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Israel

Trade Policy Monitoring

Updated Tariff Rates For Cheese

2006

Approved by:

Kurt Seifarth
U.S. Embassy, Cairo

Prepared by:

Gilad Shachar

Report Highlights:

In July 2006, the maximum tariff rate for imported cheese was cancelled and a specific tariff was implemented. The local VAT rate was reduced from 16.5 percent to 15.5 percent, effective from July 1, 2006.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Tel Aviv [IS1]
[IS]

Table 1: New Tariff Rates

Israeli Tariff Code	Israeli Tariff Code	Israeli Tariff Code	Short Description Of Product	New Tariffs for U.S. Products	Previous Tariffs for U.S. Products
04.06			Cheese and Curd		
	04.06.10		Fresh (Unripened or Uncured) Cheese, Including Whey Cheese, and Curd		
		04061010	Within Annex 5	Exempt	Exempt
		04061090	Others	18.00 Shekels/kg	133.2%
	04.06.20		Grated or Powdered Cheese, of All Kinds		
		04062010	Within Annex 5	Exempt	Exempt
		04062090	Others	12.75 Shekels/kg	12.6 Shekels/kg, but not more than 222.3%
	04.06.30		Processed Cheese Powdered		
		04063090	Others	13.20 Shekels/kg	13.05 Shekels/kg
	04.06.40		Blue-Veined Cheese		
		04064010	Within Annex 5	Exempt	Exempt
		04064090	Others	13.95 Shekels/kg	13.95 Shekels/kg, but not more than 214.2%
	04.06.90		Other cheese		
		04069010	Within Annex 5	Exempt	Exempt
		04069020	White Halomi cheese processed by boiling, not of subheading 9010	11.83 Shekels/kg	11.7 Shekels/kg, but not more than 161.1%
		04069030	Hard dried cheese of the kind Jimeed, not of subheading 9010	3.65 Shekels/kg	3.60 shekels/kg but not more than 161.1%
		04069090	Others	14.57 Shekels/kg	14.40 shekels/kg

Source: Israeli Customs, <http://www.mof.gov.il/customs/eng/mainpage.htm>

In July 2006, the Israel Customs Service changed the tariff rate for imported cheese. The maximum tariff rate was cancelled and a specific tariff was implemented. The new policy is designed to protect the local cheese industry, mainly against inexpensive cheese imports from Russia and east Europe. As a result, it is estimated that local cheese sales will increase and high quality cheese imports will increase on the account of low quality cheese imports.

The quotas for imported American cheese and curd have not been changed (624 tons).

VAT - According to an order signed by the Minister of Finance, the VAT rate was reduced from 16.5 percent to 15.5 percent, effective from July 1, 2006 and applying to all transactions and import of goods whose date of liability to tax applies beginning from July 1, 2006.