itself.

For exhibitors: Before handing over the knives, pack or secure them so that they are not readily accessible. Instruct buyers not to open the security packaging while on the exhibition grounds. For one-handed knives with lockable blades and fixed-blade knives with blades longer than 12 cm, § 42a of the Weapons Act (WaffG) also applies: A locked container is required for the transportation exemption (§ 42a, para. 2, sentence 1, no. 2 of the Weapons Act).

Please observe the rules and regulations: Section 4.2 of Messe Berlin's Rules and Regulations (July 2026) permits visitors to carry knives purchased during the event, provided they are secured so that they cannot be easily accessed. This does not constitute general permission to bring your own knives. Other legal and regulatory exceptions remain unaffected.

4. Checklist for Exhibitors

Before the trade fair begins, you should:

1. **Check the product lineup:** Identify kitchen knives, garden knives, utility knives, and pocket knives, as well as potential weapons and prohibited types of knives, based on their specific design.
2. **Clarify classification:** If there are any doubts before the trade fair begins, obtain appropriate documentation regarding the design and legal classification.
3. **Preparing for transport:** Provide suitable packaging and, if necessary, sealed containers for handover. Provide proof of any required official permits or exemptions in advance; approval from Messe Berlin does not replace these. Contact: event-security@messe-berlin.de

5. Legal Basis

- **§ 35(3) of the Weapons Act: Restrictions on the Sale and Transfer of Weapons at Certain Events**
- **§ 42, paras. 4 and 4a of the Firearms Act (WaffG): Prohibitions on carrying firearms and exceptions at events; § 42a of the Firearms Act (WaffG): Additional restrictions on carrying firearms and exceptions regarding transportation**
- **Appendix 1, Section 2, No. 13 of the Weapons Act (WaffG): failure to keep a weapon readily accessible; Appendix 2, Section 1 of the Weapons Act (WaffG): prohibited weapons; Messe Berlin Rules and Regulations, Section 4.2 (July 2026)**

Note: This overview is intended for general guidance only and does not replace an inspection of the specific knife or the respective event. If in doubt, the relevant authority should be consulted before the trade show.