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Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

Poland applies European Union (EU) regulatory requirements for all food of animal- and 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.

FAIRS Annual Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights

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DISCLAIMER

This report was prepared by the U.S. Embassy Warsaw’s Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA) 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. Post 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. The following Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Certificate report should also be read in conjunction with the OAA Warsaw’s 2021 FAIRS Annual Country report, as well as the EU-27 FAIRS reports prepared by the Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA U.S. Mission to the EU, which are 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.

Executive Summary

EU legislation mandates various health and supervisory requirements to guarantee that imports meet the standards of production in Member States (MSs). The EU requires veterinary and/or general health certificates to accompany each shipment of meat and meat 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 details are established in specific legislation, including veterinary health certificate models (links included at the end of this report).

I. List of Required Export Certificates

Poland applies EU export certification requirements for imported products. 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 EU, including Poland, does not prescribe or specify to trading partners which eligible production should produce certain products for export to the EU.

EU legislation mandates many health and supervisory requirements to guarantee that imports meet the standards of production in MSs. 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), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). EU-approved establishments may be subject to EU inspections.

After conducting a ‘fitness check’ of the General Food Law, the European Commission (EC) amended Regulation EC/178/2002 in June 2019 via Regulation 2019/1381, regarding the transparency the EU’s risk assessment procedures. Another result of the fitness check was to replace Directive EC/2000/29 of May 8, 2000, which regulated the introduction or dissemination of organisms deemed hazardous to plants or plant products. These regulations apply in all MSs without national level implementing regulations:

- Regulation (EC) No 2016/2031 of 26 October 2016 on plant pest protection measures.
- Regulation (EC) No 2017/625 of 15 March 2017 on official controls and enforcement of food and feed laws, animal health and welfare requirements, and plant health and plant protection products. The Regulation supersedes former Regulation 882/2004.

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 in [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 2020/2235](#), as amended by [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1471](#). The transitional provisions of Regulation 2020/2235 allow for the continued use of the old certificates until March 15, 2022, provided that the certificates are signed before January 15, 2022.

The EU requires each shipment of meat to be accompanied by veterinary and/or general health certificates which are signed and dated by a competent U.S. certifying official prior to shipment. Official

certificates were also harmonized for the entry into the European Union of animals, products of animal origin, composite products, germinal products, animal by-products, sprouts for human consumption, and seeds intended for the production of sprouts for human consumption.

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 also harmonized import requirements for plants and plant products, which are published under 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 provided by the [International Plant Protection Convention](#). For the United States, APHIS issues the 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 MS would apply. The import agent should have some guidance to provide on the MS requirement for that product. If not, request guidance on current requirements from the U.S. Embassy's OAA (see Appendix for contact information). U.S. regulatory agencies which issue export certificates usually identify specific MS 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 U.S. EU OAA FAIRS Certificate report Guide available on their [website](#).

III. Specific Attestation Required on the Export Certificate

For the identity check of the shipment, 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 \(EU\) No 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

According to the Regulation of August 27, 2003, on Veterinary Border Control (Polish Journal of Law 2003, pos. 1590), products 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 border control posts (BCP) 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, including inspection centers, the format, and categories and abbreviations used for the lists of border control posts and control points.

V. Other Certification or Accreditation

According to Article 24, 2nd Act, from December 16, 2005, (published in the Polish Journal of Law 2006, No. 17, pos. 127), the General Veterinary Inspectorate is the competent authority in all veterinary regulatory matters with non-EU countries.

Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate

Detailed information on export certification can be located at [Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA U.S. Mission to the European Union](#) website. The following [link](#) 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

The transitional provisions of Regulation 2020/2235, containing models of export certificates for products of animal origin, allow for the continued use of the old certificates until March 15, 2022, provided that the certificates are signed before January 15, 2022.

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

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 Warsaw, Poland
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Attachments:

No Attachments