onlinebrief24

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Abstract

onlinebrief24 is a LaTeX class for DIN 5008 type-B business letters calibrated for use with onlinebrief24.de. It provides a plain letter layout, a modern variant with header and footer, and a technical guides mode for layout inspection. onlinebrief24.de is a hybrid mail service for business customers: documents are submitted digitally, and the service handles printing, enveloping, franking, and postal delivery.

1 Status

The class is verified with pdfLaTeX, XeLaTeX, and LuaLaTeX. The supported and hardened use case is one letter per document. The package is aimed at German business letters and loads `babel` with `ngerman` by default (configurable via the `lang=` class option).

2 Installation

Install via your TeX distribution's package manager:

```
tlmgr install onlinebrief24
```

Then load the class in your document:

```
\documentclass{onlinebrief24}
```

3 Engine Support

- pdfLaTeX: verified

- XeLaTeX: verified

- LuaLaTeX: verified

With pdfLaTeX the class uses `fontenc` and `tgheros` (TeX Gyre Heros). With XeLaTeX and LuaLaTeX it uses `fontspec`; Arial is preferred if installed, otherwise it falls back to TeX Gyre Heros.

4 Minimal Example

```
\documentclass[basic]{onlinebrief24}

\setreturnaddress{Erika Mustermann, Blumenweg 1, 54321 Blumenstadt}
\setrecipient{
  Mustermann GmbH \& Co. KG \\
  Herrn Hans Mustermann \\
```

```
   Musterstr. 1 \\
   12345 Musterstadt
}
\setsubject{Subject}
\setplace{Musterstadt}
\setdate{\today}

\begin{document}
\begin{letter}{}
\opening{Sehr geehrter Herr Mustermann,}

This is a sample letter.

\closing{Mit freundlichen Gruessen}
\end{letter}
\end{document}
```

5 Options

Option	Meaning
`basic`	Plain layout without header and footer.
`modern`	Modern layout with header, footer, and accent color.
`guides`	Technical overlay mode for checking the calibrated layout zones, fold marks, and text start area. This mode is for inspection, not final production output.
`footercenter`	Center the footer in modern mode.
`blue`, `orange`, `green`, `red`, `purple`, `grey`, `burgundy`, `black`	Accent-color schemes for modern mode.
`lang=name`	Document language passed to `babel` (default: `ngerman`). Any valid babel language name is accepted.

6 Main Commands

Command	Purpose
`\setreturnaddress{...}`	Mandatory one-line sender line for the address window.
`\setrecipient{...}`	Recipient block for the address window. Mandatory unless it is passed via `\begin{letter}{...}`.
`\setsubject{...}`	Subject line above the opening.
`\setdate{...}`	Date, defaulting to `\today`.
`\setplace{...}`	Place printed before the date.
`\setfromfirstname{...}`	Modern-mode first name for the header.
`\setfromlastname{...}`	Modern-mode last name for the header.
`\setfromaddress{...}`	Modern-mode address line in the header.
`\setfromlandline{...}`	Optional modern-mode footer field.
`\setfromphone{...}`	Optional modern-mode footer field.
`\setfromemail{...}`	Optional modern-mode footer field.
`\setfromweb{...}`	Optional modern-mode footer field.
`\setfromlinkedin{...}`	Optional modern-mode footer field.

Command	Purpose
\setfromname{...}	Legacy fallback if first and last name are not split.

7 Validation and Layout Guarantees

The class validates the mandatory address-window fields when a letter starts. Compilation stops with a clear error if the return address is missing, the recipient is missing, or the return address is too long for the single-line sender zone.

For multipage letters, the address-window overlay, fold marks, and optional modern header and footer are restricted to page 1. Continuation pages start near the normal top margin instead of inheriting the first-page window offset.

8 Calibration

The layout is calibrated against the practical preview behavior of onlinebrief24.de, not only against the nominal measurement graphic. In practice, the class uses effective window zones of 50–52 mm, 52–72 mm, and 72–92 mm to match the real preview more closely.

9 Examples

The package ships with example documents covering:

- the plain layout

- the modern layout

10 License and Project Status

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