

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** January 02, 2025

**Report Number:** EG2024-0032

**Report Name:** Egypt Formalizes Twelve Month Shelf-Life Validity Period for Frozen Beef Liver

**Country:** Egypt

**Post:** Cairo

**Report Category:** Livestock and Products, Dairy and Products, WTO Notifications, Fishery Products, FAIRS Subject Report

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**Report Highlights:**

Egypt has released a pair of Government Decrees, several World Trade Organization notifications, and a revised Egyptian Standard in recent months on the shelf-life validity period for frozen beef liver and other products. The end-result is that Egypt has extended the shelf life validity period for frozen beef and buffalo liver (to 12 months instead of 7 months), frozen fish (to 10 months instead of six months), and for plain and flavored yogurt (to 30 days instead of 15 days).

The shelf-life validity period for all imported foods in Egypt is determined by the [Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality](#) (EOS), an agency under the purview of the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Regulatory scientists at the Egyptian National Food Safety Agency (NFSA) are tasked with conducting risk assessments to set and/or recommend changes to Egyptian food standards.

The Egyptian shelf-life period for imported frozen beef livers was determined based on an evaluation of the period from date of slaughter to the date the product is presented to retail consumers or restaurant patrons. The shelf-life validity period for imported frozen fish was determined by the date of the fish's capture to the date the product is presented to retail consumers or restaurant patrons.

### **Egypt Initially Extended the Shelf-Life Validity Period Until December 31, 2024**

On June 27, 2024, the Egyptian Ministry of Trade and Industry signed Decree No. 361/2024. The Decree extended the shelf-life validity period for imported frozen beef liver from seven to twelve months, for frozen fish from six to ten months, and for plain and flavored yogurt (to 30 days instead of 15 days). The decree indicated the extended period was valid for six months, as of July 1, 2024, expiring on December 31, 2024.<sup>1</sup>

Subsequently, on August 1, 2024, EOS notified the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) of a draft amendment to Egypt's shelf life for certain food products (see [G/TBT/N/EGY/212/Add.8](#)). Separately, on August 5, 2024, the Central Administration for Foreign Agricultural Relations of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation filed a similar notification to the WTO's Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures (see [G/SPS/N/EGY/92/Add.8](#)). These notifications extended the permissible Egyptian shelf life for beef and buffalo liver (to 12 months instead of 7 months), frozen fish (to 10 months instead of six months), and for plain and flavored yogurt (to 30 days instead of 15 days).<sup>2</sup>

### **Decree 447/2024**

On September 5, 2024, the Deputy Prime Minister for Industrial Development and Minister of Industry and Transportation signed Decree No. 447/2024. The Decree highlighted changes that were made to Egyptian Standard ES 2613-2 (2024). Notably, the changes extended the shelf-life validity period for imported frozen beef liver from seven to twelve months, for frozen fish from six to ten months, and for plain and flavored yogurt to 30 days instead of 15 days. The Decree also provided producers and importers a six-month grace period to comply with the new shelf-life validity requirements (see Attachment). NOTE: The extended shelf-life validity period is permissible as of now.

For frozen beef liver, Egyptian Standard ES 2613-2 (2024)<sup>3</sup> specifically states:

**Frozen Meat and Poultry Kept at a Temperature Not Exceeding -18°C  
Shelf Life for Beef Liver**

<sup>1</sup> See [EG2024-0015: Egypt Extends Shelf-Life Validity Period for Frozen Beef Liver and Frozen Fish](#)

<sup>2</sup> See [EG2024-0021: Egypt Notifies WTO of Changes to Shelf Life for Various Food Products](#).

<sup>3</sup> The full text of Egyptian Standards are available for purchase online at: <https://www.eos.org.eg/en/standards>

Package type	Shelf Life	Standard Name	Standard Number	Product Name
Suitable moisture-proof containers	12 months for frozen beef and buffalo liver from the slaughter date	Frozen Liver	1473/2007 Partial Amendment 2013 Partial Amendment 2015	Frozen Liver
	7 months for other types from slaughter date			
	Retail containers (cut liver)  2 months from packaging date provided it does not exceed the expiry date of the liver it is made from			

NOTE: These changes were made in line with the recommendations of Egypt's NFSA.

### **Egypt Subsequently Notified Decree 447 to the WTO**

Subsequently, on September 10, 2024, EOS notified the WTO TBT Committee of an amendment to Egypt's shelf life for certain food products (see [G/TBT/N/EGY/212/Add.9](#)). Separately, the Central Administration for Foreign Agricultural Relations of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation filed a similar notification to the WTO's SPS Committee (see [G/SPS/N/EGY/92/Add.9](#)). These notifications, with a proposed date of entry into force of October 3, 2024, referred to Ministerial Decree No.447/2024, giving producers and importers a six-month transitional period to abide by the Egyptian Standard ES 2613-2 (2024) for "shelf life for food products part: 2 shelf life," which had been amended. These notifications specifically added that it is “{w}orth mentioning... that this standard has been partially modified in table (1), table (2), table (3) as the following items extended the permissible Egyptian shelf life for beef and buffalo liver (to 12 months instead of 7 months), frozen fish (to 10 months instead of six months), and for plain and flavored yogurt (to 30 days instead of 15 days).

### **Attachments:**

[Decree 447 \(Unofficial English Translation and Arabic Original\).docx](#)