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Israel

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Narrative

FAIRS Country Report 2017

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Report Highlights:

The major highlights from the last year include:

- Draft Revision "Protection of Public Health Regulations (Food) (Nutritional Labeling)"
- The Control of Animal Feed Law 2014 came into effect March 2017
- A number of food standards have either been revised or are under consideration for revision, see Section VIII

Section I: General Food Laws

General

Israeli importers face two main considerations when selecting a particular product - quality and price. In terms of price, U.S. products are not always competitive due to relatively higher production and freight costs. Products from Europe and the Mediterranean basin tend to be advantaged by proximity and, in some cases, lower production costs. Transportation costs are less crucial when dealing with higher-end products that tend to have very high value-to-volume ratios, such as spices, essences, flavorings, and concentrates. Similarly, products eligible for tariff preferences under the U.S.-Israel free trade agreement (FTA) are at a natural advantage, making transportation costs less of a factor. Under the U.S.-Israel FTA, U.S. goods enjoy a tariff advantage over European and other most favored nation status (MFN) suppliers on a broad range of processed and intermediate foodstuffs.

Due to its growing trade with the European Union (EU), the Israeli food and food supplement legislation and standardization system is increasingly harmonized to European standards. In many cases European standards may differ from those in the United States, resulting in non-tariff trade barriers and a challenging import licensing process.

Relevant Agencies

Four agencies are involved in Israel's food, livestock, and plant safety supervision. These agencies include: the National Food Control Service, which is part of the Ministry of Health; the Standards Institute of Israel; the Israel Veterinary and Animal Health Services, which is part of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOAG); and the Plant Protection and Inspection Service, which is also part of MOAG. Depending on the product, both the Ministry of Trade and MOAG have responsibility for managing quota allocations under the U.S.-Israel FTA. The agencies contact information can be found in Appendix I.

National Food Control Service: The National Food Control Service (FCS) is in charge of imported food licensing. The agency is known to have stringent requirements on food products characterized as sensitive. A full list of sensitive products can be found in Appendix II.

Standards Institute of Israel: The Standards Institute of Israel (SII) is the national standardization body of Israel. The institution is a non-profit public statutory organization empowered by the Standards Law of 1953. It is publicly governed by representatives of organizations playing a major part in the national economy.

Israeli Veterinary and Animal Health Services: The Israeli Veterinary and Animal Health Service (IVAHS) has responsibilities that include controlling import and export of animals and animal products, national surveillance of residues in foods of animal origin, and the food safety of animal products.

Plant Protection and Inspection Service: The Plant Protection and Inspection Service (PPIS) is the authority in charge of permitting the importation of plants and plant products into Israel. The agency manages these imports for both for commercial and personal use.

Kashrut

Exporters need to consider the issue of *kashrut* or *kosher* certification. Kosher certification is not a legal requirement for importing food into Israel, except for beef, poultry, and other meat and products. However, non-kosher products have a much smaller market share, as most supermarkets and hotels refuse to carry them. In recent years there has been an increase in demand for non-kosher foods, especially from immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Manufacturers who produce kosher products must be able to satisfy Israeli rabbinical supervisors' demands that all ingredients and processes meet kosher standards. According to the Law for Prevention of Fraud in Kashrut, only the Chief Rabbinate of Israel can approve a product as kosher for consumption in Israel. The Chief Rabbinate may also authorize another supervisory body to act on his behalf. Here United States' products have an advantage, as the kashrut certification issued by many U.S. rabbis is recognized by Israel's Chief Rabbinate. It is, however, quite simple for Israeli importers to send an Israeli rabbi to any supply source to certify the products, thereby reducing the U.S. advantage.

Prohibited Imports

Israel, a signatory to the World Trade Organization (WTO), maintains relatively few prohibitions on agricultural imports. However, Israeli authorities prohibit the import of non-kosher meat and meat products (includes beef, poultry, and mutton) under the Law for Prevention of Fraud in Kashrut. The products must be certified as kosher by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel. The only other product prohibitions are targeted against internationally controlled substances or are designed to protect public morals, human, animal or plant health, or national security.

The U.S.-Israel FTA allows both countries the use of non-tariff restrictions or prohibitions on products from those agricultural sub-sectors that are sensitive to agricultural policy shifts. Israel has removed some administrative barriers to United States imports, but retains high levies on sensitive products.

Newly Permitted Imports

For more than two decades U.S. beef was banned for import due to veterinary restrictions and kosher requirements. In early 2016, the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Services waved the ban on imports of U.S. beef. Following the initial approval, an agreement with Israel's Chief Rabbinate was reached allowing the Israeli market to reopen to U.S. exports.

Draft Revision "Protection of Public Health Regulations (Food) (Nutritional Labeling)"

On April 12 2017, Israel notified the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee of its draft revision of Israel's Nutritional Labeling Regulations to be renamed "Protection of Public Health Regulations (Food) (Nutritional Labeling)". The notification is available [online](#). The revisions include:

- By January 2018, the placement of green or red sticker on the front of the pack (FOP) indicating high levels of sodium, sugar and fat, as well as specifying the level of health risks associated with contents;
- By July 2019, the criteria for red markings will be tightened;
- By December 2020, red labels will be required on products with over 400 mg of sodium, 10 g of sugar, or 4 g of saturated fat per 100 g.

The draft revision has met fierce resistance from Israeli food importers who are protesting the draft revision. FAS Tel Aviv does not expect the draft regulation to go into effect on the projected date, January 2018.

Section II: Food Additives Regulation

Regulation

The Public Health Regulations (Food) (Food Additives) regulates the usage of food additives in Israel. The regulations establish which food additives are permitted for use, the permitted quantity, and the mandatory marking or labeling of food additives. The full regulation is available [online](#) (Hebrew only).

Additive List

Based the regulations mentioned above, the FCS publishes a positive list of approved food additives, including tolerance levels for allowed additives. The listing is available [online](#) (Hebrew only) and was last updated in July 2017. For the most recent updates, refer to FCS's [food additives website page](#) (Hebrew only).

Adding New Food Additives to the List

The approval process for adding new food additives and updating the terms of use of existing food additives is as follows:

- The applicant must submit an application letter accompanied by the required documents (see below). The letter must be mailed to the following address:
Food Additives Division, National Food Service, 12 Ha'arba'a Street, Tel Aviv, Israel,
PO Box 20301, Zip Code 61203
In addition the application must also be submitted on an [online form](#) (Hebrew only).
- After reviewing the documents, the request will be forwarded to the Food Additives Committee, which will review the documents and formulate a recommendation. The recommendation will be forwarded to the director of the National Food Service for a decision.
- The applicant will be notified of the decision and in accordance with the decision the list will be updated.

The following documents must be submitted:

- Application Form
- Legislative Status Form (whether the food additive has been evaluated by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), is it approved in the United States, is it approved in the EU, literature references, etc.)
- Additional information (i.e. link to EU food safety website)
- Online application form (see above)

A reception notification of will be given within 14 days of receiving the application.

Israeli regulators give weight to approvals from other countries. In this instance, a U.S., EU, or *Codex Alimentarius* approval will speed the process. If an additive is approved by two of the three listed above, the maximum process time is six months. If the food additive meets only one criterion or does not meet the criteria at all, the maximum process time is one year. The procedure and forms are available [online](#) (Hebrew only).

Section III: Pesticides and Other Contaminates

Regulation

Israel's Ministry of Health regulates the use of pesticides in foods and applicable maximum residue limits (MRLs). The regulation, Public Health Regulations (Food) (Pesticide Residues), is updated regularly due to the change in the mix of materials licensed for use in food production, along with the results of ongoing toxicological studies and newly performed risk assessments. The regulation was last amended in May 2016 (Amendment 557-2016). The major changes included that amendment are available [online](#) and the full regulation is available [online](#) (Hebrew only).

Israel's PPIS monitors for the presence of chemical residues in fresh produce for human consumption. Exceeding the PPIS-established MRLs will result in a ban on the imported goods. As such, all foreign exporters and Israeli importers must abide by Israeli maximum residue limits. More information on Israeli MRLs is available [in the Israeli Directory of Pesticides](#).

Pesticide Data Bank

The Plant Protection and Inspection Service publishes the [Israeli Directory of Pesticides](#), which lists the pesticides registered in Israel under the Plant Protection Law of 1956, as well as applicable regulations. The Israeli Directory of Pesticides contains information regarding the correct and safe usage of the permissible pesticides for sale in Israel. The database is updated multiple times per year and is in English.

The following information can be obtained through the database:

- Generic name of the active ingredient and concentration
- Formulation
- Lethal Dose (LD) 50 for rats
- Toxicity for fish, bees and birds
- Application specifications for the control of pests in various crops, including doses, volumes, and harvest intervals
- Scientific names of the pests
- MRLs in food
- Permissible combinations of pesticides for each crop

The list is based, when appropriate, on the *Codex Alimentarius* maximum residue limits. The system used for the pesticide compounds is in line with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry nomenclature.

Mycotoxins in Food

Mycotoxin content in food products is regulated by Israel's Ministry of Health. The full regulation, Public Health Regulations (Food) (Mycotoxins in Food) is available [online](#) (Hebrew only).

Heavy Metals in Food

The Israeli Ministry of Health's limits for various heavy metals in food is available [online](#) (Hebrew only). Exporters and importers should check that the level in the exported food does not exceed the permitted amount. A listing of limits for heavy metals can be found in Appendix III.

Section IV: Packaging and Container Regulations

Food Packaging Materials Regulation

The Public Health Regulation (Food) (Packaging Materials) regulates the usage of food packaging in Israel. According to the regulation the usage of food packaging that may transfer harmful material is prohibited. The full regulation is available [online](#) (Hebrew only).

The specific requirements ensure that plastic packaging that comes into contact with food and beverages comply with public health regulations in Israeli Standard (SI) 5113. The standard is required by law. The standard generally accepts the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations pertaining to packaging materials. In the absence of an FDA regulation, the current European Union Directive is used as the Israeli standard. In the absence of both, the standard defaults to requirements set by the Israeli Ministry of Health. The standard requirements apply to any packaging/product made of or containing plastic, which is intended to come into contact with food or beverage. The requirements apply to products manufactured in Israel or imported. The standard is available [online](#).

Regulation Controlling Plant-Based Packaging

The Israeli Plant Protection Regulations, specifically Section 12, sets out the guidelines for packaging materials. The regulation requires that all wooden packing material be marked according to standard International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 15 of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). This includes wood packing material, pallets and supporting beams. The full regulation is available in English [online](#).

Under ISPM 15, wood packaging material must be subject to either a heat treatment (HT) or a methyl bromide fumigation treatment (MB) to mitigate pest risk.

- HT Treatment: the wood packaging material must be heated in a schedule that achieves a minimum core temperature of 56°C for a minimum of 30 minutes
- MB Treatment: the wood packaging material is fumigated with methyl bromide

Deposit on Beverage Containers Law

The Deposit on Beverage Containers Law, which came into effect in 2001, requires manufacturers, importers and retailers to collect \$0.066 deposit on beverage containers larger than 0.1 liters and smaller than 1.5 liters, with the exception of bags or paper containers. Along with the law a firm was established to manage bottle deposits, collection, and recycling. More details on the bottle deposit system and Beverage Container Law is available on the Israel Ministry of Environmental Protection's [website](#).

Packaging Management Law

Israel's Packaging Management Law imposes direct responsibility on manufacturers and importers in Israel to collect and recycle the packaging waste of their products. The law regulates the production and treatment of packaging and packaging waste. The law was designed to reduce waste, decrease landfill content, and encourage reuse to reduce negative environmental impacts. More details on the Packaging Law are available on the Israel Ministry of Environmental Protection's [website](#).

Section V: Labeling Requirements

General

Israel has strict marking and labeling requirements, which frequently differ from those of other countries. Various food products have specific labeling standards therefore exporters from the U.S. are encouraged to work closely with Israeli importers in meeting labeling standards. All imports into Israel must have a label indicating the country of origin, the name and address of the producer, the name and address of the Israeli importer, the contents, and the weight and volume in metric units. In all instances, Hebrew must be used; English may be added provided the printed letters are no larger than those in Hebrew. Nutritional labeling is compulsory on all packaged foods.

Marking should be done by printing, engraving, stamping, or other means, on the package containing the goods. If marking is not possible, a label should be sewn or affixed to the goods or package. Marking details should be clear, legible, easy to trace, and in a different color from the package's background in order to be clearly distinguishable. Printing dyes and other marking materials should not affect merchandise quality. On a multi-layered package, the external layer should be marked. If the external layer is transparent, the marking should be done underneath that layer, provided it is still clear and legible. On a package containing sub packages, the labeling should specify: the number of sub packages, the net content of a sub package, and the overall net weight of the package. For products that tend to lose weight under regular marketing/commercial conditions, the maximum quantity of expected depletion should be mentioned.

Specific labeling regulations apply to some consumer goods, as well as fertilizers, insecticides, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, some food products, seeds, and alcoholic beverages. In addition, special packaging requirements apply to fruit, plants and meat. Outside and inside containers of dangerous articles, such as poisons, insecticides, drugs, reptiles, insects, bacteria should be clearly marked. For information on food labeling and packaging contact: Israel Ministry of Health, Food Control Administration, 12-14 Ha'Arba'a St., Tel Aviv 64739; Telephone: +972-3-6270100; Fax: +972-3-5619549.

Labeling of prepackaged food is regulated by the Standard 1145 (July 1982) and its eight amendments (last amended 2013). The standard is available online for purchase from the [Standards Institute of Israel](#). It is important to note that there are additional labeling requirements for specific food products which have their own special food standards. A list of Israeli food standards can be found at in Appendix IV.

Labeling Standard for Prepackaged Food

Israeli Labeling Standard 1145 sets requirements for labeling prepackaged food intended for retail sale, excluding unprocessed fruits and vegetables. It also sets the labeling requirements for prepackaged foods listed below, not intended for retail sale:

- Food for industrial processing and for repackaging;
- Food in wholesale packaging;
- Prepackaged food containing packaged sub units.

The regulations contained in SI 1118 impact multiple types of food products, including prepackaged foods. Where there is a contradiction between the requirements of SI 1118 for prepackaged foods and the labeling requirements of another special standard, the requirements of the special standard or of the group standard shall take precedence.

All labels shall be accurate and not misleading and should lend themselves to verification. The label of the product shall not give indication of medicinal properties attributed to the food nor shall it state that

the product's use is likely to heal or prevent illness. Certain claims may be made with regard to nutritional impacts, as described below.

Mandatory labeling information must be in Hebrew; such writing may be repeated in a foreign language provided that it includes all the required information and that it is identical in content to the information provided in Hebrew. The size of the Hebrew letters and numbers on the label must be at least as large as indicated in the table below.

Table 1: Size of Hebrew Lettering Required on the Labels of Prepackaged Food (mm)

Content (gr or ml)	Name of Food, Content	Name of Manufacturer, Importer, Marketer, Packer	Date	Ingredients, Address
up to 10	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.0
10+ to 25	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.0
25+ to 50	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
50+ to 250	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.5
250+ to 450	3.0	2.0	2.0	1.5
450+ to 900	3.0	2.0	2.0	1.5
above 900	4.0	2.0	2.0	1.5

The size of the letters in the other language must not be larger than the size of the Hebrew letters. The size of the letters of the trade name shall not be larger than three times the size of the letters of the name of the food.

Food, which can be marketed in a number of forms of significance to the consumer, shall be appropriately labeled: whole, sliced, crushed, segments, cubes, etc. The size of the letters of this labeling shall be at least half the size of that of the letters in the name of the product.

The Name of the Food: The label shall include the name of the food. If there are several words in the name of the food, all these words shall be written in the same size and with the same emphasis. If there is a special standard for the product, the name of the food shall be that name which appears in the special standard. In addition to the name of the food, it is permissible to also add a brand name.

The Name of the Manufacturer or Importer: The label shall include a clear indication of the name and address of the manufacturer. Manufacturers may choose to list the trademarked name of the product, in lieu of the manufacturer's name, pending it does not mislead consumers regarding the nature of the product. The labeling of an imported product, which is marketed in its original package, shall also include the name and address of the importer. If a party other than the manufacturer ensures compliance

with all regulations related to the manufacturing of the product, that party's name may be indicated on the label. In this case, the name of the manufacturer should be printed in code.

Producer Country: Imported food shall be labeled with the name of the country of origin. This requirement is waived for ingredients used in the manufacture of food in Israel. Repackaging foreign made products will not nullify this requirement.

Ingredients and Food Additives: The contents shall be indicated for all ingredients, including water in descending order according to their relative weight in the food except for the following foods:

- For dry food, which is to be reconstituted by the addition of water, it is permissible to indicate the ingredients in descending order of their relative content in the reconstituted product if the statement "ingredients after reconstitution" are included.
- If one of the ingredients is food to which an Israeli Standard applies, the name of the food shall be indicated in the list of ingredients as required in the applicable standard and its ingredients shall not be listed. However, if coloring and preservatives have been added to the food their presence shall be indicated in the list of ingredients of the labeled food.

Date: The date of manufacture, or alternatively identification of the production lot, as well as the last date for marketing shall be marked as indicated below:

- For products with a shelf life up to 60 days from the date of manufacture: The date of manufacture shall be marked openly or in code. The last date for marketing shall be marked openly.
- For products with a shelf life of 60 to 365 days from the date of manufacture: The date of manufacture shall be marked openly or in code. The last date for marketing shall be marked openly, if the date of manufacture is indicated in code. It is not required to indicate the last date for marketing if the date of manufacture is marked openly.
- For products with a shelf life greater than one year: Either the date or the code of the manufacture shall be indicated. It is not required to indicate the last date for marketing.
- The manufacturer is responsible for determining the shelf life of the product. Shelf lives should be based on the nature of the product, the form of packaging, and the storage conditions. The manufacturing date indicated on the product is not to be changed except in the case where a mistake has been made in the marking and the product has still not left the plant for market.

Instructions for Storage, Transport, and Use: Storage, transport and use instructions shall be included in the label when:

- Food has been cooled to a temperature of less than eight degrees centigrade or is frozen;
- There are special instructions for handling either before or after the package is opened;
- The nature of the product demands instruction (e.g., keep in a dry place, keep in a cool place, keep in the shade, do not refreeze after thawing, etc.).

Nutritional Labeling: Nutritional labeling is compulsory on all packaged foods. The nutritional labeling of prepackaged food is regulated in the Public Health Regulations (Food) (Nutritional Labeling). The regulations list the instructions for labeling the nutritional information on food products. Nutritional labeling standards require that Hebrew be used on all packaged foods. The full regulation is available [online](#) (Hebrew only). It is important to note that the regulation is in the process of being revised, for

further information see the draft revision of “Protection of Public Health Regulations (Food) (Nutrition Labeling)”.

Nutritional labeling of food should list the following values per 100 grams or 100 milliliters of food content:

- Caloric value (kilo-calories per 100 g or 100 ml of net content);
- Protein content (grams per 100 g or 100 ml of net content);
- Fat content (grams per 100 g or 100 ml of net content).

If the product label indicates the size of the portion and the number of portions, it is also permitted to indicate these nutritional values per serving portion.

The labeling of food making claims with regard to calories, fat, salt, and cholesterol content must be labeled as follows:

Calories – Products claiming reduced calories must be labeled as:

1. *Low Calorie*
 - a. Non-alcoholic beverages, including concentrates and powders for the preparation of beverages containing not more than 20 calories per 100 ml of ready-to-drink beverage.
 - b. Food that is not non-alcoholic beverages, including milk products in which the amount of calories is not more than 40 per 100 g per ml of food.
2. *Reduced Calories*
 - a. A food product which contains not more than two-thirds the caloric content of a product covered by a standard, order or regulation.

Fat – Products claiming reduced fat must be labeled as:

1. *Non-fat* or *fat-free* if the amount of fat is not more than 0.5 percent.
2. *Low-fat* if the total amount of fat is not more than 2 g of fat per 100 g or 100 ml of food.
3. *Reduced fat* is a food which contains not more than two-thirds the fat contents of a conventional product covered by a standard. This requirement does not apply to foods rich in fat, such as butter, margarine, peanut butter, and sesame paste.

Sodium – Products claiming to be reduced sodium must be labeled as:

1. *Without salt* or *salt free* if the amount of salt is no more than 0.5 percent.
2. *Low sodium* if the product contains not more than 100 mg of sodium per 100 g or ml of food.
3. *Reduced sodium* if the product contains not more than one-quarter the sodium content of a conventional product covered by a standard, which contains more than 100 mg of sodium per 100 g or ml of food.

Cholesterol – Products claiming to contain reduced cholesterol must be labeled as:

1. *Without cholesterol* or *cholesterol free* if a food product contains zero cholesterol. In a laboratory test, deviation of up to 2.5 mg cholesterol per 100 g or ml of food will be permitted.
2. *Low cholesterol* if a food product contains less than 30 mg of cholesterol per 100 gm of food.
3. *Reduced cholesterol* if a food product which contains not more than two-thirds of the cholesterol content in a conventional food covered by a standard.

Draft Revision "Protection of Public Health Regulations (Food) (Nutritional Labeling)"

On April 12 2017, Israel notified the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee of its draft revision of Israel's Nutritional Labeling Regulations to be renamed "Protection of Public Health Regulations (Food) (Nutritional Labeling)", the notification is available [online](#). The major goal is to simplify the nutritional labeling and place it on the front of packing (FOP), with the stated goal of improving public health. Revisions include:

- By January 2018, the placement of green or red sticker on the front of the pack (FOP) indicating high levels of sodium, sugar and fat, as well as specifying the level of health risks associated with contents;
- By July 2019, the criteria for red markings will be tightened;
- By December 2020, red labels will be required on products with over 400 mg of sodium, 10 g of sugar, or 4 g of saturated fat per 100 g.

The draft revision has met fierce resistance from Israeli food importers who are protesting the draft revision. FAS Tel Aviv does not expect the draft regulation to go into effect January 2018.

FOP Labeling



Gluten-Free Labeling Regulation

Public Health Regulations (Food) (Gluten Marking) regulates the labeling of gluten-free products. Those regulations are available [online](#) (Hebrew only).

Infant Formula Labeling Regulation

Israel's Ministry of Health has specific regulations on the labeling of infant formula. Public Health Regulations (Food) (Breast-Milk Substitute Labeling) are available [online](#) (Hebrew only). Exporters of these or similar sensitive products are encouraged to work closely with Israeli importers to meet import requirements.

Choking Warning Labeling Regulation

Israeli Public Health Regulations require that choking warning labels be applied to specific retail products. The Public Health Regulations (Food) (Choking Warning Labeling) is available [online](#)

(Hebrew only). The regulations require warnings in both Hebrew and Arabic on the following products intended for retail sale: nuts and seeds with or without shells, popcorn, dried corn kernels for popcorn, spreads containing fragments of shelled nuts and sausages.

For bulk foodstuffs (not pre-packaged) the warning must be prominently and visibly displayed on an adhesive label attached to the packaging or alternatively printed on the packaging itself. The warning must also be included in advertisements for these products. For more information on the labeling requirement see [GAIN FAIRS Update, IS7007](#).

Labeling of Trans-fats

Beginning February 1, 2014, Israeli regulations require the mandatory labeling of trans-fatty acids in foods. This is in addition to the existing mandatory labeling of saturated fatty acids and cholesterol.

Labeling of Genetically Modified Organisms (GE)

Currently, Israel has no governmental policy on the labeling of GE organisms. Current draft regulation (Novel Foods 5773 -2013), if passed, would create a mandatory labeling requirement for food items that contain GE ingredients. According to the Israeli MOH, the mandatory labeling is not for deterrence or warning but to address consumers' rights regarding access to information about foods.

Under the proposed regulation, the following product categories will be exempt from labeling:

- Products not containing DNA or protein
- Products with less than 0.9 percent of GE ingredients

According to this definition, highly refined foods, such as oils, would not require special labeling, as the refining removes proteins from the product. When the new labeling regulations are approved, exporters of food items to Israel will have to declare if the products contain ingredients derived from GE crops. Animal feed will be exempt from the labeling requirements. Sellers will also have to place a sign beside GE products that are sold in bulk.

Labeling Requirement for Non-Alcoholic Beverages

Labeling standards on non-alcoholic beverages, SI 1071, changed as of November 2014. The previous prohibition on fruit illustrations on beverage containers is now voluntary. Full texts are available for purchase from the [Standards Institute of Israel](#).

Labeling of Wine and Alcoholic Beverages

As of July 30, 2013, alcoholic beverages containing more than 15.5 percent alcohol per volume require a warning label. The regulation specifies that wine and spirits having an alcohol content in excess of 15.5 display the following text: “*Warning: Excessive consumption of alcohol is life threatening and is detrimental to health!*” For products with alcohol content less than 15.5 percent, the following label must appear: “*Warning: Contains alcohol - it is recommended to refrain from excessive consumption.*”

Labeling as Natural

Israeli regulations allow for labeling a food product as *natural*, pending it meets certain requirements. More details on the natural labeling can be found [here](#). The full regulation can be found in SI 1145, annex C.

Labeling Requirements for Imported Meat

Consumer-sized meat and meat products, including beef, poultry and mutton, are required to meet U.S. labeling standards as well as include the following, in Hebrew: product name, country of origin, name and address of importer, date of manufacturer, and expiration date. Products packaged in bulk do not require additional labeling. Additional details on these products can be found on the [USDA Export Library](#).

Section VI: Other Specific Standards

It is the policy of the Government of Israel to adopt international standards whenever possible, and to implement mandatory standards related to safety, health, and the environment. In practice, however, some mandatory standards may favor domestic producers over importers. For further information on Israeli standards, interested firms should contact the Standards Institution of Israel, 42 Levanon Street, Tel Aviv 69977; Tel: +972-3-6465154; Fax: +972-3-6419683. Web site: <http://www.sii.org.il>

Israel has not officially adopted ISO-9000 standards, although there is a growing preference for ISO-9000 standards among Israeli importers. This is especially important in the case of ingredients and raw materials destined for the production of export products.

The Government of Israel requires that food and health products be registered with the Ministry of Health before they can be sold in the country. Approval by the FDA for food and health care products is not mandatory, but Israeli importers prefer it as it accelerates the product registration process and import license approval. Product registration normally takes from 4-6 weeks.

Weights and Measures

In the past, most imported food products were subject to specific size (weight or volume) requirements which often excluded standard non-metric sizes used by United States' companies. Late in 1998 the imposed metric weight and measure standards became voluntary, serving as a guideline to manufacturers but ceasing to be obligatory. It remains obligatory to denote on the package the contents in metric terms. Packages of a size which does not conform to the official standard must bear an indication of the unit cost of the product.

Food Standards

A table with a list of the Israeli food standards, English availability, and official status can be found in Appendix IV. All the standards can be purchased [online](#) from the Standard Institute of Israel.

As a member of the WTO Israeli is required under the TBT Agreement to report to the WTO all proposed technical regulations that could affect trade with other member countries. Recent updates regarding food standards are presented in the following table. The food standards for the following products have either been revised or are under consideration for revision.

Table 2: Food Standard Notification

Date of distribution	Products	Products (HS codes)	Link (EN)
05/29/2017	Bases for preparation of drinks	2009 - Fruit juices (including grape must) and vegetable juices, unfermented and not containing added spirit, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter.; 220290 - - Other; 3302 - Mixtures of odoriferous substances and mixtures (including alcoholic solutions) with a basis of one or more of these substances, of a kind used as raw materials in industry; other preparations based on odoriferous substances, of a kind used for the manufacture of beverages.	EN
05/29/2017	Beverage powders having fruity or other flavors	2009 - Fruit juices (including grape must) and vegetable juices, unfermented and not containing added spirit, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter.; 220290 - - Other; 3302 - Mixtures of odoriferous substances and mixtures (including alcoholic solutions) with a basis of one or more of these substances, of a kind used as raw materials in industry; other preparations based on odoriferous substances, of a kind used for the manufacture of beverages.	EN
05/29/2017	Food starch	1901 - Malt extract; food preparations of flour, groats, meal, starch or malt extract, not containing cocoa or containing less than 40% by weight of cocoa calculated on a totally defatted basis, not elsewhere specified or included; food preparations of goods of heading 04.01 to 04.04, not containing cocoa or containing less than 5% by weight of cocoa calculated on a totally defatted basis, not elsewhere specified or included.; 1108 - Starches; inulin.;	EN
06/02/2016	Mayonnaise	210390 - - Other;	EN
06/02/2016	Instant coffee	0901 - Coffee, whether or not roasted or decaffeinated; coffee husks and skins; coffee substitutes containing coffee in any proportion.	EN
06/02/2016	Marzipan	170490 - - Other;	EN
06/01/2016	Dried fruits	0803 - Bananas, including plantains, fresh or dried.; 0804 - Dates, figs, pineapples, avocados, guavas, mangoes and mangosteens, fresh or dried.; 0805 - Citrus fruit, fresh or dried.; 0806 - Grapes, fresh or dried.; 0813 - Fruit, dried, other than that of headings 08.01 to 08.06; mixtures of nuts or dried fruits of this Chapter.;	EN

Date of distribution	Products	Products (HS codes)	Link (EN)
04/19/2016	Sugars	17 - Sugars and sugar confectionery;	EN
04/19/2016	Paprika and chili	090420 - - Fruits of the genus Capsicum or of the genus Pimenta, dried or crushed or ground;	EN
04/15/2016	Pepper (Piper nigrum L.)	0904 - Pepper of the genus Piper; dried or crushed or ground fruits of the genus Capsicum or of the genus Pimenta.	EN
04/01/2016	Wheat flour	1101 - Wheat or meslin flour.	EN
04/01/2016	Pasta	1902 - Pasta, whether or not cooked or stuffed (with meat or other substances) or otherwise prepared, such as spaghetti, macaroni, noodles, lasagna, gnocchi, ravioli, cannelloni; couscous, whether or not prepared.;	EN
03/31/2016	Halva	120740 - - Sesame seeds; 170490 - - Other;	EN
03/14/2016	Cocoa powders	1805 - Cocoa powder, not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter.; 180610 - - Cocoa powder, containing added sugar or other sweetening matter;	EN
03/04/2016	Tahini	120740 - - Sesame seeds;	EN
03/01/2016	Processed tomato concentrates	2002 - Tomatoes prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid.	EN
02/18/2016	Sweets (candies)	1704 - Sugar confectionery (including white chocolate), not containing cocoa.	EN
01/26/2016	Crumbs from bakery products	190540 - - Rusks, toasted bread and similar toasted products;	EN
01/26/2016	Fresh sardines	0302 - Fish, fresh or chilled, excluding fish fillets and other fish meat of heading 03.04.; 0304 - Fish fillets and other fish meat (whether or not minced), fresh, chilled or frozen.	EN
01/04/2016	Frozen fruits and vegetables	0811 - Fruit and nuts, uncooked or cooked by steaming or boiling in water, frozen, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter.	EN

Source: World Trade Organization

Crops Produced through Biotechnology and Related Food Products

See: [GAIN – Israel Biotechnology Annual, 2016](#).

Organic

Israel's organic law follows European Union organic standards and requirements. Certification to the Israeli standard is not a requirement for importing organic food into Israel. However, if an importer would like to utilize the Israeli organic seal then specific information documenting that the product meets Israel's requirements must be submitted to the Plant Protection and Inspection Service.

Under the law, consumers can identify a uniform organic symbol on organic products as verification that the product was grown and produced according to the organic standard. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has appointed three private companies to oversee production of organic foods. These firms include: Agrior, Skal Israel, and The Institute of Quality and Control (IQC).

Israel's organic standards can be found at [Law for the Regulation of Organic Produce](#). The standard provides an efficient and recommended working tool for organic production designated for export as well as for the domestic market.

Section VII: Facility and Product Registration Requirements

Israeli regulation requires that slaughterhouses producing meat or poultry products be registered with the Israeli authorities. For the purpose of this regulation, a slaughterhouse is defined as being a facility that slaughters animals, cuts, cools, or stores meats or entrails. Slaughterhouses must receive authorization from the Israeli Veterinary Service in order to export to Israel. The process of registration begins with the submission of an [application](#) to the Director of Veterinary Services.

Section VIII: Other Certification and Testing Requirements

Kashrut

Any food marked with as *kosher* shall also be marked with the name and location of the organization certifying the kashrut. According to the nature of the product and the stipulations of the person certifying the kashrut, labeling providing greater detail should be included (e.g., kosher, Passover, donations and tithes have been set aside, free from suspicion of *orla* or third year fruit, not from the Sabbatical year, etc.).

Meat or poultry products and non-kosher fish products shall be marked with the words *non-kosher*. It is illegal to import non-kosher meat, including poultry, to Israel. The size of the letters in the word *kosher* shall not be smaller than the minimum size of letters of the name of the product as stipulated in Table 2. The size of the letters denoting the name and location of the kosher-certifying organization shall not be smaller than the minimum size of the letters of the name of the manufacturer. If similar products are produced by one manufacture, non-kosher and kosher products shall have conspicuously different labels. This requirement does not apply to those products, which are marked *Kosher for Passover*.

As Israeli law stipulates that the council of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel is the sole authority responsible for determining whether a product is kosher. Exporters of kosher products should ensure through their importing agents, that their kosher certification is accepted by Israel's Chief Rabbinate.

United States Certificates of Origin for Exporting to Israel

In order to benefit from the provisions of the Israel-U.S. FTA, a special [United States Certificate of Origin for Exporting to Israel](#) (CO) must be presented to Israeli Customs. The certificate does not need to be notarized or stamped by a chamber of commerce if the exporter is also the manufacturer. Instead, the exporter should make the following declaration in box 11 of the certificate:

“The undersigned hereby declares that he is the producer of the goods covered by this certificate and that they comply with the origin requirements specified for those goods in the United States - Israel Free Trade Area Agreement for goods exported to Israel.”

Plants and Plant Products

Permits are mandatory to import fresh produce, plants, plant products, seeds, propagation material, and biotic material. Plants and plant products may not be brought into Israel without a valid permit issued by Plant Protection and Inspection Service. Exporters may request an import permit by contacting the Import Department of the Plant Protection and Inspection Service. For applications, contact: Plant Protection & Inspection Service (PPIS), Import Department, PO Box 78, 50250, Beit Dagan, Israel. Fax: +972-3-9681599

Application for the import permit should be requested a minimum of 45 days prior to import. Links to permit request forms, according to the import type are provided in the following table, the forms are currently only available in Hebrew:

Table 3: Permit Request Forms

Import Type	Definition	Comments
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Import Type	Definition	Comments
Fresh produce, plants, plant products	Plants (propagation material except seed, potted plants, etc.), fresh produce (fruits, vegetables, spices, flowers, ornamental branches), and plant products like dried flowers and ornamental branches, growth substrates, dry spices, nuts, etc.	
Seeds	An Import Permit for Seed is issued for true seed intended for growing and multiplication of; vegetables, field crops, flowers, spices, trees and ornamental plants.	When applying for the import of vegetables and field crops seeds, the variety name must be specified. An application for a variety that does not appear in the “List of Varieties Permissible to be Sold in Israel” must be approved first by the proper bodies – the Extension Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Seed and Nursery Stock Certification Service of the PPIS. In such a case the importer must submit an experimental seed varieties form to the Seed and Nursery Stock Certification Service via mail or fax: Mail: Plant Protection & Inspection Service (PPIS), Seed and Nursery Stock Certification Service, P.O. Box 78, 50250, Bet Dagan, Israel Fax: 972-3-9681513
Biotic material	“Biotic Material” includes invertebrate organisms (insects, nematodes, worms, etc.), microbes, fungi, viruses and soil.	

The permit will include the following:

- Import terms for the specific product
- Additional importation terms
- Requirements for additional statements

Any requested statements should appear in the phytosanitary certificate accompanying the shipment from the country of origin. A copy of the import permit should be sent to the suppliers to ensure compliance with all the conditions specified in that permit.

Section IX: Import Procedures

Processed Foods

Food imports to Israel can be broadly divided into two categories: sensitive and non-sensitive products. A list of sensitive food products can be found in Appendix II. Both for sensitive foods and non-sensitive foods the first condition for the importation and release of food into Israel is receipt of a Certificate of Registration as a Food Importer from the Food Control Service. As stated earlier the FCS is in charge of import licensing for both categories of food products.

Sensitive Foods

For those products considered to be sensitive, U.S. exporters are advised to work closely with Israeli importers to meet current regulations. These products may face additional barriers to import and additional scrutiny by import authorities. In order to import sensitive product the importer must obtain a certificate of early food import registration approval.

Importation Process for Sensitive Foods

Prior to arrival the importer must obtain early approval of the sensitive food product. The process is as follows:

- Submission of application: The importer (a registered food importer) must submit to the FCS import department a preliminary application for authorization to import the food product and attach all the required documents detailed in the form.
- Receiving the application: The application will be recorded in the computer system and the importer will receive a request number.
- Application review: The documents will be reviewed by the import department. The department will verify the details and validity of the importer. If all the documents have been submitted and are found to be valid the request will be forwarded a food engineer.
- Inspection: The food engineer shall examine the application in accordance to the existing legislation (including standards, regulations and so forth). The inspecting engineer will then decide whether to issue an early approval for the importation of the sensitive food or to reject the request. The official may ask the importer to perform tests in recognized laboratories in Israel for the purpose of completing and verifying information prior to issuing the approval. In addition, verification of the information appearing in the document may be required by the product manufacturer or a competent authority.
- Product approval - If the food product is approved a signed import certificate will be sent to the importer
- Request rejection - If the food product is not approved the request for import of the product will be rejected and returned to the importer accompanied by a rejection form detailing the reason for the rejection.

Required Documentation

The documents must be originals and signed by the submitting entity (manufacturer, supplier, laboratory, authorized entity). The following documents and any other document requested by FCS should be submitted in duplicate:

- Product composition (from the manufacturer)
- Chemical and microbial tests, signed by the manufacturer or by the tester
- Original package of the product as sold in the manufacturing country. For a product that is specially produced for Israel or the Palestinian Authority (PA), a declaration by the manufacturer should be added that the product is produced for Israel/PA and the labeling of the product should meet the Israeli labeling regulations (SI 1145)
- An approval from an authorized entity or any other document, according to the product (one of the following: An approval from an authorized entity that the producer is under its inspection , Manufacturing license (ISO 9001 or ISO22000 certificate), Free Sale certificate, Health certificate, Phytosanitary certificate – for fresh fruits or vegetables or other agricultural produce).

- For low acidity products (lower or equal to pH 4.5), a document that describes the production process should be added, separate for each size of cans
- Decoding of codes, if applicable.

Non-Sensitive Foods

An updated Public Health Regulation amended the procedure for importing non-sensitive food products into Israel, as of September 30, 2016. The new regulation is available [online](#) (Hebrew only). The new law was designed to more closely adopt international rules and standards, thereby decreasing regulatory barriers and facilitating imports to Israel. The shift came in the face of decreased competition leading to higher consumer prices and an increasing cost of living for Israeli consumers. The requirements under the new regulation are laid out below.

Importation Process for Non-Sensitive Foods

- Prior to Arrival: The importer must submit a virtual import declaration and receive an Approval of Declaration Receipt from the Food Control Service. In addition, the importer must sign a letter of commitment, pay import fees, and gather the required import documents.
- Near Arrival: The importer must submit a virtual request for the release of the non-sensitive food, a certificate of release may be requested online.
- Upon Arrival: The release is based on the automated “Approval of Declaration Receipt” and certificate of release. A random inspection of no more than five percent of total shipments per annum may apply.

Import Declaration

An import declaration is now required for import to Israel. That document must include:

- Name and address of the manufacturer, importer’s details
- Name of product
- Purpose of product (end consumer, raw material, etc.)
- Weight and packaging
- Name and country of origin of the supplier (if the food is not imported directly from the manufacturer)

Letter of Commitment

A letter of commitment signed by the importer must now accompany the shipment. That document will include:

- A commitment that the details of the declaration are true and applicable to future shipments
- A commitment that the products are compliant with all relevant food legislation
- A commitment from the importer that he is responsible for any manufacturer recalls
- The importer must declare if he does not have direct contact with the manufacturer

Import without Direct Contact with the Manufacturer

If the importer does not have direct contact with the manufacturer, the importer will be held responsible for each shipment. As such, the regulations require that each batch must go through laboratory testing prior to marketing.

Release from Port of Entry

Under the updated regulations, release from port will:

- Be based on the automated Approval of Declaration Receipt
- Certificate of release will be automatically issued (no later than 24 hours)
- Random inspection of no more than 5 percent of total shipments per year
- Additional restrictions may apply

Required Documentation

The list below provides a general overview of the documents required by Israel authorities. Note that additional documents may be required, depending on the product. All documents should be retained for at least one year after the end of the product's shelf life.

- Copies of labels (from country of origin and Israel)
- Lab results (if no direct contact with the manufacturer) or documentation regarding the food composition and the compliance of the batches in the shipment with the product specification. Each batch will be accompanied by tests (Certificate of Analysis) that indicate the suitability of the product to the food legislation in Israel.
- Health and sanitary certificates (Free sale, health certificate, GMP, etc.) – in case of direct contact with the manufacturer
- Shipping documents (import declaration, release certificate, bill of lading, packing list, etc.)

Plants

Israel's plant protection regulation controls the import of all plant material, pests, and regulated products. These include fresh produce (fruit, vegetables, cut flowers, etc.), propagation material, potted plants, growth media, vegetal feed for animals, and edible kernels.

In general, importers of plant material must first apply for and receive an import permit from PPIS. All shipments to Israel must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the country of origin. Importers are required to notify PPIS of incoming shipments. Any arriving shipment will be subject to mandatory inspection for pests upon arrival. An unofficial translation of the plant import regulation with more details can be found on the PPIS [website](#).

In some cases, the requirement for an import permit and phytosanitary certificate may be waived if the risk is deemed minimal. Israel divides imported plant products into three groups, based on pest risk:

- Third Schedule: Goods listed in this schedule are exempt from an import permit and a phytosanitary certificate, but must be accompanied by a Certificate of Origin. Their release is conditional on a visual inspection at the port of entry and on being pest-free.
- Fourth Schedule: Goods listed in this schedule are exempt from an import permit, but must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate from the country of origin, complying with all the import requirements specified in the body of the schedule. Their release is conditional on the approval of all the accompanying documents, on a visual inspection at the port of entry and on compliance with all the import terms.
- Licensed import: As to goods not appearing in the aforementioned schedules, an import permit application must be submitted in respect thereof. Following a pest risk assessment (PRA), it will be decided whether to approve the application and under what restrictions. Such goods must be accompanied by an import permit, phytosanitary certificate and visual inspection at the port of entry as a condition for release from the port of entry.

U.S. Apples and Pears

In September, 2014, Israel published new phytosanitary requirements for U.S. apples and pears. The new regulations add a requirement for visual inspection of the fruit prior the shipment. Fruit should be inspected for the following pests, and the inspection should be noted in the phytosanitary certificate:

Phacidiopycnis spp., *Monilinia fructigena* and *Neofabraea spp.*

The latest requirements for U.S. apple and pear exports can be found in the following report: [Updated Phytosanitary Import Requirement for U.S. Apples and Pears](#).

Animal Feed

The [2014 Control of Animal Feed Law](#) entered into effect in March 2017. The law regulates the production and marketing of animal feed, guaranteeing the safety and quality of animal products throughout the production chain. The responsibility on the implementation of the new feed law was moved from the PPIS to the Israeli Veterinary and Animal Health Service. Imports of animal feed require an approved import permit issued by the IVAHS, as well as testing and certificates applicable to the commodity. Requirements vary between products. Potential exporters are encouraged to closely review the Israeli requirements for their specific products.

Section X: Copyright and Trademark Laws

Any proprietor of a trademark used, or proposed to be used in Israel, may apply for registration of the mark. Collective trademarks and certification trademarks are also entitled to registration. Application may be made by the owner of the trademark or by the owner's agent. The agent must work in Israel and must present written authorization by the owner.

All applicants must present a local address for correspondence and contact, as such the Government of Israel generally advises foreign trademark owners to engage a local attorney to file their applications. The fee for a trademark application changes from time to time, visit the [Israeli Government's Ministry of Justice Patent Office website](#) for the most updated information on fees and the length of protection for a trademark.

Case law in Israel gives priority of registration to the first local user of the trademark. Every application for trademark registration must specify goods falling in one class only, according to the International Classification of Goods and Services (ICGS). Under the terms of the Paris Convention, one who has made an application to register a trade or service mark in another signatory country has a right to claim priority for registration of the same mark in Israel for the same use. An application for registration of the trademark claiming such priority must be made within six months from the date of the first application in a convention country.

Enforcement

Injunction relief, damages and forfeiture or destruction of competing products, are all available remedies under Israeli civil law. Criminal sanctions include imprisonment for up to a year and a fine of the local currency equivalent of close to \$5,000. The Israel Patent and Trademark Office can supply information to interested parties on patents, registered designs and trademarks.

Need for a Local Attorney

U S companies should seek professional legal or accountancy advice whenever engaged in complicated contractual arrangements in Israel. Companies, who wish to establish an office, invest, or apply for Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) registration in Israel, should seek professional legal advice. Companies may also wish to seek legal assistance when encountering trade or payment problems. A list of local law firms is available from the Consular Section of the United States Embassy, Tel Aviv, phone number: +972-3-5197355.

Appendix I: Government and Regulatory Agency Contacts

Food Control Service (FCS)

Ministry of Health

12 Ha'arba'a St.

64739, Tel Aviv, Israel

www.health.gov.il/english/

Tel: +972-3-6270112

Fax: +972-3-6270126

Food Control Administration

Ministry of Health

12-14 Ha'Arba'a St.

64739 Tel Aviv, Israel

Tel: +972-3-6270100

Fax: +972-3-5619549

Israel Veterinary and Animal Health Services (IVAHS)

Chief Import & Export Veterinary Officer

Veterinary Services and Animal Health

PO BOX 12

Beit Dagan 50250, Israel

Tel: +972-3-968649

Fax: +972-3-9605194

E-mail: shlomoga@moag.gov.il

Plant Protection & Inspection Service (PPIS)

PO Box 78

50250, Bet Dagan, Israel

Email: rickym@moag.gov.il

Tel: +972-3-9681561

Fax: +972-3-9681582

Standards Institution of Israel (SII)

42 H. Levanon St

69977, Tel Aviv, Israel

Web Site: www.sii.org.il

E-mail: vered@sii.org.il; library@sii.org.il

Tel: +972-3-6465154

Fax: +972-3-6419683

Israel Patent and Trademark Office

PO Box 354

91002, Jerusalem, Israel

Appendix II: “Sensitive” Food Products (updated October 27th 2016)

1. Milk products, and milk products substitutes, including canned products
2. Meat and poultry products, and their substitutes, including canned products
3. Fish products and their substitutes, sea food, including canned products
4. Food supplements: vitamins, minerals and herbs
5. Baby food, including; infant formula, follow-up formula, baby porridge, puree baby food, biscuits baby food and fruit juice baby food
6. Food products for people with metabolic disorders (for people with PKU; Gluten-free food products; Lactose-free food products; Low calorie food products; Free of sugar food products)
7. Canned food (pH \geq 4.5)
8. Eggs products, including confectionery products that contain eggs
9. Gelatin products, including products that contain gelatin. Collagen products, including products that contain collagen
10. Honey products according to the Israeli Honey Standards (SI 373)
11. Other food products that have to be storage in low temperature
12. Mineral water and other bottled water
13. Beverages that are based on mineral water
14. Mushroom products
15. Food products for athletes
16. Color additives for the retail market
17. Mayonnaise and spreads that contain eggs
18. Food products containing caffeine above 150 ppm (excluding coffee and tea)
19. Fresh fruit and vegetables
20. Vitamins, minerals and amino acids
21. Other kind of foods that the food and nutrition services decided that it's a “sensitive” food product

Source: Israeli Ministry of Health

Appendix III: Limits for Various Heavy Metals in Food (2017), ppm

	Lead	Cadmium	Mercury	Arsenic (Non-Organic)	Arsenic
1. Milk	0.02	0.005	0.01	0.01	1.0
1.1. Milk products	0.02	0.05	0.1	0.1	1.0
2. Oils and fats and fat emulsions (oil-in-water type)	0.1	0.03	0.02	0.1	1.0
3. Fruits and vegetables (excluding the items mentioned below)	0.1	0.05	0.03	0.06	1.0
3.1. Leaf vegetables, celery, mushrooms, edible plants, and herbs	0.3	0.2	0.03	0.06	1.0
3.2. Dried leaf vegetables, celery, mushrooms, edible plants, and herbs	1.5	1.0	0.15	0.3	5.0
3.3. Root vegetables, stem, bulb	0.1	0.1	0.03	0.06	1.0
3.4. Fruity vegetables (tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers, etc.)	0.05	0.05	0.03	0.06	1.0
4. Pulses (dried) (excluding the items mentioned below)	0.2	0.1	0.03	0.1	1.0
4.1. Peanuts and soybeans	0.2	0.2	0.03	0.1	1.0
5. Cereal & its products (excluding the items mentioned below)	0.2	0.1	0.03	-	1.0
5.1. Wheat	0.2	0.2	0.03	-	1.0
5.2. Rice	0.2	0.2	0.03	0.2	1.0
5.3. Rice for the production of infant food	0.2	0.2	0.03	0.1	1.0
5.4. Crackers and cake that the main ingredient is rice	0.2	0.1	0.03	0.3	1.0
6. Oily seeds	1.0	0.5	0.4	-	1.0
7. Raw tea	5.0	0.1	0.05	0.1	1.0
8. Fresh seaweed/alga	1.0	1.0	0.5	-	1.0
8.1. Dried seaweed/alga	5.0	5.0	2.5	-	5.0
9. Meat & its products, including poultry and hunting (excluding the items mentioned below)	0.1	0.05	0.2	0.02	1.0
9.1. Internal parts of cattle, sheep, goats and chicken (excluding the items mentioned below)	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	1.0
9.2. Turkey liver	0.5	1.0	0.2	0.5	1.0
9.3. Beef, goat and sheep kidneys	0.5	1.0	0.2	0.2	1.0

	Lead	Cadmium	Mercury	Arsenic (Non-Organic)	Arsenic
10. Fish & its products (excluding the items mentioned below)	0.3	0.05	0.5	-	1.0
10.1. Tuna, anchovy, sardine, swordfish, shark and other carnivorous fish	0.3	0.25	1	-	1.0
10.2. Crabs	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	1.0
10.3. Clams	1.5	1	0.5	-	1.0
10.4. Octopus and squid	0.3	1	0.5	-	1.0
11. Eggs and egg powder	0.1	0.01	0.03	-	1.0
12. Sugar	0.5	0.15	0.1	0.5	1.0
13. Salt	2.0	0.5	0.1	0.5	1.0
14. Cocoa powder	1.0	0.5	0.2	-	1.0
15. Infant/baby formulas (ready to eat)	0.01	0.005	0.004	0.01	1.0
15.1. Infant /baby formulas (in powder)	0.05	0.01	0.015	0.05	1.0
15.2. Infant/baby formulas from soya or that contain soya (ready to eat)	0.01	0.01	0.008	0.01	1.0
15.3. Infant/baby formulas from soya or that contain soya (in powder)	0.01	0.02	0.015	0.05	1.0
15.4. Infant/baby porridge (ready to eat)	0.04	0.04	0.008	0.025	1.0
15.5. Infant/baby porridge (in powder)	0.08	NA	0.015	0.5	1.0
16. Therapeutic nutrition products	0.01	0.005	0.004	-	1.0
17. Dietary supplement (excluding the items mentioned below)	3.0	1.0	0.1	-	1.0
17.1. Dietary supplement made mainly from dried seaweed & Its products	3.0	3.0	0.1	-	5.0
18. Beverages (excluding dairy products and the items mentioned below)	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.1	1.0
18.1. Bottled water and mineral water	0.01	0.003	0.001	0.006	0.01
18.2. Fruit and vegetable juices, including nectars (excluding the items mentioned below)	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.2	1.0
18.3. Berry juices and small fruit juices	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.2	1.0

	Lead	Cadmium	Mercury	Arsenic (Non-Organic)	Arsenic
19. Preserved fruit (excluding the items mentioned below)	0.1				
19.1. Preserved strawberries and raspberries	1.0				
20. Preserved vegetables (excluding the items mentioned below)	0.1				
20.1. Preserved cabbage and leaf vegetables	0.3				
20.2. Tomato paste	1.5				
21. Jelly and jam	1				
22. Wine	0.2				
23. Honey	0.1				

Source: Israeli Food Control Service

Appendix IV: Food Standards

SI	Title	English availability	Official status
34	JAMS, MARMALADES, JELLIES, FRUIT PRESERVES AND POVIDLE	NO	Partially mandatory
36	CHOCOLATE	YES	Partially mandatory
38	SESAME HALVAH	NO	Partially mandatory
39	TESTING METHODS OF HOMOGENEOUS CITRUS PRODUCTS	NO	Mandatory
41	CONCENTRATED TOMATO JUICE	YES	Partially mandatory
46	WHEAT FLOUR	NO	Partially mandatory
52	FRUIT JUICES AND CONCENTRATED FRUIT JUICES	NO	Partially mandatory
54	BASES FOR PREPARATION OF DRINKS	NO	Partially mandatory
55	RAW COW'S MILK	NO	Partially mandatory
56	CANNED GREEN PEAS	YES	Partially mandatory
58	CANNED VEGETABLES: PICKLED, OR ACIDIFIED IN VINEGAR OR IN FOOD ACIDS	NO	Partially mandatory
111	ESSENTIAL OILS OF CITRUS FRUITS	NO	Voluntary
112	CANNED GRAPEFRUIT SEGMENTS	YES	Partially mandatory
113	CANNED ORANGE SEGMENTS	YES	Partially mandatory
115	SOFT WHITE CHEESES	YES	Partially mandatory
136	HERMETICALLY SEALED CONTAINERS : THREE-PIECES CYLINDRICAL CANS FOR CANNED FOOD PRODUCTS	NO	Partially mandatory
143	CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES	NO	Partially mandatory
147	CANNED GREEN PEAS AND CARROTS	NO	Partially mandatory
191	OLIVE OIL	YES	Partially mandatory
216	EDIBLE VEGETABLE OILS	YES	Partially mandatory
228	VEGETABLE EDIBLE OILS: TESTS	NO	Mandatory
229	CANNED STRING BEANS	NO	Partially mandatory
237	CREAM	NO	Partially mandatory
244	SOUR CREAM	NO	Partially mandatory
262	PASTA PRODUCTS	NO	Partially mandatory
284	COW'S MILK FOR DRINKING	YES	Partially mandatory
285	FERMENTED MILK PRODUCTS	NO	Partially mandatory
291	CANNED FISH IN OIL	YES	Partially mandatory
301	CANNED FISH IN TOMATO SAUCE	NO	Partially mandatory
323	BUTTER	YES	Partially mandatory
327-01	ICE CREAM, WATER ICE PRODUCTS AND MIXES FOR THEIR PREPARATION:	NO	Partially mandatory

SI	Title	English availability	Official status
	REQUIREMENTS		
327-02	ICE CREAM, WATER ICES PRODUCTS AND MIXES FOR THEIR PREPARATION : QUALITY CONTROL FOR THEIR PRODUCTION	NO	Mandatory
331	FOOD STARCH	NO	Partially mandatory
338	CANNED FISH: SMOKED FISH OR SMOKE-FLAVORED FISH	NO	Partially mandatory
356	SUGAR	NO	Partially mandatory
357	TOMATO JUICE	NO	Partially mandatory
358	SODA WATER	NO	Partially mandatory
370	MARGARINE AND OTHER SPREADS OF WATER IN OIL EMULSIONS	NO	Partially mandatory
373	HONEY AND HONEY PRODUCTS	NO	Partially mandatory
387	DEHYDRATED SOUPS	NO	Partially mandatory
389	CANNED BEEF	NO	Partially mandatory
394	CANNED WHITE BEANS IN TOMATO SAUCE	NO	Partially mandatory
407	BEER	YES	Partially mandatory
408	PEPPER,BLACK AND WHITE	NO	Partially mandatory
411	EDIBLE SALT : SODIUM CHLORIDE	YES	Partially mandatory
423	APPLE SAUCE	YES	Partially mandatory
424	TINNED OKRA IN TOMATO SAUCE	NO	Partially mandatory
431	MAYONNAISE AND OTHER OIL IN WATER EMULSION SPREADS OR DRESSINGS	NO	Partially mandatory
440	CANNED CARROTS	NO	Partially mandatory
441	CANNED FRUITS	NO	Partially mandatory
443	GLUCOSE SYRUP	NO	Partially mandatory
450	TESTING OF MILK:FAT CONTENTS,GERBER METHOD	NO	Mandatory
468	GROUND PAPRIKA	NO	Partially mandatory
476	MUSTARD AND MUSTARD SPREAD	NO	Partially mandatory
479	MILK TESTING:DETERMINATION OF THE DENSITY	NO	Mandatory
486	ASPARAGUS PRESERVES	NO	Partially mandatory
493	TESTING OF MILK: DETERMINATION OF TITRABLE ACIDITY	YES	Mandatory
497	MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS- TEST METHODS	NO	Mandatory
524	KETCHUP	NO	Partially mandatory
526	MICROBIOLOGICAL TESTS OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS: TOTAL COUNT	NO	Mandatory
550	MICROBIOLOGICAL TESTS OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS: COLIFORM COUNT	YES	Mandatory

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563	TESTS OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS: PHOSPHATASE TEST (SCHARER RAPID METHOD)	YES	Mandatory
605	TESTING OF MILK : FAT CONTENT OF CREAM	YES	Mandatory
627	TESTING OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS:FAT CONTENT IN CHEESE(VAN GULIK METHOD)	NO	Mandatory
628	MICROBIOLOGICAL TESTING OF MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS :SAMPLING AND PREPARATION OF MIXED SAMPLES FOR EXAMINATION	NO	Mandatory
641	TESTING OF MILK PRODUCTS : TEST OF STERILITY	NO	Mandatory
642	SESAME TEHINA	NO	Partially mandatory
650	COCOA POWDER	NO	Partially mandatory
650-01	COCOA PRODUCTS: COCOA (CACAO) MASS (COCOA LIQUOR) AND COCOA CAKE	NO	Voluntary
650-03	COCOA PRODUCTS: COCOA BUTTER	NO	Voluntary
655	CANNED CULTIVATED MUSHROOMS	YES	Partially mandatory
662	TESTING OF MILK:DETERMINATION OF FREEZING POINT	NO	Mandatory
671	CANNED WILD MUSHROOMS	NO	Partially mandatory
701	DRIED VEGETABLES	NO	Voluntary
705	CANNED CORN	NO	Partially mandatory
718	CANNED MIXED CITRUS FRUIT (GRAPEFRUIT AND ORANGE) SEGMENTS	YES	Partially mandatory
729	CANNED SARDINES IN OIL	NO	Partially mandatory
730	TOMATO PRODUCTS	NO	Partially mandatory
746-01	CANNED FISH : TUNA, BONITO AND LITTLE TUNA	YES	Partially mandatory
746-02	CANNED FISH : MACKEREL OR JACK MACKEREL	NO	Partially mandatory
760	SWEET FAT-BASED SPREADS	NO	Partially mandatory
776	FRUIT NECTAR	NO	Partially mandatory
820	TESTING OF MILK: SEDIMENT TEST	YES	Mandatory
841	CANNED FISH:CARP,TRADITIONAL RECIPE (GEFILTE FISH)	NO	Partially mandatory
859-01	TEST METHODS OF ICE-CREAM : SAMPLING, PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL TESTS	YES	Mandatory
859-02	TEST METHODS OF ICE-CREAM:MICROBIOLOGICAL TESTS	YES	Mandatory
861	COLD STORAGE OF VEGETABLES:POTATOES	YES	Voluntary

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862	TESTING OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTS : SPECTROPHOTOMETRIC DETERMINATION OF BENZOIC AND SORBIC ACIDS	YES	Voluntary
871	COCOA BUTTER	YES	Voluntary
877	FROZEN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:GENERAL	NO	Partially mandatory
885-01	MICROBIOLOGY OF FOOD AND ANIMAL FEEDING STUFFS: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE FOR MICROBIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS	YES	Voluntary
885-02	MICROBIOLOGICAL TEST METHODS FOR FOODSTUFFS: PREPARATION OF SAMPLES FOR MICROBIOLOGICAL TESTS	NO	Mandatory
885-03	MICROBIOLOGICAL TEST METHODS FOR FOODSTUFFS: TOTAL COUNT OF AEROBIC MICROORGANISMS	YES	Mandatory
885-04	MICROBIOLOGICAL TEST METHODS FOR FOODSTUFFS: COLIFORMS COUNT	YES	Mandatory
885-05	MICROBIOLOGICAL TEST METHODS FOR FOODSTUFFS: FECAL STREPTOCOCCI COUNT	YES	Mandatory
885-06	MICROBIOLOGICAL TEST METHODS FOR FOODSTUFFS: COUNT OR DETECTION OF STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS, COAGULASE POSITIVE, BACTERIA	NO	Mandatory
885-07	MICROBIOLOGICAL TEST METHODS FOR FOODSTUFFS: DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF SALMONELLAE	YES	Mandatory
885-08	MICROBIOLOGICAL TEST METHODS FOR FOODSTUFFS: YEAST AND MOULD COUNT	NO	Mandatory
885-08	MICROBIOLOGICAL TEST METHODS FOR FOODSTUFFS: YEAST AND MOULD COUNT	YES	Mandatory
885-09	MICROBIOLOGICAL TEST METHODS FOR FOODSTUFFS: SULFITE REDUCING CLOSTRIDIA COUNT AND CONFIRMATION OF CLOSTRIDIUM PERFRINGENS (SYN. WELCHII)	YES	Mandatory
885-10	MICROBIOLOGICAL TEST METHODS FOR FOODSTUFF: DETECTION AND COUNT OF THERMOPHILIC BACTERIA	NO	Mandatory
885-11	MICROBIOLOGICAL TEST METHODS FOR FOODSTUFFS: OUTGROWTH AND COUNT OF MESOPHILIC AND THERMOPHILIC SPORES	NO	Mandatory

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885-12	MICROBIOLOGICAL TEST METHODS FOR FOODSTUFFS: ENUMERATION OF B-GLUCURONIDASE-POSITIVE ESCHERICHIA COLI	NO	Mandatory
885-13	MICROBIOLOGICAL TEST METHODS FOR FOOD STEFFS: CLARIFICATION OF THE CAUSES OF SPOILAGE OF HEAT-PROCESSED LOW-ACID FOOD PRODUCTS	NO	Mandatory
885-14	MICROBIOLOGICAL TEST METHODS FOR FOODSTUFFS: LACTIC-ACID BACTERIA COUNT	NO	Mandatory
885-15	MICROBIOLOGICAL TEST METHODS FOR FOODSTUFFS: ALTERNATIVE METHODS-GENERAL	NO	Voluntary
885-18	MICROBIOLOGY OF FOOD AND ANIMAL FEETING STUFFS: MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS - DETECTION OF ENTEROBACTER SAKAZAKI	YES	Voluntary
885-19	MICROBIOLOGY OF FOOD AND ANIMAL FEEDING STUFFS: HORIZONTAL METHOD FOR THE DETECTION AND ENUMERATION OF LISTERIA MONOCYTOGENES - DETECTION METHOD	YES	Voluntary
908	FROZEN CORN	YES	Partially mandatory
909	INSTANT COFFEE	YES	Partially mandatory
920	FROZEN CARROTS	NO	Partially mandatory
926	FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTS PRESEVED WITH PRESERVATIVES	NO	Partially mandatory
939	FROZEN PEAS	YES	Partially mandatory
956	MICROBIOLOGICAL TESTS FOR MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS: DETECTION OF COAGULASE POSITIVE STAPHYLOCOCCI IN DRIED MILK	YES	Mandatory
976	FRESH SARDINES	NO	Mandatory
979	FROZEN BEANS	YES	Partially mandatory
991	FROZEN SWEET PEPPER	YES	Partially mandatory
1006	MARZIPAN AND MARZIPAN PRODUCTS	NO	Partially mandatory
1036	FROZEN BROCCOLI	YES	Partially mandatory
1059	TOLERANCES FOR WEIGHT AND VOLUME OF PREPACKAGED FOOD PRODUCTS	YES	Mandatory
1071	NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS	YES	Partially mandatory
1074	FROZEN CAULIFLOWER	YES	Partially mandatory
1075	DRIED FRUITS: RAISINS	NO	Partially mandatory
1085	CANNED BEEF OR MUTTON WITH ADDITIONS OF PLANT ORIGIN	YES	Partially mandatory
1103	ROASTED COFFEE	YES	Partially mandatory

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1118-01	UNIFORM CONTENTS OF PREPACKAGED FOOD: GENERAL	YES	Voluntary
1118-02	UNIFORM CONTENTS OF PREPACKAGED FOOD: DAIRY PRODUCTS	YES	Voluntary
1118-03	UNIFORM CONTENTS OF PREPACKAGED FOOD: SPICES	NO	Voluntary
1118-04	UNIFORM CONTENTS OF PREPACKAGED FOOD: DRY FOOD PRODUCTS - DRIED FRUITS	NO	Voluntary
1118-05	UNIFORM CONTENTS OF PREPACKAGED FOOD: DRY FOOD PRODUCTS - NUTS AND SEEDS	NO	Voluntary
1118-06	UNIFORM CONTENTS OF PREPACKAGED FOOD: DRY FOOD PRODUCTS - PULSES	NO	Voluntary
1118-07	UNIFORM CONTENTS OF PREPACKAGED FOOD: DRY FOOD PRODUCTS - CORN AND FLOUR	NO	Voluntary
1118-08	UNIFORM CONTENTS OF PREPACKAGED FOOD: DRY FOOD PRODUCTS - POWDERS	NO	Voluntary
1118-09	UNIFORM CONTENTS OF PREPACKAGED FOOD: DRY FOOD PRODUCTS - COFFEE AND COFFEE SUBSTITUTES	NO	Voluntary
1118-10	UNIFORM CONTENTS OF PREPACKAGED FOOD: DRY FOOD PRODUCTS - CRYSTALLINE PRODUCTS	NO	Voluntary
1118-11	UNIFORM CONTENTS OF PREPACKAGED FOOD: DRY FOOD PRODUCTS-PROCESSED CEREALS AND PULSES AND SNACKS MADE FROM POTATOES, CEREALS AND PULSES	NO	Voluntary
1118-12	UNIFORM CONTENTS OF PREPACKAGED FOOD: SALADS, SPREADS AND FISH RPRODUCTS STORED UNDER REFRIGERATION	NO	Voluntary
1118-13	UNIFORM CONTENTS OF PREPACKAGED FOOD: BAKED PRODUCTS	NO	Voluntary
1118-14	UNIFORM CONTENTS OF PREPACKAGED FOOD: CEMACAO	NO	Voluntary
1118-15	UNIFORM CONTENTS OF PRAPACKAGED FOOD:CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN METAL CONTAINERS	NO	Voluntary
1118-16	UNIFORM CONTENTS OF PREPACKAGED FOOD: INTOXICATING BEVERAGES	NO	Voluntary
1130	DRIED FRUITS: PLUMS	NO	Partially mandatory
1131	FROZEN MIXED VEGETABLES	NO	Partially mandatory
1145	LABELING OF PREPACKAGED FOOD	YES	Partially mandatory
1151	COMMERCIAL FOOD GRADE LECITIN	NO	Partially mandatory

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1152	PUDDING AND JELLY POWDERS	NO	Partially mandatory
1160	VINEGAR	NO	Partially mandatory
1162	ACETIC ACID, DILUTED, FOR FOOD USE	NO	Partially mandatory
1181	SHELF-STABLE BAKERY PRODUCTS : BISCUITS, COOKIES AND CRACKERS	YES	Partially mandatory
1188	MINCED MEAT AND MINCED MEAT PRODUCTS	NO	Partially mandatory
1193	CANNED PROCESSED PEAS	NO	Partially mandatory
1199	LABORATORY FOR MICROBIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOODSTUFFS : SPECIFICATION	NO	Voluntary
1203	FROZEN FRENCH FRIED POTATOES	NO	Partially mandatory
1204	CANNED CELERY	NO	Partially mandatory
1208	PROCESSED RICE	NO	Partially mandatory
1241	BREAD	NO	Partially mandatory
1242	MICROBIOLOGICAL TESTS OF MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS: YEAST AND MOLD COUNT	NO	Mandatory
1246	TEA	NO	Partially mandatory
1248	BEVERAGE POWDERS HAVING FRUITY OR OTHER FLAVOURS	NO	Partially mandatory
1251	DRIED FRUITS : DATES	NO	Partially mandatory
1253	FRUIT PULP	NO	Partially mandatory
1254	SALADS MADE FROM VEGETABLE MATTER, PRESERVED BY LOW- TEMPERATURE STORAGE, WITH OR WITHOUT ADDITION OF PRESERVATIVES	NO	Partially mandatory
1295	DRIED OR SEMI-DRIED FRUITS: GENERAL	NO	Partially mandatory
1307	SWEETS : HARD CANDIES, TOFFEES, COMPRESSED CANDIES	NO	Partially mandatory
1310	FROZEN SPINACH	YES	Partially mandatory
1312	DRIED FRUITS: FIGS	NO	Partially mandatory
1318	WINE	YES	Partially mandatory
1325	CRUMBS FROM BAKERY PRODUCTS ("BREADINGS")	NO	Partially mandatory
1351	CEMACAO:DEFINITIONS,INGREDIENTS AND LABELING	NO	Partially mandatory
1359	MIXED SPICES AND OTHER FOOD SEASONING POWDERS OR MIXTURES	NO	Partially mandatory
1361	SALTY CHEESES	NO	Partially mandatory
1384	DRIET PLANTS FOR PREPARATION OF DRINKS BY BREWING	NO	Voluntary
1412	METHODS OF IDENTIFICATION OF COLOR ADDITIVES IN FOOD: WATER SOLUBLE SYNTHETIC COLOR ADDITIVES	NO	Mandatory
1426	BAKERS' YEAST	NO	Voluntary

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1450	PASSOVER MATZOTH	NO	Voluntary
1501-01	BOTTLED/PACKAGED DRINKING WATERS: NATURAL MINERAL WATERS	YES	Voluntary
1501-02	BOTTLED/PACKAGED DRINKING WATERS: DRINKING WATERS (OTHER THAN NATURAL MINERAL WATERS)	YES	Voluntary
1572-01	ALCOHOLIC DRINKS-DEFINITIONS, DESCRIPTIONS AND MARKING.	YES	Partially mandatory
1572-02	ALCOHOLIC DRINKS- INGREDIENTS, PACKAGING, TRANSPORT, STORAGE, CONTENTS, COMPOSITION AND TEST METHODS	YES	Partially mandatory
1743	SEMI-HARD CHEESES.	YES	Voluntary
1978	ANALYTICAL METHODS OF NUTRITIONAL LABELING VERIFICATION.	NO	Voluntary
2201	BREADED FROZEN FISH PRODUCTS	NO	Voluntary
2202-01	MICROBIOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS:FOOD PRODUCTS FOR INFANTS	NO	Voluntary
2202-02	MICROBIOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS: PREPARED FOODS	NO	Voluntary
2306	SAUSAGES, HOT DOGS AND PROCESSED MEAT PRODUCTS	NO	Voluntary
4421	CLASSIFICATION OF CARCASES OF BOVINE ANIMALS	NO	Mandatory
5099	BOVINE MEAT CUTS- NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS	NO	Voluntary

Source: Standards Institute of Israel