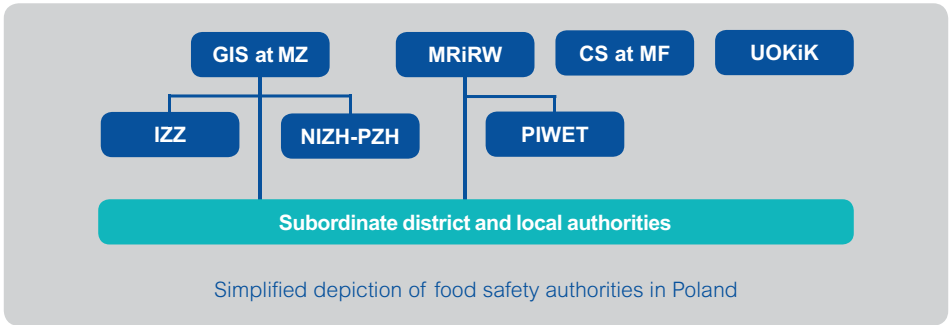


**3.21 Poland**

Poland



The central legal foundation for food legislation in Poland is the Food and Nutrition Safety Act of 25th August 2006. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts. In Poland risk management and risk assessment are institutionally separated. Risk assessments are not published.

**GIS at MZ**  
**The Chief Sanitary Inspectorate (GIS) at the Ministry of Health (MZ)**

- ▶ Health policy and food safety
- ▶ Risk management
- ▶ EFSA Focal Point
- ▶ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Warsaw  
<http://www.mz.gov.pl>  
<http://www.gis.gov.pl>

The Ministry of Health (MZ) is responsible for public health policy and food safety. The MZ prepares draft legislation in food hygiene, pesticide residues, contaminants and import of foods of non-animal origin. The portfolio of the MZ extends beyond food safety to, for instance, medicinal products. The Office for Registration of Medicinal Products, Medical Devices and Biocidal Products at the MZ is the regulatory authority for veterinary drugs in Poland.

The Chief Sanitary Inspectorate (GIS) is subordinate to the MZ and is the competent authority for food safety in Poland. It cooperates with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MRiRW) on matters regarding food safety and with both the MRiRW and the Ministry of

Environment (MS) on matters regarding GMOs. The GIS coordinates and supervises the activities of the State Sanitary Inspectorates (PIS) which are responsible for official control of all aspects of food safety, i. e. food hygiene, pesticide residues, contaminants, import of food of non-animal origin, food contact materials, food additives, GMOs in food, food supplements and novel foods. The GIS is also responsible for monitoring contaminants in food of non-animal origin. GIS risk management measures are based on scientific risk assessments carried out by the National Food and Nutrition Institute (IZZ) and the National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene (NIZP – PZH).

16 National Reference Laboratories belong to the GIS in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The work of the MRiRW is mainly focused on risk management on food of animal origin and is based on scientific risk assessments prepared by the National Veterinary Research Institute (PIWET). The portfolio of the MRiRW include safety of feed, residues of veterinary medicinal products, GMOs and zoonoses. In these areas, the MRiRW monitors the activities of the district and local authorities.

The MRiRW is the regulatory authority for pesticides and plant protection products. In food safety, the MRiRW cooperates with the MZ, and for GMOs with both i. e. the MZ and MS. The portfolio of the MRiRW extends beyond food safety to animal health and animal welfare. The MRiRW is also responsible for the monitoring of contaminants in food of animal origin.

**MRiRW**  
**The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development**

- ▶ Agricultural policy and safety of food of animal origin
- ▶ Risk management
- ▶ FAO/WHO Codex Contact Point

Seat: Warsaw  
<http://www.minrol.gov.pl>



The MRiRW is responsible for agricultural policy and the safety of food of animal origin and prepares draft legislation in this area. The MRiRW is supported by three competent specialist authorities responsible for control and inspection: the General Veterinary Inspectorate (GIW), the Main Inspectorate for Seeds and Plant Health (PIORIN) and the Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection (IJHARS). The FAO/WHO Codex Contact Point for Poland is located at IJHARS.

**CS at MF**  
**The Customs Service (CS) at the Ministry of Finance (MF)**

- ▶ Risk management

Seat: Warsaw  
<http://www.mf.gov.pl>

The Customs Service is subordinate to the MF and is responsible for the border control of food. The Customs Service cooperates with three specialist authorities: the GIW on controls of export and import of animals, food of animal origin and feed; PIORIN on controls of export and import of regulated plants and plant material and the GIS on controls of export and import of food of plant origin.

**UOKiK**  
**The Office of Competition and Consumer Protection**

- ▶ Risk management

Seat: Warsaw  
<http://www.uokik.gov.pl>

The UOKiK aims to protect the interests of the consumer and to ensure free and fair competition within a free market. The President of the UOKiK reports directly to the Prime Minister. It is the task of the UOKiK to protect the health of consumers and ensure that only safe products that meet the essential requirements set forth in Polish regulations are available on the market. Other tasks of the UOKiK are to prevent dominant entities from operating on the market (cartels) and the monitoring of efficiency and impact of state aid on the free market.

**IZZ****The National Food and Nutrition Institute**

- ▶ Risk assessment
- ▶ Research

Seat: Warsaw  
<http://www.izz.waw.pl>



The IZZ prepares scientific risk assessments on nutrition and novel foods, and is involved in active research within this area.

**NIZP-PZH****The National Institute of Public Health – The National Institute of Hygiene**

- ▶ Risk assessment
- ▶ Research

Seat: Warsaw  
<http://www.pzh.gov.pl>



The NIZP-PZH prepares scientific risk assessments on food additives, biological risks, added chemical substances, residues of plant protection products and drinking water. The NIZP-PZH also performs active research in this area.

**PIWET****The National Veterinary Research Institute**

- ▶ Risk assessment
- ▶ Research

Seat: Puławy  
<http://www.piwet.pulawy.pl>



The PIWET prepares scientific risk assessments on feed, residues of veterinary medicinal products and zoonoses. The PIWET also performs active research.

**Regional and local levels**

In Poland there is a three tier division in public administration: 16 regions (voivodships), 379 districts (powiats) and 2,478 local authorities (gminas). At district and local levels the specialist authorities of the GIS and MRiRW are responsible for enacting food laws and carrying out food inspections. They are instructed and monitored by the GIS and MRiRW in their respective areas of activity.

**Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002**

1. National Veterinary Research Institute
2. National Research Institute of Animal Production
3. Institute of Natural Fibres Medicinal Plants
4. National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene
5. National Food and Nutrition Institute
6. Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation – State Research Institute (IUNG – PIB)
7. Sea Fisheries Institute in Gdynia
8. Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Food Hygiene and Public Health
9. University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn
10. Research Institute of Pomology and Floriculture