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**Report Highlights:**

Poland applies European Union (EU) regulatory requirements for all food of animal or plant origin. Although the EU has harmonized export certificate requirements for most products, Poland maintains national-level oversight for products still not harmonized under the EU. Poland's competent authorities can be consulted on a case-by-case basis regarding requirements for non-EU harmonized products. The EU requires that all requisite products be accompanied by sanitary and/or phytosanitary certificates at the port of entry.

## Executive Summary

EU legislation mandates various health and supervisory requirements to guarantee that imports meet the standards of production in Member States and is equally applied at the EU borders. The EU requires veterinary and/or general health certificates to accompany each shipment of animals, meat and other animal products, which must be signed and dated by competent U.S. certifying authorities prior to shipment. The EU also harmonized import requirements for plants and plant products, which are published in a single directive. Unlike veterinary products, the EU employs only one model certificate for all plants and plant products. Poland applies EU export certification requirements for imported products. Certificate issuing and controlling procedures are established in specific legislation, including also veterinary health certificate models (links included in this report).

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### DISCLAIMER

This report was prepared by the U.S. Embassy Warsaw’s Office of Agricultural Affairs (FAS/Warsaw) for exporters of U.S.-origin food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been 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. FAS/Warsaw recommends that U.S. exporters verify all import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. This Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Certificate report should also be read in conjunction with the FAS/Warsaw’s 2023 FAIRS Annual Country report, as well as the EU-27 FAIRS report prepared by the Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA U.S. Mission to the EU (USEU), which is available on their [webpage](#).

**FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCTS 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

Poland applies EU certification requirements for imported products. The European Union is a major importer of food and feed. Strict import rules with respect to food and feed hygiene, consumer safety and animal health status aim at assuring that all imports fulfill the same high standards as products from the EU itself. Import controls are crucial in verifying compliance of food and feed products with relevant requirements.

The EU recognizes the United States as eligible to export some animal products. The EU requires pre-approval for export establishments, based on official U.S. requests. The U.S. regulatory agencies which typically determine export establishment eligibility to ship to the EU are the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). EU-approved establishments may be subject to EU inspections.

Following an update of the EU's Animal Health Law ([Regulation \(EU\) 2016/429](#)), which entered into force on April 21, 2021, the EU has updated all required certificates for products of animal origin. Models of the new certificates for food of animal origin were published by the EU and implemented by U.S. agencies. Several amendments to the new certificates were made since their first publication. They are available from [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/2235 \(consolidated version January 9, 2023\)](#).

Mandatory channeling of products to border control entities and uniform frequencies for checks apply to live animals, products of animal origin, plants and plant products because of the risk those commodities might pose in relation to animal or plant health respectively. The EU requires each shipment of animals or products of animal origin to be accompanied by specific veterinary and/or general health certificates which are signed and dated by a competent U.S. certifying official prior to shipment.

In accordance with [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/2235](#), certificates must be issued before the consignments to which they relate leave the control of the competent authority. Non-compliance may result in rejection of shipment at the EU point of entry. The U.S. regulatory agencies that issue health certificates (FSIS, APHIS, AMS, and NOAA) have all included this requirement in their export libraries.

The EU has harmonized import requirements for plants and plant products, which are published under a single directive. The EU employs only one model certificate for all plants and plant products. This is consistent with international guidance as provided by the [International Plant Protection Convention \(IPPC\)](#). For the United States, APHIS issues the phytosanitary certificate with the requisite attestations to specific requirements of the EU. For more information, see the [export certification guide](#) at the IPPC website.

EU certification requirements for some products may be partially harmonized or not harmonized at all. For such products, rules of the individual Member State would apply. The import agent should have some guidance to provide on the Member State's requirement for that product. If not, request guidance on current requirements from the FAS/Warsaw (see Appendix I for contact information). U.S. regulatory

agencies which issue export certificates usually identify specific Member State's requirements in their export libraries and guides.

## **II. Purpose of the Export Certificates**

Poland conforms to all EU regulations and directives. Therefore, it is recommended that this report be read in conjunction with the USEU's FAIRS Export Certificate Report available on their [website](#).

## **III. Specific Attestation Required on the Export Certificate**

For the identity check of the shipment of animals or products of animal origin, the Polish Veterinary Inspection authorities require the container seal number 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. In the models of the new certificates for food of animal origin, which were published in [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/2235](#), only the official seal number must be stated. An official seal number applies if a seal is affixed to the container, truck, or rail wagon under the supervision of the competent authority issuing the certificate. If no seal number is present on the certificate, a physical check may be necessary to verify the identity of the shipment.

## **IV. Government Certificate Legal Entry Requirements**

Poland follows the general EU requirements. Polish legislation indicates the national authorities competent to perform duties established in the EU law.

Based on Article 15b of the 2004 Act on Veterinary Inspection (consolidated Polish version in Journal of Laws 2021, item 306), the border veterinary officer of the Polish Veterinary Inspection is the competent authority to carry out official border checks and perform other official activities concerning animals and goods at the Border Control Post (BCP).

According to the Regulation of August 27, 2003, on Veterinary Border Control (Polish Journal of Law 2003, item 1590), animals and products of animal origin may be imported if:

- The consignment contains an original veterinary certificate drawn up in at least one official language designated by the border inspection and the country of final destination issued by the competent authority of the country of origin
- Products are labeled in a way that can be identified
- Products come 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 authorized third countries or their parts; and
  - List of establishments authorized to introduce the products into the EU

The list of third countries from which imports of certain product are permitted to the EU and the lists of eligible establishments in those countries are published on the European Commission's website. These consolidated lists are published in accordance with the requirements of Article 127 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 and Article 5 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/625. The lists are available [here](#).

Veterinary border control takes place at BCPs approved in accordance with the Commission Implementing [Regulation](#) (EU) 2019/1014 of 12 June 2019 which details rules on minimum requirements for border control posts, as well as the format, categories, and abbreviations used for the lists of border control posts and control points.

## **V. Other Certification or Accreditation**

According to the 2006 Act on Feed (consolidated version in Polish in [Journal of Law 2021, item 278](#)), feeds or medicated feeds entering the customs territory of the European Union by the Polish BCP are subject to official inspection by a border veterinary officer in accordance with the rules set forth in Chapter V of Regulation 2017/625. As a result, with no harmonized rules at the EU level, in Poland feed that contains no ingredients of animal origin is still subject to veterinary border checks.

Border control of feed is carried out at the veterinary BCPs listed in the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of August 3, 2022, on the list of border crossings where official control of feeds and medicated feeds may be carried out (available in Polish in [Journal of Laws of 2022, item 1677](#)). Import of consignments of feed is possible from non-EU establishments which have a representation on the territory of Poland and are entered in the register of non-EU establishments kept by the Chief Veterinary Officer, or which have a representation on the territory of another EU Member State. Article 36-41 of the 2006 Act on Feed set forth the rules for establishing the representation.

## **Appendix I. Direct Hyperlink, Electronic Copy, Scanned Copy, or Outline of Each Export Certificate**

Detailed information on export certification can be found in the USEU's FAIRS Export Certificate Report available on their [website](#).

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/2235 \(consolidated version January 9, 2023\)](#) contains most import certificate samples required for various food products of animal origin, including:

- meat products
- poultry and products
- eggs and related products
- milk and dairy products.

For additional information concerning market access, other import requirements, or a current list of importers, please contact FAS/Warsaw:

U.S. Embassy, Poland  
United States Department of Agriculture/ Foreign Agricultural Service  
Regional Office of Agricultural Affairs (Covering Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia)  
Warsaw, Poland  
Ph: +48 22 504 2336  
Email: [agwarsaw@state.gov](mailto:agwarsaw@state.gov)

## **Appendix II. Instructions for Exporters of FDA Regulated Products Certified by Other Agencies**

### ***Composite Products to the EU***

The EU defines a composite product as a food product containing both processed products of animal origin (dairy, egg, fishery products, or meat products) and products of plant origin. [USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service \(FSIS\) will issue EU composite product certificates](#) for composite products produced at FSIS-regulated facilities and bearing the USDA mark of inspection. AMS Dairy Program will issue the EU composite product certificates for composite products NOT produced in an FSIS-regulated facility and not bearing the USDA mark of inspection, regardless of whether dairy is an ingredient in the composite product.

The new EU requirements for composite products will impact stakeholders who have not been required to obtain an export certificate from AMS Dairy Program in the past. Prior to requesting a certificate from AMS Dairy Program, a new customer will need to establish a USDA level 2 e-authentication account. [Go to How to Apply for an AMS Dairy or Composite Product Export Certificate for more information.](#)

### ***Dairy to the EU***

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is the certifying agency for EU export certificates for dairy products regulated by FDA. For more information, contact William Francis ([william.francis@usda.gov](mailto:william.francis@usda.gov)) or John Kelly ([John.Kelly2@usda.gov](mailto:John.Kelly2@usda.gov)). In order to obtain an EU Health Certificate, the manufacturers must have their final production, blending, and/or packing facility listed on the [List of EU approved facilities maintained on the European Commission website](#). Exporters should check whether they have been included in this list. Exporters may apply for inclusion on these lists through the FDA Export Listing Module (ELM). Please visit [Online Applications for Export Lists](#) for a link to this electronic system and step-by-step instructions.

### ***Dairy to Other Export Markets***

A sanitary certificate is accepted by numerous countries, the Agricultural Marketing Service, Dairy Grading Branch offers these certificates and this certificate can be [obtained through this website](#).

### ***Eggs and Egg Products***

In the egg sector, USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) is the certifying agency for export certificates for egg products regulated by FDA. The AMS Livestock, Poultry and Seed Division is responsible for the EU export certificates for the food products containing eggs or egg products that are regulated by FDA. In addition to shell eggs, FDA-regulated egg products include hard boiled eggs, cooked omelets, frozen egg patties, imitation egg products, egg substitutes, noodles, cake mixes, freeze-dried products, dietary foods, dried no-bake custard mixes, egg nog mixes, acidic dressings, mayonnaise, milk and egg dip, foods containing egg extracts, French toast, sandwiches containing eggs or egg products, and balut and other similar ethnic delicacies. For more information on jurisdiction overlap for commercial products regulated by either or both FDA and USDA, please refer to the [FDA/USDA jurisdictional chart](#) (Exhibit 3-1). U.S. exports of eggs and egg products to the EU are subject to establishment listing requirements as a precondition for market access. Establishments may apply for inclusion on these lists via the Export Listing Module (ELM). Please visit Online Applications for Export Lists for a link to this electronic system and step-by-step instructions. [List of EU approved facilities maintained on the European Commission website](#).

### ***Seafood***

The EU export health certificate is required by the EU Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection and attests to the safety of fish and fishery -- both wild and aquaculture -- products shipped to the EU. U.S. exports of seafood products to the EU are subject to establishment listing requirements as a precondition for market access. Establishments may apply for inclusion on these lists via the [Export Listing Module \(ELM\)](#). Please visit Online Applications for Export Lists for a link to this electronic system and step-by-step instructions. Please note that the EU will only accept export certificates signed after an establishment has been added to the list published on the [EC website](#) and the list has entered into force. Once listed, U.S. establishments may contact National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Seafood Inspection Program to request export certificates for U.S. seafood exports to the EU. Prior to exporting, industry should consult the EC's EU List of Approved Establishments External Link Disclaimer to verify that the establishment from which they intend to export is listed. These certificates must be requested and issued prior to shipment of the product. [Follow this link to submit a request online.](#)

### ***Honey to the EU***

The European Union (EU) has listed the United States as a country eligible to export honey to the European Union provided honey producers meet their program requirements. Under the program, domestic U.S. companies must adhere to specific requirements for each shipment destined to an EU member country. The [USDA Agricultural Marketing Service outlines specific requirements for U.S. honey shipped to EU markets](#) related to Hazardous Analysis and Critical Control Point (HAACP) planning, recordkeeping, testing, sampling, as well as labeling requirements in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 and that the product(s) have been handled and where appropriate, prepared, packaged, and stored in a hygienic manner in accordance with the requirements of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 ([these regulations can be downloaded from the following link](#)).

### ***Seeds for Sprouting to the EU***

USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) is the certifying agency for seeds for sprouting regulated by FDA. See: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/content/usda-announces-seed-sprouting-export-certification-program>

### **Attachments:**

No Attachments