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Report Highlights:

Poland as a member of the EU applies EU regulatory requirements for import of products of animal or plant origin. The EU has harmonized export certification requirements for most products. The few products not yet EU harmonized are subject to Polish national rules. The competent Polish authority needs to be consulted on a case-by-case basis to address requirements for non-harmonized products.

The EU requires products be accompanied by a sanitary-phytosanitary certificate at port of arrival. A matrix for many required certificates specific for Poland is appended to this report.

This report should be read in conjunction with the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards – Certification Report prepared by the USEU Office.

General Information:

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DISCLAIMER: This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Embassy Warsaw, Poland for U.S. exporters of domestically produced food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. Final approval of any product is subject to the importing country's rules and regulations as interpreted by border officials at the time of product entry.

I. List of Required Export Certificates

European Union legislation calls for many health and supervisory requirements that are meant to guarantee that imports meet the standards of production in Member States.

The EU has established harmonized import requirements for animals and animal products applicable for any Member State. The EU recognizes the U.S. as eligible to export the majority of animal products to it. For several products, the EU requires export establishments be pre-approved based on submissions made by the U.S. government. U.S. government agencies involved in defining EU eligible export establishments are: the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Approved establishments may be subject to EU inspection. Lists of EU-approved animal and animal product establishments are available on the USEU website at: <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/approved-u-s-establishments/> The EU requires the veterinary or general health certificate accompany each shipment and be signed and dated prior to shipment. The competent U.S. certifying agent will delete any statement appearing on the EU model certificate that is not applicable.

The EU imposes a number of general requirements for all veterinary health certificates. Directive 2002/99/EC ; Annex IV.6, stipulates that certificates must be issued before the consignments to which they relate leave the control of the competent authority. Non-adherence to requirements of this directive will lead to rejection of shipment at the EU border entry point. For that reason, U.S. regulatory agencies which issue veterinary health certificates (FSIS, APHIS, and AMS) include this guidance specifically in their export libraries.

The EU has harmonized import requirements for plants and plant products as well. Harmonized requirements are published in a single directive. Unlike veterinary products, the EU employs only one model certificate for all plants and plant products. This is consistent with international guidance as laid out by the International Plant Protection Convention of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (<https://www.ippc.int/>). For the U.S., the APHIS issues the required phytosanitary certificate with the requisite attestations to specific requirements of the EU.

EU certification requirements for some products may be partially or not harmonized. For such products, rules of the individual Member State would apply. The import agent should have some guidance to provide on the Member State requirement for that product. If not, request guidance on current requirements from the U.S. Embassy's Agricultural Office, see Appendix for contact information. Note: U.S. regulatory agencies that issue export certificates usually identify a Member State's specific requirements in their export libraries and guides.

As a member of the European Union, Poland applies EU export certification requirements for products imported. Required certificate details are set out in specific legislation, including veterinary health certificate models to be used (links included at the end of this report). The European Union, including Poland, does not specify a list of eligible plants or third country from which certain products are permitted import from.

II. Purpose of the Export Certificates

Poland, as a member of the EU, conforms to all EU regulations and directives. Therefore, it is recommended that this report be read in conjunction with the EU Certification Guide, GAIN Report, available at: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification Brussels USEU_EU-28_12-24-2015 and Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Narrative Brussels USEU_EU-28_12-14-2015.

Both reports are consolidated EU-28 requirements published by the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium. These reports plus country specific reports can be accessed through the FAS website: <http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Pages/Default.aspx> link, and are updated annually in December.

III. Specific Attestation Required on the Export Certificate

For the identity check of the shipment, the State Veterinary Inspection requires the seal number of the container be printed on the veterinary certificate. A seal number on the Bill of Lading is not sufficient as these can be easily re-issued by private companies. If no seal number is present on the certificate, a physical check is necessary to verify the identity of the shipment.

For some veterinary certificates, additional statements (declaration of BSE / TSE) are now included. Community legislation recently published notes this language is part of the model veterinary health certificate now.

IV. Government Certificate Legal Entry Requirements

According to the regulation of August 27th, 2003 on veterinary border inspection (Polish Journal of Law 2003, no. 165, pos. 1590), product may be imported if:

- It contains the original veterinary certificate drawn up in at least one of the official languages of the border inspection and the country of final destination issued by the competent authority of the country of origin;
- It is labeled in a way that can be identified;
- It comes from the lists published by the European Commission (in the case of products for which import requirements are specified in the EU regulations);
- List of third countries or their parts;
- List of institutions authorized to introduce the products into the EU.

Veterinary border checks of consignments imported into the Poland is conducted by the General Veterinary Inspector, in accordance with the Law of 29 January 2004 (Polish Journal of Law 2004 No. 33. pos.287).

V. Other Certification or Accreditation Requirement

In accordance with Article 24, 2nd Act, from December 16, 2005 on products of animal origin (Polish Journal of Law 2006, No. 17, pos. 127) General Veterinary Inspector is proper, competent authority in a matter of settlements of veterinary requirements with a third country. Those specifications must be executed in import from third countries, in extent not specified by the EU regulations.

Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate:

EU Brussels site: <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/>

The following links contain most important samples of import certificates required for various products and the list of third countries from which import of certain product is permitted (English version included):

Red meat:

http://old.wetgiw.gov.pl/index.php?action=art&a_id=2367

Meat products:

http://www.wetgiw.gov.pl/index.php?action=szczegoly&m_id=33&kat_id=3753

http://www.wetgiw.gov.pl/index.php?action=szczegoly&m_id=33&kat_id=3752

Poultry, eggs and egg products:

http://old.wetgiw.gov.pl/files/3388_Wzor%20POU%20wersja%20EN.pdf

http://old.wetgiw.gov.pl/files/3391_Wzor%20E%20wersja%20EN.pdf
http://old.wetgiw.gov.pl/files/3392_Wzor%20EP%20wersja%20EN.pdf

Milk and dairy products:

http://old.wetgiw.gov.pl/index.php?action=szczegoly&m_id=33&kat_id=2426

For additional information concerning market entry, other import requirements, and a current importer list, U.S. exporters of agricultural products and commodities contact:

Embassy of the United States of America

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End of the Report.