



Country: **Country**

1 Introduction

Poland is a republic with a parliament and centralised government. Legislative power in Poland is exercised parliament: the Sejm, and the Senate. The Sejm adopts bills, controls government and the activities of subsidiary bodies and appoints some constitutional bodies. The Senate has relatively few powers. It has the right to take legislative initiatives and to review bills adopted by the Sejm.

Executive power is exercised by the President and the Government. The Government consists of the Prime Minister and a Council of Ministers.

Poland has a three-tier administrative system. It is currently divided into:

- 16 Voivodships (provinces);
- 379 Powiats (districts) of which 65 are City Powiats; and
- 2478 Gminas (municipalities).

Public administration is divided into central and regional administration (self-government). The former consists of administrative bodies supervised and directed by the Council of Ministers; the latter is the administration at the regional and local level.

1.1 Institutions and links

The Ministry of Health establishes and enforces health standards. It supervises the Sanitary Inspectorate that monitors pollution and other environmental conditions with respect to their impact on human health.

The Ministry also supervises the Chief Pharmaceutical Inspector (Główny Inspektor Farmaceutyczny) and the Inspector for Chemical Substances and Preparations (Inspektor do Spraw Substancji i Preparatów Chemicznych).

Ministerstwo Zdrowia, ul Miodowa 15, 00-952 Warszawa, tel. 48 (22) 634 96 00, fax (22) 831 12 12; kancelaria@mz.gov.pl; <http://www.mz.gov.pl>

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy is the principal administration dealing with occupational safety. It is responsible for the formulation of principles for government policy in this sphere and for occupational safety legislation. It is also responsible for social security.

Ministerstwo Pracy i Polityki Społecznej, ul. Nowogrodzka 1/3, 00-513 Warszawa; tel. 48 (22) 661 10 00, fax (22) 661 11 24; <http://www.mpips.gov.pl>

The State Labour Inspectorate is the main body responsible for the control and enforcement of occupational safety regulations. It functions independently of the Ministry and answers directly to the Parliament. The organisational structure of the Inspectorate includes the Chief Labour Inspectorate and 16 District Labour Inspectorates. Inspectors have a broad range of competence. In the case of non-compliance with health and safety requirements, labour inspectors are empowered to impose fines and/or to halt the operation. The State Labour Inspectorate also cooperates with other Member States' offices responsible for supervising work and employment conditions.

Państwowa Inspekcja Pracy, ul. Krucza 38/42 00-926 Warszawa; tel 48 (22) 42037 18; fax (22) 625 47 70, 628 41 13; rzecznik.prasowy@qip.pl; <http://www.pip.gov.pl>

The Sanitary Inspectorate is subordinated to the Ministry of Health. It acts as a control mechanism in the health protection system (water, air and food control). The Sanitary Inspectorate carries out its duties through a network of Voivodeship Sanitary Inspectors and Sanitary Epidemiological Stations.

Państwowa Inspekcja Sanitarna (Główny Inspektor Sanitarny), ul. Długa 38/40, 00-238 Warszawa; tel 48 (22) 635 45 81; fax (22) 635 61 94; inspektorat@gis.gov.pl; <http://www.gis.gov.pl>

Country H&S Legislation Review – Poland

The Council of Labour Protection is an advisory body in the field of occupational safety. The Council is composed of representatives from trade unions, employers, Members of Parliament, and scientists. The Council has advisory powers, especially with regard to giving opinions on drafts of the laws concerning occupational safety. It also supervises and evaluates the activities of the Labour Inspectorate.

Rada Ochrony Pracy przy Sejmie RP, ul. Maszyńskiego 3/6, 00-489 Warszawa, tel 48 (22) 622 62 98; fax (22) 622 62 91.

1.2 Regulatory Instruments

Most legislative and executive powers in Poland are concentrated at a central government level. Sources of law are: the Constitution, Statutes, ratified international agreements and Ordinances. This reflects the order of precedence in case of conflicts.

- **Statutes** are enacted by the Parliament. A Statute may provide for executive acts to be issued either by the Council of Ministers, Prime Minister or by individual ministers.
- **Ordinances** are issued by the Council of Ministers or by individual ministers.

Statutes as well as Ordinances are published in the Dziennik Ustaw (Dz.U. - Journal of Laws).

The texts of Statutes and Ordinances can be found at the website of the Polish Parliament at <http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/>

Institution	Link
The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	http://www.mpips.gov.pl
Ministry of Health	http://www.mz.gov.pl
State Labour Inspectorate	http://www.pip.gov.pl

S