

Work instruction for fact checkers

- Department F of the Ministry for News Competence -

- Summary of tasks -

Your task as fact checker for department F of the MfN is dedicated to preventing and efficiently combating the propagation of fake news, that is news, that does not conform to the standards defined by norm ISO481c. To this effect please conduct the individual steps detailed in the following section in a timely adequate and highly careful manner.

- Procedure -

On your electronic data processing device you will find in regular intervals news that our autonomous algorithm has classified as suspicious according to norm ISO452. Normally one piece of news consists of multiple of the following pieces of information:

- Headline of the news
- Newspaper in which the news was published
- Author of the news
- Location of the news
- Date on which the news was published

To make your task as easy as possible, the MfN provides you with a compendium of selected reference papers which can be found in printed form on your desk.

Specifically, up to five factual connections need to be verified which are described on the following page.

Should you be unable to verify one or more connections due to missing data, you are obliged to assume them as being correct.

1. Is the date of publication within the coverage window of the referenced event? For this please consult appendix A (*“Timeline of events with high public coverage”*).
2. Is the author specialized on the topic the article covers? For this please consult appendix B (*“Directory of journalists”*).
3. Is the author publishing for the referenced outlet? For this please consult appendix C (*“Register of journalists”*). If you can not connect the author to their abbreviation, please consult Appendix B.
4. Is the outlet publishing in the referenced region? For this please consult appendix D (*“Newspapers in the regions of Freiland”*). For further reference you have access to a map of Freiland as a loan as well as to a small identification sheet.
5. Is the outlet publishing on the weekday of the referenced publication date? For this please consult appendix E (*“Weekly publications”*). To retrieve a weekday from the publication day in retrospect, please consult a calendar of your choice.

If at least one of the above connections is violated, mark the news as fake according to norm ISO481c! Otherwise mark the news as true.

**Always be aware of the significant public responsibility of your decisions.
Proceed with great care and work in all conscience!**

