

FOREIGN COMPANY TITLES

The company title usually reflects the form of a business organization. However, in countries where English is not the official language and whose government may not strictly regulate the use of the English company title, the English title used by a company may not reflect the form of business organization it is registered.

The foreign company title does not always have an English language equivalent. It can be helpful to know the form of foreign business organization that the exporter is dealing with, especially when such issues as import decision making and importer's liability are concerned.

Examples of **foreign company titles**:

Title Abbrev.	Foreign Term	Language	English Translation
A/B	Aktiebolaget	Swedish	Joint stock company
A.G.	Aktiengesellschaft	German	Joint stock company
A/S	Aktieselskabet	Danish	Joint stock company
B.V.	Besloten Vennootschap	Dutch	Private limited company
Ca.	Compagnia	Italian	Company
Cia.	Companhia	Portuguese	Company
Cía.	Compañia	Spanish	Company
Cie.	Compagnie	French	Company
C.V.	Commanditaire Vennootschap	Dutch	Limited partnership
Ges.	Gesellschaft	German	Company
G.K.	Gomei Kaisha	Japanese	Unlimited partnership
G.m.b.H.	Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung	German	Limited liability company
Handelsges.	Handelsgesellschaft	German	Trading company
H.B.	Handelsbolaget	Swedish	Trading company
K.	Kaisha	Japanese	Company
K.G.	Kommanditgesellschaft	German	Limited partnership
K.G.K.	Kabushiki Goshi Kaisha	Japanese	Joint stock limited partnership
K.K.	Kabushiki Kaisha	Japanese	Joint stock company

Komp.	Kompagnie	German	Company
Lda.	Limitada	Portuguese	Limited
Ltda.	Limitada	Portuguese, Spanish	Limited
N.V.	Naamloze Vennootschap	Dutch	Limited company
Oy	Osakeyhtiö	Finnish	Limited company
PLC	(Public Limited Company)	(U.K.)	Public limited company
Pty.	(Proprietary)	(Australia, Singapore, South Africa)	Corporation
Pty. Ltd.	(Proprietary Limited)	(Australia)	Limited liability company
S.A.	Sociedad Anónima	Spanish	Public limited company
S.A.	Sociedade Anónima	Portuguese	Public limited company
S.A.	Société Anonyme	French	Public limited company
S.A.R.L.	Société À Responsabilité Limitée	French	Private limited company
S.C.A.	Sociedad en Comandita por Acciones	Spanish	Limited partnership
S.p.A.	Società per Azioni	Italian	Public limited company
S.R.L.	Società à Responsabilità Limita	Italian	Private limited company
S.R.L.	Sociedad de Responsabilidad Limitada	Spanish	Private limited company

The **joint stock company** or **limited company** mentioned above is equivalent to a **corporation**.