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Poland

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Country Report

2000

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Report Highlights:

Please note changes in the following Chapters:

B. Labeling Requirements - GMO Products.

D. Food Additives Regulations - new date for publication of the positive list

I. Import Procedure - Import Duty, VAT

Appendix I -- Government Regulatory Agency Contacts

Includes PSD changes: No

Includes Trade Matrix: No

Annual Report

Warsaw [PL1], PL

**POLAND: FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL IMPORT REGULATIONS AND
STANDARDS REPORT
(FAIRS)**

Last Updated: July 2000

**Section(s) Last Updated: Labeling Requirements, Food Additives Regulations,
Import Procedure and Appendix I -- Government Regulatory Agency Contacts**

**DISCLAIMER: This report has been prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the
USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in (Warsaw, Poland) for U.S. exporters of domestic
food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in the
preparation of this report, information provided may be no longer complete nor precise as
some import requirements are subject to frequent change. It is highly recommended that
U.S. exporters ensure that all necessary customs clearance requirements have been verified
with local authorities through your foreign importer before the sale conditions are
finalized. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS ALWAYS SUBJECT
TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY THE COUNTRY OF
IMPORT AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.**

**Please contact this office, if you have any comments, corrections or suggestions about the
material contained in this report. Our e-mail address is agwarsaw@fas.usda.gov.**

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A. FOOD LAWS

The Polish government works to ensure the safety and quality of food for Polish consumers through a number of regulatory means. Newer measures are consistent with those observed in the European Union. Some, including the list of approved additives, date back to an era when these products (and also ingredients) were not available on the Polish market and were therefore not covered by the regulations. Changes are occurring, although at a slow pace. In the case of new products being introduced on the Polish market, it is always prudent to check whether all ingredients are permitted (especially coloring agents). It is essential for the products to be accompanied by the required documentation. A number of licences, permits and special health certificates are required for any agricultural products. Products not meeting the requirements are detained at the border and are refused entry to Poland. Although the lack of proper labels or documentation can in most cases be corrected, it is a costly and time-consuming procedure which in the case of products with short shelf lives is a disastrous situation.

Please do not hesitate to confirm details pertaining to individual products by contacting the Warsaw Agricultural Affairs Office.

- Polish-EU Cooperation

In anticipation of its future membership in the European Union, Poland is adopting similar standards and laws governing food products. The European Union is providing some assistance to Poland during this process. The European Union and Poland have agreed that Polish testing laboratories and other institutions issuing quality certificates will be examined for their conformity with EU directives. A list of the approved institutions will be published in the Official Journal of the European Community. All products tested by these facilities will be automatically accepted for shipment to the European Union as well as Poland without any additional procedures. Polish Center for Research and Certification in Warsaw (already certifies ISO-9000) is the institution closest to getting such approval although the procedure is not expected to be completed any time soon.

Poland plans to introduce changes in its legal system to attain an EU-compatible certification system. Before the new legislation is introduced, all products originating from the European Union and subject to third party certification will be admitted into Poland. The testing reports and certification documents produced by authorized bodies in the European Union will be reviewed, and if the tests adhere to Polish requirements, then the certification process will be considerably shortened.

B. LABELING REQUIREMENTS

Please note that no exceptions are given to label regulations.

- Samples:

Product samples arriving in Poland can be labeled in English. The following information is required:

- name of the product

- name and address of the producer
- ingredients
- weight
- date “best before”

- Products for retail distribution:

Effective July 15, 1994 based on the Journal of Law no. 86 chapter 402, all packaged/canned food products for retail distribution are required to have Polish language labels. Multi-language labels are acceptable as long as they include Polish. Labels must contain the following information:

- name of the product
- name and address of the producer
- date best before - the Polish phrase "najlepiej spozyc przed terminem XXX" is most commonly used
- net content (weight/capacity)
- content of the product (ingredients, chemical additives etc.)

Labeling must be applied in the form of a whole label or a permanent sticker before the product can enter Poland. Products arriving in Poland without appropriate labels will be detained at the border until appropriate labels are applied.

- Bulk packaging:

Labeling must be applied in the form of a whole label or a permanent sticker before the product can enter Poland. Products arriving in Poland without appropriate labels will be detained at the border until appropriate labels are applied.

Labels must contain the following information in Polish language:

- name of the product
- name and address of the producer
- ingredients
- weight
- date “best before”

– Specific requirements for labeling of certain products:

- Dairy products labeling must contain fat content.
- Alcoholic beverages must contain alcohol content.
- Nutrition Facts table is also required for dietetic and dairy food products.

The following is an example of a Polish food product chart:

Milk Long Life UHT

Ingredients in 100g of milk:

milk sugar: 4.9g

fat: ca 1.5g

protein: ca 3.0g

minerals: 0.8g

Vitamins: A,D,E,K

Energy cal: 100 g : 186 kj (44 kcal)

Most food products use 100g (processed products, juices, milk) or 1 L content to provide the content specifications. The content is depicted in grams or milligrams.

Recommended Daily Intake is at times specified especially in the aforementioned products but is not obligatory.

- Organic products:

Products containing 95% of organic ingredients can be marked “organic (produkt ekologiczny)”. Product containing no less than 70% percent of organic ingredients can be marked “as containing organic ingredients”.

In order to legally use this product label, the Ministry of Agriculture has informed us that Polish firms need to obtain certificates from firms or associations such as the Agro Bio Test, the Bio Expert and the Polish Association of Organic Farming, which are specified by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Economy and are members of such international organizations as IFOAM.

Imported products have to be checked by the Polish Sanitary Station SANEPID. According to unofficial information it is currently very difficult to obtain SANEPID’s approval for ecological products to be imported into the Polish market. Products have to possess a certificate confirming that the product contains no less than 95% of organic product content, issued by organization such as IFOAM.

In order to find out more details concerning the new regulation on ecological products which is currently being prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Economy please contact the Agriculture Development Department.

- Nutritional Labeling:

Nutritional labeling regulations are specified in Journal of Law no. 51 chapter 293 dated December 17, 1973 and Journal of Law 108 chapter 520 dated August 22, 1996.

Polish regulations concerning this subject are not very detailed. Any issues not directly specified are subject to the EU and Codex regulations. In many cases, product labeling must be individually approved by State Hygiene Office- (Panstwowy Zaklad Higieny) - PZH.

Since Polish regulations do not specify conditions which must be met when using nutrition content claims, implied and health threat claims on packaging must be approved by the PZH

office. In certain cases, cereal products for example, the use of statements such as “cereal contains minerals beneficial to health” have already been approved for the Polish market. Some companies have experienced problems with terms which imply curative or prevention effects of food products specified on the labels. In most cases the standard Nutrition Facts panel used on U.S. products is not sufficient for Polish authorities in order to approve the product but is taken into consideration when evaluating any nutritional claims, implied on product labels.

- Genetically Modified Organisms

A new regulation concerning packaging and labeling of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and products containing GMOs entered into force on April 22, 2000.

Packaging of products: Packaging should prevent the accidental release of a product into the environment during transportation, storage and use.

- A. packaging of GMO products or products containing GMO ingredients should include marking identifying the product as a “genetically modified product”. The label should be on a background which contrasts with the color of the package and other labeling on the package.
- B. ingredients must be labeled on the package as “genetically modified” or an asterisk (*) must be placed next to the ingredient, and a footnote indicating “Genetically modified” should follow the list of ingredients.

Additional information should be shown on the package including:

- A. information about the possible uses of a product;
- B. the date and number of the GMO permit;
- C. conditions under which the product should be used;
- D. instructions on actions to take in the case of a misuse or incorrect release of the product into the environment;
- E. instructions on the proper storage and sale of the product.

C. PACKING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS

Polish packing and container requirements do not differ from general international standards. When importing by containers from the United States, Polish importers prefer 40 ft. containers due to the overall lower costs per item. However certain regulations such as weight restrictions may limit shipments of heavier products. For example, for a 40ft container there is a weight limit of 30.5 T. Polish transportation regulations specify that weight on one truck axle cannot exceed 8.5 T. For heavier container loads special heavy duty tractors and semi trailers must be used.

Container shipments specified as dangerous (highly flammable) - classified as IMCO-IMDG require special permission. High Cube containers (30 cm higher than regular sized containers) also require special permission issued at a starting point by City Communications Office. Due to the varied height of local bridges, special routes must be assigned for transportation of irregular size loads.

Currently no waste disposal regulations apply to container shipments.

D. FOOD ADDITIVES REGULATIONS

Poland's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare published new regulations (Monitor Polski no. 22 pos. 233) on allowable food additives on March 31, 1993. Poland uses a positive-additives list, which identifies additives that are permitted for use in foodstuffs. This particular regulation has been one of the most difficult obstacles for imported products. With a very limited list, many ingredients included in imported products were either totally prohibited from entering the Polish market or their entry was delayed by several months while their recipes were altered in order to comply with Polish regulations.

According to Polish Ministry of Health, Poland is supposed to publish a new list of approved additives by the end of 2000. According to unofficial sources, the list is supposed to include up to 90 percent of additives included in EU regulations and be very similar to the additives included on the Codex list. Such changes should enable many imported products currently not present on the Polish market to enter Poland.

The Polish Ministry of Health has indicated that the new regulations will include certain precautions aimed at protecting the Polish consumer. One example is the use of synthetic colors in dairy products which are approved in the EU but not in Poland. In such cases the Polish government will use the term "allowable only after Poland joins the EU".

If you would like to contact Polish authorities directly involved in the inspection of additive levels in imported products, please contact:

Ministry of Health and Social Welfare - preparation of legal documentation
Warsaw Sanitary Station - SANEPID - actual tests & check ups
National Food and Nutrition Institute - legal work & check ups

E. PESTICIDES AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS

Polish authorities have prepared a positive residue list. Regulations on pesticide residue and other contaminate levels have been specified in the Journal of Law in 1997 (Dziennik Ustaw no. 43 dtd. April 30, 1997) prepared by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. While the format of the current Polish list differs from the EU and Codex lists, the content is very similar. A new list is currently being prepared by the Polish authorities.

In the case of commodities which have been treated with plant protection chemicals, one of the required documents is the list of plant protection chemicals which were used during the production of the commodity.

According to the Polish Sanitary Office which conducts tests of imported commodities, this particular regulation does not hinder international trade. An approved pesticide list and any additional details concerning this issue subject can be obtained from the State Hygiene Office- (Panstwowy Zaklad Higieny) - PZH

F. OTHER REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Health Authorities:

It is the responsibility of the importer to submit a report on each shipment of imported goods to the Voivodship (State) Sanitary Station.

The report (in Polish) should include the following information:

1. Name of the product
2. Name of exporter
3. Name of importer
4. Name of producer
5. Quantity (also number of cases or pallets)
6. Date of production
7. Date and port of entry
8. Means of transportation (e.g., truck, registration no. etc.)

A list of all sanitary stations responsible for a particular region can be obtained by local importers from the Warsaw Sanitary Station - SANEPID.

G. OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS

In accordance with Polish import regulations, import licenses are required for poultry and red meat, tobacco products, and alcoholic beverages (wine and beer). A permit issued by the Ministry of Economy is required in order to sell imported alcoholic products.

A phytosanitary import permit issued by the Plant Quarantine Inspection Service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Economy is required for all live plants, fresh fruits, vegetables, grains and seeds. Any shipment containing prohibited organisms (fungi, viruses, bacteria, insects, mites, weeds) will be prohibited from entering Poland. A list of prohibited organisms is available from the Plant Quarantine Service.

Importers of live animals, meat, meat products and offal must obtain a veterinary permit (additionally each consignment must be accompanied by a special health certificate issued by USDA's veterinary authorities) from Main Inspection Service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Economy. Veterinary permits are also required for importation of live animals, semen and embryos. For breeding animals & animal genetic importers should contact the Central Animal Breeding Office (CABO) in order to receive a permission necessary to register imported animals or offsprings of imported genetics in Polish herd books.

On February 25, 1998 Poland's Minister of Agriculture released a new law which pertains to imported commodities which are subject to veterinary control. New list became effective for U.S. products on October 1, 1999. The list includes import requirements for a wide variety of agricultural products e.g.: live animals (PCN 0101-0106), eggs for hatching (0407), egg products (0408), live fish (0301), canned fish (1604), other mammals (0106), birds (0106), sea animals and meals, meat products (0205/6), meat products (0210), canned meats (0210, 1602), milk (0401, 0402, 0403, 0405), cheeses (0406), milk products (0403, 0404), skins (4101, 4102, 4103), bones and skin products (0506, 0507), blood (3002, 0511), petfood (2309), milk protein for animal feed (2301). Please note that a special health certificate (form) must accompany all of the above products exported to Poland.

Beginning in January, 1997, a new Polish regulation went into effect requiring that imported products (including food and agricultural products) be inspected to check if they meet Polish quality standards. The Centralny Inspektorat Standaryzacji (CIS), is charged with ensuring the "quality" products offered on the Polish market. So far, the CIS inspection has not noticeably hindered trade in food products.

H. COPYRIGHT/TRADEMARK LAWS

-Protecting Your Product from IPR Infringement

Intellectual property laws are in place in Poland. Although the enforcement has been improving, it is still far from adequate. In theory all foreigners, both resident and non-resident in Poland, are protected from intellectual property infringement, either as a result of Polish law or bilateral agreements. Poland is a signatory to a number of international IPR conventions, including the

Bern and Paris conventions as well as the World Institute for Protection of Intellectual Property (WIPO). In 1997, Poland ratified the Rome Convention specifying IPR regulations.

As a result of its uneven IPR performance, in May 1997 the United States Trade Representative placed Poland on the Watch List of its Special 301 report on IPR practices. Poland remains on the Watch List at the present time.

-Patents

The Polish Law on Inventive Activities protects inventions through patents and utility models. Applications are filed with the Polish Patent Office; Polish attorneys must represent foreign applications. Patents are granted based on novelty, non-obviousness, technical character, and applicability. These are product patents versus process patents. Registrations are published 18 months from the date the application is received. Registered patents are valid 20 years from the filing date. Registered models, inventions, and industrial designs are valid for five years and may be extended for another five years. Annual fees must be paid for maintaining a patent. There are no regulations regarding license terms. Criminal penalties are possible for infringement.

-Trademarks

Poland's trademark law of 1985 stipulates that trademarks, service marks, or collective marks may be registered. Trademarks are also protected under the 1993 Law on Combating Unfair Competition. A trademark must define the goods and services that are to be marked by the registered trademark. Applications are filed with the Polish Patent office and priority under the Paris Convention may be claimed. Polish patent agents must represent foreign applicants. A registered trademark is valid for 10 years from the date of filing, unless the mark is not used for three consecutive years. The registration may be renewed for 10-year periods. Trademarks may be licensed. Ornamental designs and integrated circuits are protected.

U.S. companies find, however, that despite the existence of laws, Polish authorities often lack the knowledge and resources to enforce them. U.S. companies must often spend resources protecting their own interests. Under the amended Code of Civil Procedure, a request for temporary injunction forbidding the infringer from using an item until a case can be resolved must be reviewed by a court within seven days, thus becoming a new tool in protecting trademark and intellectual property rights.

The Pro-Marka Polish Association of Branded Goods Producers (PABGP) was established in 1996 with the goal of protecting trademarks, foiling pirates, and educating consumers and regulators alike about the value of brand names. Currently Pro-Marka has about 25 international and Polish member companies and focuses on consumer products.

-Copyrights

A new copyright law, in line with international standards, came into force in June 1994. The copyright law introduced protection of not only literary, musical and graphic works, but also

computer software, audio-visual works and industrial patterns. It extends copyright protection from 25 to 50 years to comply with international standards, and protects not only authors, but also producers, artists, and performers for both commercial and personal rights. Generally, commercial rights expire 50 years after the author's death. This regulation also applies to registered promotional audio/visual aids which might be utilized in promoting products in Poland.

U.S. companies find that enforcement of copyrights, like trademarks, is still inadequate despite major progress made in the last three years. Since the beginning of 1998, Polish customs authorities and police have been more actively protecting Intellectual Property rights by not only reacting to claims of interested companies or organizations but also being pro-active. U.S. companies and trade associations have spent a great deal of resources informing the public as well as the legal community of the issue of copyright protection. The greatest problems are in the area of sound and video recordings and especially software. The local chapter of the Business Software alliance estimates that even though the situation is improving, almost 70% of software products on the Polish market are pirated.

-Trade Secrets

Trade secrets are protected under the law regarding protection against unfair competition of 1993.

I. IMPORT PROCEDURE

- Entry of imported products

– Containers - Port Entry

Containers arriving in vessels are cleared from ships on the basis of the Ship Manifest and Bill of Lading. Once released from the ship, goods are handled by individual customs clearance agencies. Most of the importing firms work with customs Agencies at Polish boarder crossing which represent their interests at particular point of entry. An agency prepares all of the documentation which is needed for the Customs Office. Depending on the particular commodity, the documentation can range from Phytosanitary or Veterinary Certificates to Polish Central Inspection Office (CIS) which inspects all commodities. Customs import documentation in Poland is compiled under a "Single Administrative Document" (SAD) and includes a customs declaration and certificate of origin. The SAD contains 56 questions about the goods, importer, the place of origin, and method of payment. A completed customs value declaration is attached to the SAD. An original invoice or pro-forma invoice proving the value of the goods is also required.

Once this documentation is assembled, the agency presents them to Polish Customs Office. We have been informed that export documentation (including an invoice) can be prepared in English. However, in order to speed up the clearance process, it is advisable to have a Polish language translation of the names of the commodities. This will also assist the Polish customs authorities in assigning the correct customs tariff to a particular product. This is especially important in

cases of commodities at different stages of processing (e.g. popcorn - can be micro-waved or bulk grain) where different duties apply.

Together with document preparation, customs clearance at a port entry can take up to 2-3 days.

Once the product has cleared the CIS and Customs clearance office it is free to be delivered to the Polish importer.

- Truck deliveries - border crossing

Specified Polish border crossings handle truck loads being imported to Poland. As in the case of port entry, Polish importers work through authorized customs agencies. Documentation procedures remain the same. In cases where the exporter envisages that the goods should be cleared by a Customs Office other than the one at the first border crossing, the goods can be cleared at a specified internal Polish Customs Office previously specified in the T2 - export document.

Average time for customs clearance at country border crossing ranges from 3 to 12 hours.

- Temporary Entry of a product:

A license is required for the temporary importation of goods, which takes place in Poland under Customs supervision. Written confirmation is required, stating that the goods will be shipped from Poland on a specified date. A deposit is required for the import of the goods subject to clearance, equal to the value of the goods to be exported including the import customs duty and taxes which would apply if the shipment remained in Poland. Commercial samples of zero or low value can usually be imported free of customs duty by means of a written statement to Polish Customs confirming the value of the sample and that it will stay in the possession of the importing entity. Temporary imports may also enter Poland under an ATA Carnet.

Products transshipped through Poland are transported on the bases of TIR, T1, T2 Carnets. In such cases carnets issued by the exporter provide the assurance that the product will not remain in Poland.

Promotional materials must be clearly marked "no commercial value" in order to clear customs. A new Customs Law took effect in January 1997 and harmonized Polish law with EU customs regulations.

- Import Duty, VAT, Excise tax:

Poland's annual revision of tariff rates became effective January 1, 2000 with the publication of the new tariff schedule. All products imported to Poland are subject to a customs duty. Polish customs duties are specified in the Custom Rate Index. Duties are calculated on the basis of value of goods inclusive of all costs borne by the buyer and not included in the price, such as

transportation and insurance expenses to the Polish border, commissions, packaging and various license fees relating to the purchase of the goods.

Certain goods imported from EU member states, as well as countries within CEFTA or EFTA groups, enjoy preferential custom rates. Developing countries are often given a preferential rate (7-14 percent of the base rate), and some of them are accorded duty-free access (especially products originating from least developed countries).

Poland has some very high tariffs for agricultural products imported outside of preferential trade agreements. Tariffs for meat and products can be as high as 80 %. Poultry, pork and beef all have high tariffs. Tariffs on dairy products, fruits, vegetables and grains are also high to protect domestic producers. Vegetable and fruit tariffs are higher (40 %) during specific growing seasons and less (20 %) during the off season.

Tariff Rate Quotas: A tariff rate quota (TRQ) for 388,000 tons of non-durum and durum wheat is available in 2000. Permits to import within the TRQ for wheat are limited to a maximum quantity of 1,500 tons each. Within quota tariffs are set at 20% for durum wheat and 25 % for non-durum wheat. However, on January 18, 2000, the out of quota tariffs on durum imported from WTO members and the EU were reduced to 3 % and 1.5 % respectively so the quota will not be attractive for durum imports.

Tariff rate quotas for small amounts of grain products (wheat flour, non-wheat flour, malt and other agricultural products) were increased for 2000 in accordance with WTO obligations.

For selected products the tariff regulations limit the size of permits which can be used to import within tariff rate quotas. For example, the maximum permit size for within quota imports of grains is 500 tons, 100 tons for pork, poultry, butter, starch and sugar, and 20 tons for non-beet or cane sugar, processed tomatoes or sauces.

Poland has a Value Added Tax (VAT) system in place for agricultural and food products. VAT is applied in the same manner to both imports and domestically-produced products. The VAT in Poland ranges from 7 % to 22 % depending on the type of commodity. A lower VAT is applied to semi-processed commodities such as Non-Fat Dry Milk. A higher VAT is applied to processed commodities, such as bake mixes or retail products. Currently there is no VAT applied for basic agricultural raw materials and Polish farmers are not eligible to obtain any VAT refunds. There are several proposals being discussed in the Polish parliament to introduce a 3 % VAT for domestic agricultural products for the short term. By 2002, a 7 % VAT on agricultural products is expected to be introduced. The excise tax (25 percent) applies to some processed products as well as articles such as alcohol, beer and technical grade vegetable oil.

- Registration of a new imported product or additive:

All imported products must be approved for sale or use on the Polish market. In order to test or register a new product or start procedures for receiving approval of a new additive, (not specified in the approved additives list), the following procedure should be followed:

Appropriate Voivod Sanitary Station should be contacted. In case of Warsaw - the Wojewodzka Stacja Sanitarna (SANEPID).

An appropriate local sanitary station must be supplied with a product sample for testing. The tests can take between 2 weeks and 2 months. The cost is difficult to estimate but may amounts to \$250.00 per product. An estimate of the cost can obtained from the SANEPID station when it is presented with product details. The lab tests for product ingredients determine whether they are permitted on the Polish market.

If it is determined that all the ingredients are allowed on the Polish market, SANEPID test results are sufficient for the product to be sold in Poland. However, should some ingredients be questioned, additional requests must be submitted to State Hygiene Office (Panstwowy Zaklad Higieny).

Please note that product testing in SANEPID can only be ordered by a firm registered in Poland! (eg. potential importer). Each region in Poland has appropriate sanitary stations (a list is available from Warsaw SANEPID)- eg. Only firms registered in Warsaw or neighboring areas can conduct product testing in Warsaw Sanitary Station).

In case the product ingredients are questioned by SANEPID, the product information has to be forwarded to State Hygiene Office (Panstwowy Zaklad Higieny).

Once a product is classified as approved by the PZH a written request must be forwarded to the Chief Sanitary Inspector (Główny Inspektor Sanitarny) for permission for the product to be sold on the Polish market.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector issues permits for all products to be sold in Poland. The following documentation should be presented to GIS:

- written request for approval for the product to be sold in Poland
- copy of PZH documentation
- **copy of registration documentation of Polish importer. The importing firm must be officially registered in Poland.**

– Trade Infrastructure set up by the Polish Government:

- Bonded Warehouses
- Many of the Polish import firms utilize Bonded Warehouses which enable them to use only a portion of imported goods at a time as well as to easily re-export goods out of Poland. Bonded warehouses are operated by permission of the President of the Central Office of Customs. They can be operated by commercial code companies.

- Free Trade Zones/Warehouses

There are currently six duty-free zones (DFZ) in Poland. Duty-free zones are established by the Council of Ministers and managed by authorities recommended by the Council, mostly the Voivodship governor who issues permission. One zone is located at Warsaw's international airport, two of them are located on Poland's eastern border in Sokolka and Terespol, another in Gliwice (Silesia), and two on Poland's north-western border in Szczecin and in Swinoujscie.

Customs duties are repaid to the importer for re-export of products within 12 months of the date of customs clearance in full or partially, depending upon the length of time in-country. For more information, please contact the Info-line of the Central Office of Customs.

APPENDIX I -- Government Regulatory Agency Contacts

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Department of Foreign Cooperation
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
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Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Agriculture Development Department.
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Ministry of Health and Social Welfare - preparation of legal documentation
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Ministry of Environment
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Warsaw Sanitary Station - SANEPID - actual tests & check ups

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State Hygiene Office- (Panstwowy Zaklad Higieny) - PZH

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Chief Sanitary Inspector (Glowny Inspektor Sanitarny - GIS)

Minister Irena Glowaczewska

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Central Custom Offices:
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For import licenses:

Ministry of Economy
Ms. Barbara Lesniewska
Department of Agricultural Products
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For phytosanitary import permits:

Plant Quarantine Inspection Service
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For live animals, semen and embryos:

Central Animal Breeding Office
Mr. Mieczyslaw Robak
Director
ul. Sokolowska 3
01-142 Warsaw
ph: 4822-6320159
fax: 4822-6320115

For meat and dairy products:

Dr. Andrzej Komorowski
Chief Veterinarian
Main Veterinary Inspection Service
ul. Wspolna 30
00-930 Warsaw
ph: 4822-6288511
fax: 4822-6231408

APPENDIX II - Other Import Specialist Contacts:

Foreign Agricultural Service
U.S. Embassy/Warsaw
Jim Higgiston, Agricultural Counselor
Maggie Dowling, Agricultural Attache
Joanna Kulawska, Secretary
Wlodek Makowski, Grain and Oilseeds
Piotr Rucinski, Livestock and Meat
Jola Ganczewska, Processed Food Products
Natalia Koniuszewska, Wood Products and Cotton
tel: 4822 621 3926
fax: 4822 628 1172
email: agwarsaw@fas.usda.gov

Foreign Commercial Service
U.S. Embassy/Warsaw
Al. Jerozolimskie 56C
00-659 Warsaw
tel: 4822 625 4374
fax: 4822 621 6327

Pro-Marka Polish Association of Branded
Goods Producers (PABGP)
Mr. Tomasz Gryzewski, Director General
ul. Trebacka 4, Room 453
00-074 Warsaw
Tel: (48-22) 630-9621, 630-9727
Fax: (48-22) 826-1399

Export-Import Bank
811 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20571
Tel: 1-800-565-EXIM, (202) 565-3946,
Fax: (202) 565-3380
<http://www.exim.gov>