



PLANT HEALTH AND SEED INSPECTION SERVICE POLAND

The EU system of plant commodity trade control

In connection with an alignment of the Polish law with EU regulations and preparation of state institutions to join the EU, Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service has been appointed as an official body for surveillance of plant health and seed inspection and as an official contact point for cooperation with the European Commission and Member States of the European Union.

Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service was created on 1 April 2002 after a mergence between Inspection of Plant Health and Inspection of Seeds. The scope of tasks and duties of the Service is determined by the Law of 12 July 1995 on protection of crop plants (O.J. of 2002, No 171, pos. 1398). PHSIS currently consists of the Main Inspectorate (Head Office) and 16 provincial inspectorates (voivodeship inspectorates) comprising 271 field units and 26 border inspection posts. There are no major changes planned in the PHSIS structure in connection with an accession into EU apart from closing down of the border inspection posts which will create the inner EU border.

At present there are 2 300 people employed in PHSIS including 70 people in the Main Inspectorate. In order to ensure that all measure are undertaken adequately, it has been envisaged to increase the number of inspectors, temporarily staff and laboratory employees as well as inspectors of border inspection posts on the future EU outer border.

An accession into EU will enable the participation in the common market of Polish producers and entrepreneurs and free movement of Polish goods of plant origin between Member States without a border phytosanitary control. In order to benefit from this system, an implementation of a plant health control system, homogenous for all Member States, is essential. One of the foundation of the system is an obligation to accompany consignments or lots of some plants with so called 'plant passport' which includes a serial registration number of their producer, trader or importer.

The entrepreneurs producing, marketing or importing of the following plants and plant products are to be subject to an obligatory registration:

- ✓ propagative material such as, among others, seeds, cutting, rootstock, grafts, seedlings and plants intended for planting, bulbs, tubers, corms, rhizomes, etc.;
- ✓ seed and ware potatoes;

- ✓ citrus fruit and other fruit imported from non-European countries;
- ✓ wood of plane tree (*Platanus*), chestnut tree (*Castanea sativa*) and coniferous plants; separated bark of chestnut tree (*Castanea sativa*) and coniferous plants.

A scope of plant material whose producers and traders are subject to registration is listed in the EU Council Directive 2000/29/EC in the annex VA, IVAII (seeds), VB (importers) and in the Commission Directive 93/50/EC.

On the grounds of regulations concerning plant health Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service has an obligation to run an official register of producers, traders and importers of some plant material.

According to the EU requirements the system of plant commodity trade control obliges the registered subjects to, among others, keeping records of quantity, origin and type of plant material put into market, keeping all documentation connected with commodity movement and transactions, cooperation with PHSIS and an agreement to carry out phytosanitary controls on their premises by PHSIS inspectors. At the same time, all registered firms are subject to checks conducted by PHSIS including an inspection of plants and control of documentation at least once a year. On the base of the results of these controls and laboratory results plant passports are issued. Plant material listed in the annex VA of the EU Council Directive 2000/29/EC and put into market by registered entrepreneurs are to be accompanied by a plant passport. A plant passport may accompany a single plant, bulk container or means of transport depending on the type of material, its destination and form of distribution. The plant passport ensures that plant product to which it is attached complies with phytosanitary and quality requirements homogenous to all EU Member States.

Plant passports are to be printed and sold by Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service. It is planned in the future to give permission to print them to other subjects such as registered entrepreneurs.

More information on the procedure of registration and issuing of plant passports may be obtained from one of the units of Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service whose addresses are available on PHSIS web site www.iorin.gov.pl.