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### Israel Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards 2016

**Report Categories:**

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and  
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**Report Highlights:**

The major highlights impacting Israeli agriculture from the last year include:

- The Cornflakes Law, which came into effect creating greater opportunity for US exports
- The Veterinary Services of the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture waved the ban on imports of US beef, opening the door for trade
- A draft amendment to Israel's Ministry of Health regulations titled "Public Health Regulations (Food, Pesticide Residues, Amendment) 5776-2016". The amendment replaces the regulations' three annexes and provides an amended list of pesticides MRLs.
- A number of new food standards were created

## **General Information:**

### **Section I: General Food Laws**

#### **General**

Israeli importers face two main considerations when selecting a particular product - quality and price. In terms of price, US products are not always competitive due to relatively higher production and freight costs. Products from Europe and the Mediterranean basin tend to be more competitively priced. Also, transport costs from the United States are about the same as transportation costs from East Asia. 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 Israel-US free trade agreement (FTA) are at a natural advantage, making transportation costs less of a factor. Under the US-Israel FTA, US 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, 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 government agencies are involved in Israel's food, livestock, and plant safety supervision. These agencies include: the National Food Control Service (FCS), which is part of the Ministry of Health; the Standards Institution of Israel; the Israel Veterinary and Animal Health Services (IVAHS); and the Plant Protection and Inspection Service (PPIS), which is part of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOAG). The FCS is in charge of imported food licensing and is notorious for its difficult requirements on foods that are characterized as sensitive foods. A full list of these products can be found in Appendix I. Depending on the product, both the Ministry of Trade and MOAG have responsibility for managing quota allocations under the Israel-US FTA.

#### **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 meat and meat products. However, non-kosher products have a much smaller market, as most supermarkets and hotels refuse to carry them. Though 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 US 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 US advantage.

## **Cornflakes Law**

In response to consumer protests in 2011, the Government of Israel is considering policy reforms proposed by a number of committees and working groups. One specific set of recommendations impacting dry food imports was approved in 2014 and entered into force September 30, 2016. This reform was known as the Cornflakes Reform. The new policy opens up some food imports to independent traders operating outside of the manufacturer's distribution system – a practice the Israeli's term *parallel imports*. Products such as pasta, breakfast cereals, cookies, crackers, snacks, rice and beans can now be imported to Israel, creating greater competition and decreasing prices. Thus far, the reform does not apply to *sensitive* food products (see Appendix III), such as animal products and infant formula. Under the new system, imports of non-sensitive foods will be unrestricted, provided that they meet predetermined standards.

The Cornflakes Law marks a new era in Israel's food industry, expanding the possibilities for US exporters looking to increase their business. An English overview of the reform can be found [here](#), and the full text (Hebrew only) can be found [here](#).

## **Prohibited Imports**

Israel, a signatory to the World Trade Organization (WTO), maintains relatively few restrictions on agricultural imports. However, a 1994 decision banned beef and poultry imports, with the exception of offal, due to concerns about bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in US animals. After the US moved to a minimal disease risk category, a *de facto* ban remained in place, which was based on the prohibited import of non-kosher beef products. That ban will be lifted in late 2016 as the Chief Rabbinate of Israel has now approved US rabbis to oversee ritual slaughter. 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 US-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 product.

## **Newly Permitted Imports**

As mentioned above, for more than two decades US beef has been banned for import due to veterinary restrictions and kosher requirements. Earlier this year the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Services waved the ban on imports of US beef and an agreement with Israel's Chief Rabbinate was reached, which will allow the reopening of the Israeli market to US exports.

## **Section II: Food Additives Regulation**

### **General**

The food additive regulations are based on [Israeli public health regulations for food and food additives](#) (Hebrew only). The regulations establish which food additives are permitted for use, the permitted quantity, and the mandatory marking or labeling of food additives. Based on those regulations, the Ministry of Health's Food Control Service (FCS) published a full listing of approved food additives in 2013. That listing is available [online](#) (Hebrew only). In addition to the 2013 list there are [45 updates](#) that were added after the publication of the document.

To facilitate trade with regards to food additives, the Israeli Ministry of Health now accepts EU specifications in addition to the Israeli public health regulations. If a food company chooses to import according to EU specifications, the company must hold the latest EU legislation for food additives and present it to the FCS supervisor whenever required to do so. Details on those regulations are available [online](#) (Hebrew only).

### **Banned Food Additives**

The following food color additives have been banned:

<b>E numbers</b>	<b>E Name</b>	<b>Date of ban</b>	<b>Comment</b>
E127	Erythrosine	July 2011	Forbidden for use in cereals
E132	Indigo carmine	July 2011	Forbidden for use in cereals
	PARA-HYDROXY-BENZOATES	2009	Banned in food products
E214	Ethyl p-hydroxybenzoate	2009	Banned in food products
E215	Sodium ethyl p-hydroxybenzoate	2009	Banned in food products
E216	Propyl p-hydroxybenzoate	2009	Banned in food products
E217	Sodium propyl p-hydroxybenzoate	2009	Banned in food products
E218	Methyl p-hydroxybenzoate	2009	Banned in food products
E219	Sodium methyl p-hydroxybenzoate	2009	Banned in food products
E128	Red 2G	August 2007	Banned in food products

### **Changes in Maximum Limits**

In April 2009, the maximum limits of the following food color additive E1520, E1518, and E1505 were changed:

### **Changes in Maximum**

<b>E numbers</b>	<b>E Name</b>	<b>Maximum Levels</b>
E1505	Triethyl citrate	3gr/kg for beverages: E1520 maximum level is 1gr/liter, and maximum level for E1505 is 1gr/liter.
E1518	Glyceryl triacetate (triacetin)	
E1520	Propylene glycol	

### **Food Supplements**

The products listed below are approved by the Israeli Ministry of Health for use in food and food additives.

- As of July 2016, the following plants have been approved for use in food and food additives: <http://www.health.gov.il/UnitsOffice/HD/PH/FCS/Documents/34950411.xlsx>
- As of June 2013, the following mushrooms have been approved for use in food and food additives: <http://www.health.gov.il/UnitsOffice/HD/PH/FCS/Documents/Mushroom.xls>
- As of October 2015, the following seaweeds have been approved for use in food and food additives: <http://www.health.gov.il/UnitsOffice/HD/PH/FCS/Documents/Seaweed.xls>
- As of August 2016, the following chemical substances, mixtures and plants have been approved for use in food and food additives: <http://www.health.gov.il/UnitsOffice/HD/PH/FCS/Documents/34978611.xlsx>

### **Section III: Pesticides and Other Contaminates**

#### **Pesticide Data Bank**

The Ministry of Agriculture's Plant Protection and Inspection Service (PPIS) 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
- 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
- Maximum residue levels in food (MRL)
- Permissible combinations of pesticides for each crop

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

<b>Banned Pesticide</b>
Ethylmercuric chloride
Methoxyethylmercuric chloride
Dinitro-ortho-cresol (DNOC),
Sodium arsenite, pentachlorophenol
2,4,5- trichloroacetic acid (2,4,5-T)
Monocrothophos, ethyl parathion
Chlorphenapyr

#### **Organic Pesticides**

The PPIS is in charge of the approval and registration of preparations used in organic agriculture.

Suitability is decided by an advisory committee that makes recommendations to the Director General of PPIS. Israel's organic standards can be found in the [Law for the Regulation of Organic Produce](#).

All inputs for organic agriculture must be checked for compliance with the standard's requirements. Currently, the products listed [here](#) are approved for use in organic farming in Israel. New substances may be considered by the committee upon submission of a request and the following documents:

1. Identification of the substance and its ingredients
2. Production method
3. Products containing an animal ingredient must have a preliminary approval of the Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Agriculture.

### **Pesticide Residues**

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 MRLs. More information on Israeli MRLs is available [online](#).

Israel's Ministry of Health regulates the use of pesticides in foods and applicable MRLs. The regulation 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 regulations impacting pesticides in food production were amended in May 2016 (Amendment 557-2016). The major changes included that amendment are available [online](#) in English, as is the [full text](#) (Hebrew only).

### **Mycotoxins in Food**

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

### **Heavy Metals in Food**

The Israeli Ministry of Health's National Food Control Service's 2016 updated [regulation](#) (Hebrew only) sets the limits for various heavy metals in food. Exporters and importers should check that the level in the exported food does not exceed that permitted by regulation.

### **Limits for Various Heavy Metals in Food (2016), ppm**

	Lead	Cadmium	Mercury	Arsenic (Non-Organic)	Arsenic
1. Milk	0.02	0.005	0.01	0.01	1.0
1.1. Milk products	0.2	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		
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				0.3	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
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
19.	Preserved fruit (excluding the items mentioned below)	0.1				
19.1.	Preserved strawberries	1.0				



and raspberries					
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: FCS

## **Section IV: Packaging and Container Regulations**

### **Wood Packaging**

Israeli [plant import 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.

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.

- MB Treatment- the wood packaging material is fumigated with methyl bromide
- 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

### **Plastic Materials in Contact with Food and Beverages**

The Israeli standard for plastic materials in contact with food and beverages (SI 5113) is available [online](#). The standard generally accepts the US 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.

### **Deposit on Beverage Containers Law**

The Deposit on Beverage Containers Law, which came into effect in 2001, requires manufacturers, importers and retailers to collect 6.6 US cent 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](#).

## Section V: Labeling Requirements

### **General**

The label attached to retail food products is intended to provide general information about the product, including the product name, ingredients, name of manufacturer, place of origin, nutritional value and expiration date. The food label for imported products must further state the name of the importer, as well as storage and transportation instructions. All markings should be clear and legible. Specific information on weights and measures standards is available from the [Standards Institution of Israel](#).

Exporters from the US are encouraged to work closely with Israeli importers in meeting labeling standards. For further information on food labeling and packaging contact the Israel Ministry of Health, Food Control Administration (see Appendix I).

### **Nutritional Labeling**

Israel does require nutritional labeling on food products. Nutritional labeling requirements are detailed in the Israeli Public Health Regulations ([5763-1993](#), [amended in 2011](#)). Nutritional labeling standards require that Hebrew be used on all packaged foods. A [2013 amendment](#) to the Public Health Regulations requires that front of pack (FOP) labeling include calories, sugar, fat, and sodium content on the front of the packaging. This amendment is scheduled go into force in February 2017.

### FOP Labeling



The nutritional labeling of food products is generally stated in terms of 100gm or ml of food. If the package indicates the number of portions contained in it, the nutritional content may be shown on a per portion basis. If the producer's instructions indicate that the product is to be diluted with water, the

nutritional labeling shall be for 100 gm or ml of the reconstituted product.

The new front of pack labeling will follow the same format. The mandatory nutritional information should list 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)

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.

## **Labeling Standard for Prepackaged Food**

The labeling standard for prepackaged foods (Standard 1118) sets requirements for products intended for retail sale, excluding unprocessed fruits and vegetables. It also sets the labeling requirements for prepackaged foods for industrial processing and for repackaging, food in wholesale packaging, and prepackaged food containing packaged sub-units.

Where there is a contradiction between the requirements of Standard 1118 for prepackaged foods and the labeling requirements of the special standard, which applies to a particular food, or the labeling requirements in a group standard, which applies to a particular group of foods, the requirements of the special standard or of the group standard shall take precedence. The full text of the standard can be purchased in English from the [Standards Institution of Israel](#).

In general, the standard requires that all labels shall be accurate, 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.

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 Israel Standard 1145. 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, shall be appropriately labeled, (e.g. 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.

A list of Israeli food standards can be found at the [Standards Institution of Israel](#) (Hebrew only).

### **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 8.0 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. keeps in a dry place, keep in a cool place,

keep in the shade, do not refreeze after thawing, etc.).

### **Choking Warning Labeling Requirement**

Israeli Public Health Regulations require that choking warning labels be applied to specific retail products. The full regulation 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 Report - IS7007](#).

### **Food in a Wholesale Package**

Food products packaged for wholesale must include the following markings:

- Name of the food
- Name and address of the manufacturer
- Ingredients
- Date as specified above

### **Prepackaged Bulk Food for Retail (containing smaller packed units)**

In the case of food products sold in large quantities, but containing smaller units for retail sale, the outer packaging must contain the following markings:

- Name of the food
- Labeling which identifies the lot
- Number and size of retail units in the large package

### **Labeling of Trans-fats**

Beginning February 1, 2014, regulations require the mandatory labeling of trans-fatty acids in foods in Israel. 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 Infant Formula**

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

### **Labeling Requirement for Non-Alcoholic Beverages**

Labeling standards on non-alcoholic beverages changed as of November 2014. The previous prohibition on fruit illustrations on beverage containers is now voluntary. The text of that specific standard can be found in paragraph 2.3.2 of SI 1071. Full texts are available from the Standards Institution of Israel. Contact information can be found in Appendix I.

### **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 an alcohol content less than 15.5 percent, the following label must appear: *Warning: Contains alcohol - it is recommended to refrain from excessive consumption.*

### **Labeling 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 fruit meets Israel's requirements must be submitted to the PPIS.

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.

### **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 is available from the [Standards Institution of Israel](#).

### **Labeling Gluten Free**

Israel's Ministry of Health has regulations for the labeling of gluten-free products. Those regulations are available [online](#) (Hebrew only).



## **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, many products are still subject to mandatory standards that could have been designed to favor domestic producers over importers.

The Standards Institution of Israel (SII) is the agency responsible for the development of most product standards, compliance testing, product certification, and quality assurance systems. For further information, interested firms should contact the SII (see contacts in Appendix I).

### **Crops Produced through Biotechnology and Related Food Products**

See [Israel's Agricultural Biotechnology Annual 2016 Gain Report](#).

### **Changes in Food Standards**

The food standards for the following products have either been revised or are consideration for revision.

<b>Date of Distribution</b>	<b>Products according to Harmonized System</b>	<b>Products</b>	<b>Link (EN)</b>
6/2/2016	210390-- Other	Mayonnaise	<a href="#">EN</a>
6/2/2016	1517-Margarine; edible mixtures or preparations of animal or vegetable fats or oils or of fractions of different fats or oils of this Chapter, other than edible fats or oils or their fractions of heading 15.16.	Fat spreads and other water in oil emulsion spreads	<a href="#">EN</a>
6/2/2016	0901-Coffee, whether or not roasted or decaffeinated; coffee husks and skins; coffee substitutes containing coffee in any proportion.	Instant coffee	<a href="#">EN</a>
6/2/2016	170490-- Other	Marzipan	<a href="#">EN</a>
6/1/2016	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.	Dried fruits	<a href="#">EN</a>
04/20/2016	0904-Pepper of the genus Piper; dried or crushed or ground fruits of the genus Capsicum or of the genus Pimenta.		<a href="#">EN</a>
04/19/2016	17-SUGARS AND SUGAR CONFECTIONERY	Sugars	<a href="#">EN</a>



04/19/2016	090420-- Fruits of the genus Capsicum or of the genus Pimenta, dried or crushed or ground	Paprika and chili	<a href="#">EN</a>
04/15/2016	0904-Pepper of the genus Piper; dried or crushed or ground fruits of the genus Capsicum or of the genus Pimenta.	Pepper (Piper nigrum L.)	
04/01/2016	1101-Wheat or meslin flour.	Wheat flour	<a href="#">EN</a>
04/01/2016	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.	Pasta	<a href="#">EN</a>
03/31/2016	120740-- Sesamum seeds, 170490-- Other	Halwa	<a href="#">EN</a>
03/14/2016	1805-Cocoa powder, not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter., 180610-- Cocoa powder, containing added sugar or other sweetening matter	Cocoa powders	<a href="#">EN</a>
03/04/2016	120740-- Sesamum seeds	Tahena	<a href="#">EN</a>
03/01/2016	2002-Tomatoes prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid.	Processed tomato concentrates	<a href="#">EN</a>
02/18/2016	1704-Sugar confectionery (including white chocolate), not containing cocoa.	Sweets (candies)	<a href="#">EN</a>
01/28/2016	190540-- Rusks, toasted bread and similar toasted products	Crumbs from bakery products	<a href="#">EN</a>
01/26/2016	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.	Fresh sardines	<a href="#">EN</a>
01/04/2016	0811-Fruit and nuts, uncooked or cooked by steaming or boiling in water, frozen, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter.	Frozen fruits and vegetables	<a href="#">EN</a>
07/17/2015	15-ANIMAL OR VEGETABLE FATS AND OILS AND THEIR CLEAVAGE PRODUCTS; PREPARED EDIBLE FATS; ANIMAL OR VEGETABLE WAXES	Vegetable oils	<a href="#">EN</a>

Source: World Trade Organization

## **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. The application and contact information is available [here](#). More details on the certification process can be found in Appendix IV.

## **Section VIII: Other Certification and Testing Requirements**

### **Kashrut**

Any food marked with the word “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 1 of the Israel Standard 1145 (available from the [Standards Institution of Israel](#)). 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-US 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

The Plant Protection and Inspection Service is the authority in charge of permitting the importation of plants and plant products into Israel, both for commercial and personal use. Permits are mandatory for importing 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 PPIS. Exporters may request an import permit by contacting the Import Department of the PPIS. Contact information is as follows:

Plant Protection & Inspection Service (PPIS)  
Import Department  
PO Box 78  
50250, Bet Dagan, Israel  
Fax: +972-3-9681599

Application for the import permit should be requested a minimum of 45 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:

### Permit Request Forms

Import Type	Definition	Comments
<a href="#">Fresh produce, plants, plant products</a>	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.	
<a href="#">Seeds</a>	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 the <a href="#">Experimental seed varieties</a> 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
<a href="#">Biotic material</a>	“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.

### **US Apples and Pears**

In September, 2014, Israel published new phytosanitary requirements for US 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 US apple and pear exports can be found in the following report: [Updated Phytosanitary Import Requirement for US Apples and Pears](#).

### **Animal Feed**

Imports of animal feed require an approved import permit issued by the Israeli Veterinary Services, 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. Those are available in English [here](#).

### **Section IX: Import Procedures**

Food imports to Israel can be broadly divided into two categories: sensitive and non-sensitive products. Those sectors considered sensitive are often protected on economic, political, or strategic rationale. In some cases, access to these products is considered an important social good (e.g. infant formula), while in others it is the result of strategic or political interests (e.g. egg producers on the northern border). A list of sensitive food products can be found in Appendix III.

In both cases, four agencies are involved in import oversight. These include the Ministry of Health's Food Control Services, the Standards Institute of Israel, the Israeli Veterinary and Animal Health Service, and the Plant Protection and Inspection Service. The Food Control Service is in charge of import licensing for both categories of food products.

### ***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 FCS. In addition the importer must sign a letter of commitment, pay import fees, and gather required import documents.
- Near arrival – The importer must submit a virtual request for the release of the non-sensitive foods, a certificate of release can be acquired online.
- Upon Arrival – The release is based on the automated “approval of declaration receipt”, certificate of release, a random inspection of no more than 5% of total shipments per year and additional restrictions that 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 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
- 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.)

***Sensitive Foods***

For those products considered to be sensitive, US 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. Details on previous regulatory changes impacting this category of products can be found in the 2015 [FAIRS Country Report](#). Israel recently updated its import regulations on infant formula and plants; those are detailed below.

**Infant Formula**

The Israeli Ministry of Health updated regulations impacting the import of infant formula in November 2015. Infant formula manufacturers must provide a certificated analysis of the product and a document detailing the premixes. The premix document must include the manufacture’s label, signature, and company stamp as shown below.

**Premix Document Template**

Label:  
 Signature:  
 Company stamp:  
 Batch:  
 Production date:  
 Expiry date:

<b>Premix Source</b>	<b>Vitamin/Mineral</b>	<b>Vitamin/Mineral Tracer on COA</b>	<b>Other tracer on COA</b>
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Water based			
Oil based			
Dry blended			
Other			

The updated regulations are available [online](#).

### **Plant Importation**

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 Israel's Plant Protection and Inspection Service. 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 Israeli Plant Protection and Inspection Service [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.

### **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 US \$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**

**Israel WTO-TBT Enquiry Point**  
**Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor**  
Tel: +972-3-7347502  
Fax: +972-3-7347626  
E-mail: [Yael.Friedgut@moital.gov.il](mailto:Yael.Friedgut@moital.gov.il)

**Food Control Service**  
**Ministry of Health**  
12 Ha'arba'a St.  
64739, Tel Aviv, Israel



[www.health.gov.il/english/](http://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](mailto:shlomoga@moag.gov.il)

**Plant Protection & Inspection Service (PPIS)**

PO Box 78

50250, Bet Dagan, Israel

Email: [rickym@moag.gov.il](mailto:rickym@moag.gov.il)

Tel: +972-3-9681561

Fax: +972-3-9681582

[www.ppis.moag.gov.il/PPIS/SiteEnglish/SiteinEnglish/](http://www.ppis.moag.gov.il/PPIS/SiteEnglish/SiteinEnglish/)

**Standards Institution of Israel**

42 H. Levanon St

69977, Tel Aviv, Israel

Web Site: [www.sii.org.il](http://www.sii.org.il)

E-mail: [vered@sii.org.il](mailto:vered@sii.org.il); [library@sii.org.il](mailto: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: Other Import Specialists and Technical Contacts**

### **USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, Tel Aviv**

Tel: +972-3-5198671

E-mail: [agtelaviv@usda.gov](mailto:agtelaviv@usda.gov)

### **U.S. Meat Export Federation**

Website: <http://www.usmef.org>

Contact: Monty Brown

Email: [montybrown@aol.com](mailto:montybrown@aol.com)

### **U.S. Grains Council Middle East and Africa Regional Office**

Website: <http://www.grains.org/worldwide-offices/middle-east-africa>

**U.S. Wheat Associates**

Rotterdam, Netherlands

Tel: + 31-10-413-9155

Fax: +31-10-433-0438

Email: [InfoRotterdam@uswheat.org](mailto:InfoRotterdam@uswheat.org)

Website: <http://www.uswheat.org>

**Appendix III: “Sensitive” Food Products (from April 6<sup>th</sup> 2011 and updated till December 31<sup>st</sup> 2012)**

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 >= 4.5)
8. Eggs products, including confectionery products that contain eggs
9. Gelatin products, including products that contain gelatin
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, which mushroom is a main ingredient
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, which is consumed by the food industry
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 IV: Certification of a Slaughterhouse in a Certified Country**

##### **The Certification of a Slaughterhouse in a Certified Country**

- A. The certification of a slaughterhouse in a foreign country which is certified to export to the State of Israel is conditioned upon receiving a written certificate from the director of the Veterinary Services in the Ministry of Agriculture (henceforth – the director) in accordance with the Animal Disease Regulations (Meat Importation) 1974 (henceforth - "the regulations").
- B. A slaughterhouse is defined in the regulations as one of the following: a slaughterhouse, any plant for the cutting, cooling or storage of meat or entrails.
- C. A request for the certification of a slaughterhouse shall be submitted to the director on the

enclosed form. The request shall be submitted as determined in the regulations, in the months of November and December of the year prior to the year for which the certification is requested, or during the month of May of the year for which the certification is requested. The Request shall be submitted together with the certificate of the foreign country according to the example enclosed. Incomplete requests, or requests submitted outside of the set timeframe, shall not be processed. The request together with all of the accompanying documents should be sent to:

- D. The director of the Veterinary Services, to the Chief Veterinary Doctor for Import and Export, The Ministry of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12, Beit Dagan 50250, or via fax: 03-9688963 or 03-9605194.
- E. Upon the demand of the director, the applicant for the slaughterhouse certification shall reimburse the state for any cost it incurred in order to examine the slaughterhouse.
- F. Issuing the slaughterhouse certification, refusing to issue it, setting provisions for issuing it, setting its expiration date, its suspension, its alteration or its cancellation, are at the complete discretion of the director.
- G. The director of the Veterinary Services shall determine the manner in which the slaughterhouse shall be certified according to the specifics of the case at hand.
- H. The Veterinary Services shall demand from the applicant to make a down payment before approaching the proper authority in the foreign country. The applicant must transfer the funds to the account of the Veterinary Services and receive confirmation of the transfer no longer than two work days after the demand for payment has been made. In case the down payment has not been transferred and the payment has not been confirmed the request shall not be processed and be cancelled.
- I. Only after receiving the down payment shall the Chief Veterinary Doctor for Import and Export approach the foreign country with the request to receive information regarding the slaughterhouse in question. If the slaughterhouse is found suitable for export, he will request an itinerary for visiting the country and the slaughterhouse.
- J. Upon the arrival of the visit itinerary the Veterinary Services shall demand that the applicant transfer funds to cover the cost of the trip. If the funds have been paid and a confirmation has been received within two work days, the Veterinary Services shall continue with the necessary steps in the process of certifying the slaughterhouse. In case the funds are not transferred, the trip and the request shall be cancelled.
- K. If the importer over paid, or the trip was cancelled, the extra funds or the entire funds shall be returned, according to the specific circumstances.
- L. Let it be known that the process of certifying a slaughterhouse in a certified foreign country may take several months, and is dependent, among other things, on the cooperation of the foreign country.
- M. It is stressed that once the director has certified a slaughterhouse in a foreign country, this certificate is valid for any person requesting a permit.
- N. An importer who has submitted a request but is no longer interested in it being processed must notify the undersigned immediately once he has made this decision.
- O. The list of countries and slaughterhouses is published in the web site of the Veterinary Services.
- P. The obligating information is that which is published in the Hebrew language on the page of the Import and Export Department on the Veterinary Services' web site - <http://www.vetserv.moag.gov.il/vet>.

