

Moving to Poland: Your Relocation Guide



By Appointment To
Her Majesty The Queen
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

ABELS™

THE ART OF MOVING

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TELEPHONE:	Country code (48) + Area code
STANDARD TIME:	GMT +1
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	220v – 230v AC 50Hz
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	No vaccinations or inoculations required if EU citizen
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, 6, Apr 16, 17, May 1, 3, Jun 4, 15, Aug 15, Nov 1, 11, Dec 25/26. Easter Monday and Corpus Christi are also public holidays, but their dates vary each year.
OFFICE HOURS:	08.00-18.00
BANK HOURS:	08.00-18.00
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	997 – Police 998 – Fire 999 – Ambulance 112 – By Mobile
UK EMBASSY IN POLAND:	UK Embassy ul. Kawalerii 12 00-468 Warszawa Tel: +48 22 311 0000 Fax: +48 22 311 0313 Email: info@britishembassy.pl Web: http://ukinpoland.fco.gov.uk
POLISH EMBASSY IN LONDON:	47 Portland Place London W1B 1JH Tel: 0207 2913 520 Fax: 02072 913 575 Email: london@msz.gov.pl Web: http://london.polemb.net
VISA SECTION:	Tel: 08707 742 800
POLISH NATIONAL TOURIST OFFICE:	Polish National Tourist Office 310-312 Regent Street Remo House, First Floor London W1R 5AJ Tel: 171-580-88-11 Email: info@visitpoland.org Web: www.artmedialab.com



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Moving to Poland from the UK – Information and Advice: Abels Relocation Guide

Customs

Poland is now part of the EU and as such, no official documents are required to import personal effects and household goods if originating from another EU country. However, should you be from outside the EU the following applies:

To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household and personal effects into Poland. However, it is always advisable to check with the authorities that documentation is in order, prior to dispatch. You will be required to supply the following, prior to departure of your effects from our warehouse, which should be submitted either prior to, or upon completion of packing at residence:

Removal Goods

Foreign nationals, Employees of Foreign Represent. Offices duly permitted to function in Poland. Employees of Foreign (& Polish) businesses duly incorporated in Poland (incl. Members of Board, persons delegated to Poland etc).

Documents required:

- Original work permit (for non EU-members countries citizens)
- Working visa from Polish consulate (for non EU-member countries citizens)
- Photocopy of passport for all (personal data and photo page only) certified as a true copy by a public notary in Poland
- Certificate of employment on the company letterhead stating period of contract, duration of employment etc. abroad to prove more than 12 months consecutive stay outside the EU. If not, then bills issued on the customer' name abroad for more than 12-14 months before arrival to Poland
- Temporary residence permit in Poland (for non EU-members countries citizens) if work visa has not been issued
- EU Citizens residency certificate confirming temporary residence in Poland (for EU nationals)
- Address registration in Poland copy and / or residence rental contract copy
- Detailed valued inventory signed by owner. It must be fully descriptive (no "packed by owner inventories" are acceptable) and should list serial number of all electrical / electronic items
- Signed authorisation for removal agent (notary approved in Poland)
- Customs request form signed by the customer

All eligible Foreign Nationals taking up residence for more than three months must obtain a work permit along with a working visa.

Foreign Nationals who intend to stay in Poland for longer than one year, instead of requiring an extension of visa in a

Polish Consulate abroad, may now apply for a Temporary Residence Card at a County Office Dept in Poland.

For the Foreign Citizens, Temporary Residence Card is then valid for the next three years.

This new residence Card can be extended in Poland up to a maximum of 10 years.

Persons relocating for permanent residence in Poland after permanent residence abroad.

Foreign Nationals

Documents required:

- Copy of residence card and a copy of Polish address registration
- Work permit copy (not mandatory) for non EU-member countries citizens)
- Certificate of employment on the company letterhead stating period of contract, duration of employment etc. abroad to prove more than 12 months consecutive stay outside the EU. If not, then bills issued on the customer' name abroad for more than 12-14 months before arrival to Poland
- Copy of passport – for all. (Personal data and photo page only) certified as a true copy by a public notary in Poland
- Detailed valued inventory signed by owner. It must be fully descriptive (no "Packed by owner inventories" are acceptable)
- Signed authorisation for customs agency to act on client behalf (certified by a public Notary in Poland)
- Customs request form signed by yourself

Household goods and personal effects can be imported free of duty/tax (only used). This also refers to vehicles proved to have been used by shipper prior to departure.

Vehicles must be registered in the name of relocating person for at least six months.

The goods must enter Poland within 12 months of the date of termination of foreign residence as shown in the consular certificate.

Polish Nationals returning to Poland after temporary stay abroad.

- Certificate of employment on the company letterhead stating period of contract, duration of employment etc. abroad to prove more than 12 months consecutive stay outside the EU. If not, then bills issued on the customer' name abroad for more than 12-14 months before arrival to Poland
- Photocopy of passport (personal data and photo page plus foreign visa pages) certified as a true copy by a public notary in Poland
- Copy of Polish ID certified as a true copy by a public notary in Poland



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- Proof of permanent residence in Poland (photocopy of Polish identity permanent residence must not be updated)
- Authorisation for removal agent notary approved in Poland by Polish notary
- Customs request form signed by yourself

Polish Nationals returning to Poland after temporary stay abroad.

Documents required:

- Certificate of employment on the company letterhead stating period of contract, duration of employment etc. abroad to prove more than 12 months consecutive stay outside the EU. If not, then bills issued on the customer's name abroad for more than 12-14 months before arrival to Poland
- Photocopy of passport (personal data and photo page plus foreign visa pages) certified as a true copy by a public notary in Poland
- Copy of Polish ID certified as a true copy by a public notary in Poland
- Proof of permanent residence in Poland (photocopy of Polish identity permanent residence must not be updated)
- Authorisation for removal agent notary approved in Poland by Polish notary
- Customs request form signed by yourself

Students, Research, Medical Scientist, Priests, Teachers etc

Documents required:

- Suitable certification of their status from Polish University, Medical Clinic, Church etc
- Appropriate visa from Polish Consulate (for non EU nationals)
- Photocopy of passport (personal; data and photo page only) certified as a true copy by a public notary in Poland
- Detailed valued inventory signed by the owner. It must be fully descriptive (no "Packed by owner inventories" are acceptable)
- Signed authorisation for customs agency to act on clients behalf (certified by a public Notary in Poland)
- Customs request form signed by the customer
- Copy of Polish address registration

No work permit required.

Employees of freelance

Persons working for foreign governmental agencies.

For details please contact your destination agent.

Diplomatic Removals

Documents required:

- Appropriate Certificate from Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Inventory list in Polish stamped by Diplomatic Protocol
- Signed authorisation for removal agent, approved by Embassy / Diplomatic Unit
- Photocopy of passport stamped by the Embassy / Diplomatic Unit

Importation free of duty / tax. Articles may not be sold for three years from the date of entry.

Duty / tax exemption is based on reciprocity.

Journalists

Duly accredited by Polish Government

Documents required:

- Appropriate Certificate from Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dept. of Press & Information
- Detailed valued Inventory signed by the owner. It must be fully descriptive (no "Packed by owner inventories" are acceptable)
- Signed authorisation for customs agency to act on client behalf (certified by a public Notary in Poland)
- Customs request form signed by the customer
- Photocopy of passport (personal data and photo page plus foreign visa pages) certified as a true copy by a public notary in Poland)
- Photocopy of accreditation ID card issued by Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Temporary residence permit in Poland (for non EU-member countries citizens)
- EU citizens residency certificate confirming temporary residence in Poland (for EU nationals)
- Address registration in Poland copy and / or residence rental contract copy

Duty / tax exemption is based on reciprocity.

Exception:

If Poland has no reciprocity, a security guaranteeing payment of duty/tax in case of non re-exportation is required. Custom clearance is then based on temporary importation (on the strength of financial security).

Inheritances

Documents required:

- Original of the last will confirming the right to inheritance with its sworn translation into Polish
- Copy of the death certificate of the testator with the sworn translation into Polish

Documents of the beneficiary / beneficiaries:

- Copy of passport – (personal data and photo page) certified as a true copy by a public notary in Poland
- Copy of Polish ID certified as a true copy by a public notary in Poland (for Polish nationals)



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- Copy of permanent Polish address registration
- Detailed valued inventory signed by the beneficiary
- Signed authorisation for customs agency to act on client behalf (certified by a public Notary in Poland)
- Customs request form signed by the beneficiary

Free of duty / tax for importation by direct heirs.

New Furniture

- Original invoices / bill of sale
- Detailed valued inventory signed by owner. It must be fully descriptive
- Signed authorisation for customs agency to act on client's behalf (certified by a public Notary in Poland)
- Copy of passport – (personal data and photo page) certified as a true copy by a public notary in Poland
- Copy of Polish ID certified as a true copy by a public notary in Poland
- Copy of Polish address registration

If brand new furniture is imported (in manufacturer's original crates) the Customs may require presentation of original invoice / bill of sale. Is subject to import taxes and duties.

Electrical Appliances

Same as removal goods.

Electrical appliances are 220-230V 50Hz.

Precious Metals

It is recommended that jewellery be carried only as personal luggage.

Motor Vehicles

All documents required for Household Goods (see removal goods) plus:

- Copy of vehicle / vehicles insurance policy
- Original invoice(s) with its sworn translation into Polish
- Car(s) registration card translated into Polish by sworn translator
- Original document confirming ownership with its sworn translation into Polish

Pre-1945 Antiques / Objects of Art

Documents required:

- Certification of Antiquity from recognised authority for antiques over 100 years
- For pre-1945 articles – photos in duplicate should be supplied to destination agent (incase of re-export of these goods from Poland)

Note on items made before 1945 and paintings: Given the strict controls over the export of all items (art & antiques) exceeding an age of 100 years or 50 years,

regardless of country of origin (including old books) a single licence for permanent export is required.

It is important they are noted by Customs on their importation.

All such items should be clearly marked on the inventory and stowed for easy access at Customs inspection. Photos of all such items should be supplied in duplicate to destination agent for customs processing.

Food Products

Small amount of personal consumption are allowed.

Alcohol

Importation is not recommended alcohol found in household goods would be confiscated and the customer would pay a fine.

In most cases cost is greater than current retail price and in fact a license to import alcohol in excess of the allowance is practically impossible to obtain.

Diplomatic removals: duties/tax exemption based on reciprocity. Alcohol may not be sold for three years from the date of entry. Consult your embassy prior to shipping.

Cats and Dogs

Documents required:

- Good health certificate issued maximum five days prior to arrival
- Anti-rabies vaccination certificate at least 21 days prior to departure
- Pet must be microchipped
- A tattoo is an acceptable form of identification as long as it was given prior to July 3, 2011 and is clearly visible
- Puppies must be older than three months, younger are not allowed to travel to Poland

Other Animals

Requirements may vary depending on country of origin. Importation subject to consultation with the Polish Ministry of Agriculture prior to departure from origin country.

It is advisable to check in advance with your destination agent. Animals sent without proper certificates are subject to quarantine. For some species importation is prohibited and these may be denied entry.

Plants

- Most plants require a phytosanitary certificate

Subject to examination at destination. Only allowed substance in which plants are to be transported is peat. Other substances like earth, sand etc. are prohibited as potential carriers of pests and diseases.

Not all customs offices have personnel authorised to carry out phytosanitary examinations so please check with your destination agent.



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Cigarettes and Tobacco Products

Free of duty allowance is:

- 250 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250g of tobacco
- All excess of allowance requires an import license and is subject to high duty/excise tax

Not allowed as a household goods.

Unaccompanied Luggage By Air

Simplified procedure for personal effects as listed in customs regulations. Goods should arrive within a reasonable time margin from the date of entry of shipper.

Documents required:

- Photocopy of passport with most recent entry stamps or visa
- Signed inventory
- Signed authorisation for removal agent

Medicines / prescription drugs

Import of medicines / prescription drugs is subject to some restrictions.

Firearms (Hunting weapons)

Documents required:

- Firearms certificate granted by the Polish Consul is required

General Information on Republic of Poland

Background

Poland's history as a state began near the middle of the 10th century. By the mid-16th century, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth ruled a vast tract of land in Central and Eastern Europe. During the 18th century, internal disorders weakened the nation, and in a series of agreements between 1772 and 1795, Russia, Prussia, and Austria partitioned Poland among themselves. Poland regained its independence in 1918 only to be overrun by Germany and the Soviet Union in World War II. It became a Soviet satellite state following the war, but its government was comparatively tolerant and progressive. Labor turmoil in 1980 led to the formation of the independent trade union "Solidarity" that over time became a political force with over 10 million members. Free elections in 1989 and 1990 won Solidarity control of the parliament and the presidency, bringing the communist era to a close. A "shock therapy" program during the early 1990s enabled the country to transform its economy into one of the most robust in Central Europe. Poland joined NATO in 1999 and the EU in 2004. With its transformation to a democratic, market-oriented country largely completed and with large investments in defense, energy, and other infrastructure, Poland is an increasingly active member of Euro-Atlantic organisations.

Geography

Poland lies on the Baltic coast of Central Europe. The Odra (Oder) and Wisla (Vistula) deltas dominate the coast. Inland much of Poland is low-lying with woods and lakes. Historically an area of conflict because of the flat terrain and the lack of natural barriers on the North European plains. In the south the land rises to the Sudety and western part of the Carpathian Mountains which form the borders with the Czech Republic and Slovakia respectively. Poland also has land boundaries with: Belarus, Germany, Lithuania, Russia (Kaliningrad Oblast) and the Ukraine, with a coastline of 491 km. Natural resources are: coal, sulphur, copper, natural gas, silver, lead, salt, amber and arable land. The main industries are machinery and transport equipment, ship building, metal and chemical production.

Germany is the main trading party also France, Italy, UK, Netherlands and Czech Republic.

Climate

The climate is temperate with cold, cloudy, moderately severe winters with frequent precipitation with mild summers and frequent showers. Natural hazards are flooding.

Population

The population is estimated at around 38,600,000. A quarter of the workforce is involved in agriculture.

Environmental Issues

The situation has improved since 1989 due to the decline in heavy industry and increased environmental concern by post-Communist governments. Air pollution nonetheless remains serious because of the sulfur dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants, and the resulting acid rain has caused forest damage, water pollution from industrial and municipal sources is also a problem as is disposal of hazardous wastes. Pollution levels should continue to decrease as industrial establishments bring their facilities up to European Union code, but at substantial cost to business and the government.

Currency

The currency unit is the Zloty and is mainly note-based. The following denominations are in circulation:

Notes: 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 zloty

Coins: 1, 2, 5, 10 and 50 grosz and 1, 2 and 5 zloty

Credit cards are accepted.

Economy

Poland has pursued a policy of economic liberalization since 1990 and Poland's economy was the only EU country to avoid a recession through the 2008-09 economic downturn. Although EU membership and access to EU structural funds have provided a major boost to the economy since 2004, GDP per capita remains significantly below the EU average and the unemployment rate is now below the EU average.



The government of Prime Minister Donald TUSK steered the Polish economy through the economic downturn by skillfully managing public finances and adopting controversial pension and tax reforms to further shore up public finances. While the Polish economy has performed well over the past five years, growth slowed in 2013 and picked back up in 2014-15. Poland's new center-right Law and Justice government plans to introduce expansionary economic policies to spur long-term growth, but social spending programs are expected to lead to increased deficit spending over the medium term.

Poland faces several challenges, which include addressing some of the remaining deficiencies in its road and rail infrastructure, business environment, rigid labour code, commercial court system, government red tape, and burdensome tax system, especially for entrepreneurs. Additional long-term challenges include diversifying Poland's energy mix and sources of supply, strengthening investments in innovation, research, and development, and as well as stemming the outflow of educated young Poles to other EU member states, especially in light of a coming demographic contraction due to emigration, persistently low fertility rates, and the aging of the Solidarity-era baby boom generation.

Education

There are a few schools for expatriate children, but the following are recommended:

- The American School of Warsaw, Warsaw. Tel: 702 8500
- The British School, Warsaw. Tel: 201 921

Religion

89% are Roman Catholic (about 75% practicing), Eastern Orthodox, Protestant and other is 5%.

Health

All towns have an adequate water supply which is officially recognised as safe to drink. However, it is advisable to boil or filter drinking water.

There are reciprocal arrangements between Poland and the UK, which means that expatriates are entitled to free basic medical care and emergency hospital treatment, provided that the patient can provide their National Health Medical Card.

Local doctors provide a fairly good service, however, hospitals are poor. Therefore, expatriates are advised to ensure that they have adequate insurance to obtain treatment in their own country for prolonged illnesses. Such insurance is available from companies such as BUPA International (Tel: 01273 323563).

The British Embassy in Warsaw has a list of suitable English-speaking doctors and dentists: nationals of other countries are advised to consult their own embassies.

Electricity

Domestic electricity supply is 220 volts AC, 50 cycles. Screw-type light fittings and round 2-pin plugs and sockets are in general use. Both voltage and frequency often vary. For some equipment such as computers, a small voltage stabiliser and a circuit breaker are useful.

Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.