

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution
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Report Name: Israel Passes Amendments to Ease Food Imports

Country: Israel

Post: Tel Aviv

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

Israel passes amendments to the Public Health Protection Act (Food) to ease and reduce the regulatory burden on food importation. Amongst the amendments is an additional importation track called the “European Track”.

[On November 4, 2021](#), the Israeli parliament (the Knesset) approved the [Economic Plan \(Arrangements Law\)](#). The Economic Plan consists of legislative amendments for the implementation of the economic policy for the budget years 2021 and 2022. The purpose of the law is to establish provisions for raising the standard of living in Israel, strengthening economic growth, increasing employment and productivity in the economy, lowering the cost of living, and reducing the regulatory burden – all under the goals of the budget and economic policy for 2021 and 2022. Amongst the legislative amendments are amendments to the Public Health Protection Act (Food), covering food importation. These include the cancellation of official food standards and an additional importation track called the European Track.

The cancellation of official food standards will be published in Israel's official gazette. However, not all Israeli food standards will be canceled. For instance, the Israeli food standard 1145, Labelling of Prepackaged Food, will not be amongst the canceled standards. Post Tel Aviv will notify industry of relevant publications through the Israel Food and Agricultural Import Regulations Standards (FAIRS) Country Report.

Regarding the European Track, the amendment will enter into force on January 1, 2023. The European Track reduces the regulatory burdens by allowing the importation of food products that meet EU regulations, except certain prohibited food products (see Table 2 below). This effectively opens the Israeli market to any exporter already exporting to the European Union. Furthermore, the track includes food products that were previously defined as sensitive and required prior certificates and preliminary tests prior to entering into the Israeli market.

The EU regulations adopted in Israel through the European Track are presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Adopted EU Regulations

EU Regulations	Terms and Exceptions	Excluded Food Type
(1) EC Regulation 1881/2006 Setting Maximum Levels of Certain Contaminants in Foodstuffs;	(1) Sections 7 till 9 of the EC Regulation 1881/2006 do not apply;	The provisions of the regulations shall not apply to raw meat, raw milk, honey, fresh eggs in their shells
(2) EC Regulation 73/2018 Amending Annexes II and III to Regulation 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as Regards Maximum Residue Levels for Mercury Compounds in or on Certain Products;	(2) None;	The provisions of the regulations shall not apply to raw meat, raw milk, honey, fresh eggs in their shells
(3) EC Regulation 2073/2005 on Microbiological Criteria	(3) EC Regulation 2073/2005 do not apply to Listeria and Salmonella	The provisions of the regulations shall not apply to raw meat, raw milk, honey,

EU Regulations	Terms and Exceptions	Excluded Food Type
for Foodstuffs;	pathogens;	fresh eggs in their shells
(4) EC Regulation 396/2005 on Maximum Residue Levels of Pesticides in or on Food and Feed of Plant and Animal Origin and Amending Council Directive 91/414/EEC Sections 18, 19, and 20, and Annexes II on Maximum Residue Levels, Annexes III on Maximum Residue Levels Permitted Temporally, Annexes V on Maximum Residue Levels Permitted for Residues for which a Default Value was not Set		The provisions of the regulations shall not apply to raw meat, raw milk, honey, fresh eggs in their shells

Table 2: Food Prohibited from Being Imported through the European Track

1. Assigned food (food products for people with special nutritional needs);
2. Dietary supplements;
3. Foods intended for consumption by infants and toddlers including formulas and foods marked as supplementary foods;
4. Meat and poultry products;
5. Fish and fish products including shellfish, crabs and animals from the echinoderm group;
6. Eggs and egg products;
7. Intoxicating beverages;
8. Unpasteurized milk products;
9. Khat leaves.

Attachments:

No Attachments.