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**Report Highlights:**

This report provides an overview of Israeli food and feed legislation. The Government of Israel continues to adopt EU legislation and incorporate it into local legislation. All sections of this report have been updated to reflect the adopted EU regulations and directives into Israeli legislation thus far (as of December 15, 2025). Special attention should be given to these changes. The current legislation is in a transitional phase, and its impact on the Israeli market is not yet fully known. For further explanation on EU legislation, please refer to the EU FAIRS Country Report.

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## Disclaimer

This report was prepared by the FAS Tel-Aviv for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped.

FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

## Executive Summary

The Israeli market presents significant opportunities for exporters, particularly in the food and agricultural sectors, as the country relies on imports for more than 90 percent of key products (e.g., grains and fresh fish) while other items (e.g. fresh poultry) are produced locally.<sup>1</sup> Israel's trade environment is shaped by its geopolitical situation, population growth, and strategic alliances, which influence its regulatory framework and trade agreements.

Recent amendments to the Public Health Protection (Food) Law 2015<sup>2</sup> (herein known as "Food Law") include the adoption of 44 European Union (EU) directives, regulations and standards, with adjustments tailored to Israel's needs. The implementation involves phasing out local standards and implementing the new regulations in stages, as detailed in the legislation.

Exporters must ensure compliance with evolving regulations, complete documentation, and adapt to local market dynamics, including the demand for kosher products in certain categories, to successfully navigate Israel's complex regulatory landscape.

## Section I. Food Law

Israel's food-related laws are governed by multiple ministries, each responsible for specific aspects of the laws. These laws are rooted in the primary food legislation, "[The Public Health Protection \(Food\) Law, 2015](#)" which is administered by the Ministry of Health (MoH), herein known as the "Food Law." This report provides an overview of the food and agricultural products currently enforced. While the MoH and other ministries are working to harmonize Israeli laws with EU standards, this process is expected to take several years. It will also need to account for Israel's unique geographical, political, and agricultural conditions, as necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.cbs.gov.il/he/mediarelease/pages/2024/percentD7\\_percent9E\\_percentD7\\_percent90\\_percentD7\\_percent96\\_percentD7\\_percent9F-percentD7\\_percent90\\_percentD7\\_percentA1\\_percentD7\\_percentA4\\_percentD7\\_percentA7\\_percentD7\\_percentAA-percentD7\\_percent94\\_percentD7\\_percent9E\\_percentD7\\_percent96\\_percentD7\\_percent95\\_percentD7\\_percent9F-2022.aspx](https://www.cbs.gov.il/he/mediarelease/pages/2024/percentD7_percent9E_percentD7_percent90_percentD7_percent96_percentD7_percent9F-percentD7_percent90_percentD7_percentA1_percentD7_percentA4_percentD7_percentA7_percentD7_percentAA-percentD7_percent94_percentD7_percent9E_percentD7_percent96_percentD7_percent95_percentD7_percent9F-2022.aspx) (Hebrew)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.nevo.co.il/law\\_html/law01/049\\_062.htm](https://www.nevo.co.il/law_html/law01/049_062.htm) (Hebrew)

Imports to the Palestinian territories, particularly food and agricultural imports, generally need to adhere to Israeli legislation when passing through Israeli-controlled borders or ports. Israeli regulations, including food safety standards, customs procedures, and import restrictions, are applied to goods entering the country. For food imports specifically, Israeli authorities often require compliance with their health and safety standards, which are enforced by agencies such as the MoH or the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAFS). This can include inspections, certifications, and adherence to labeling requirements. Once goods are inside the Palestinian territories, the Palestinian Authority may apply its own regulations and standards.

## **A. Regulatory Environment and Philosophy**

Israel is a unitary state, meaning that political power is centralized at the national level rather than divided between national and regional governments. In Israel, the central government holds the primary authority over legislation, administration, and governance. Local governments, such as municipalities, local councils, and regional councils, operate under the authority of the central government. They manage local affairs like education, infrastructure, and public services, but their powers are delegated and limited by national laws and policies. For more information on the political structure of the State of Israel see the website of the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs \(MFA\)](#).

The regulation of food for human consumption falls under the jurisdiction of the MoH, while agricultural produce and feed is overseen by the MoAFS. However, once fresh agricultural produce intended for human consumption enters Israel or leaves the field, it becomes subject to regulation by the MoH.

On November 4, 2021, the Israeli parliament (known as the Knesset) passed an amendment to the Food Law, through which Israel has continued to adopt EU directives and regulations -- harmonizing its food legislation with the main EU food related directives and regulations. Other Israeli ministries have already adopted or are in the process of adopting EU directives and regulations. For the Minister of Economy and Industry, adopting EU standards is intended to remove barriers, streamline bureaucracy, and reform the import sector, with the goal of reducing the cost of living in Israel. Meanwhile, the MoH is adopting EU standards to reduce regulations and facilitate imports while safeguarding public health in Israel. However, these occasionally conflicting objectives introduce an additional layer of complexity to Israeli legislation.

The implementation mechanism operates through adoption by reference, where each updated EU regulation is reviewed by the relevant ministry and adopted either fully or with modifications, extensions, or exemptions. During this review, the ministry may notify the public and the World Trade Organization (WTO) of legislative changes; however, this mechanism is not codified in the Food Law. When examining an adopted regulation, it is important to pay attention to the date of the adopted regulation by the [National Food Services \(NFS\)](#).

## **B. EU Regulation and Directives**

A “Directive” sets out goals that all EU Member States must achieve, but each state can decide how to implement these goals through their own national laws. A “Regulation,” on the other hand, is directly applicable and binding in its entirety across all EU Member States, requiring no national implementation. Israel is not an EU state and adapts the EU adopted regulations to its needs.

Since 2021, a total of 44 EU food-related directives and regulations have been adopted by the MoH. However, the adoption was not comprehensive; instead, it incorporated specific exclusions and staggered implementation dates to enable Israeli authorities to tailor the regulations to the unique needs of the local population. This approach accounted for a range of critical considerations, including environmental, agricultural, economic, and religious factors. This shift in legislation has been commonly referred to as “What is good for the EU is good for Israel” and, when spoken of in relation to food it is known as “The Food Reform.”

It is important to note that, under Section [3A\(b\)](#) of the Food Law, the official binding version of the legislation is in English. The Hebrew translation is provided for convenience and includes modifications, extensions, and exemptions, marked through strikethroughs (for omitted provisions), green highlights (for additions), and blue annotations (for clarifications or changes). [Second Appendix A \(Section 3A\)](#) of the Food Law provides EU provisions adopted in Israel and a breakdown table with modifications, extensions, and exemptions (Hebrew only). Apart from the EU-adopted legislation, most additional Israeli food-related regulations and information provided by government ministries are predominantly available in Hebrew only.

Questions and answers on Israel’s food regulation, which are regularly updated, can be found on the NFS [website](#).

## C. Regulatory Framework:

**Image 1: Food/Agricultural Related Government Offices**

<b>Ministry of Health</b> All food for human consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>NFS</u> – National Food Service</li> </ul>
<b>Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security</b> All fresh produce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>IVSAH</u> – Israel Veterinary Services and Animal Health</li> <li>• <u>PPIS</u> – Plant Protection and Inspection Service</li> <li>• <u>CFTIC</u> - Center for Foreign Trade and International Cooperation</li> </ul>
<b>Ministry of Environmental Protection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Implementation of Manufacturer's Warranty Laws Department - Waste</u></li> </ul>
<b>Ministry of Economy and Industry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Competition Authority</u></li> <li>• <u>SII</u> - The Standards Institute of Israel</li> </ul>
<b>Ministry of Finance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>ITA</u> - Israel Tax Authority</li> </ul>
<b>Ministry of Religious Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>CR</u> - Chief Rabbinate of Israel</li> </ul>
<b>Ministry of Justice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Israel Patent Office - <u>Trade Marks</u></li> </ul>

Source: FAS Research

Israel amended the Food Law by adopting “[The Public Health Protection \(Food\) Law \(Amendment No. 10 and Temporary Provision\), 2024](#)”; it was published in [Israel’s Book of Laws](#) on August 4, 2024. This amendment establishes a regulatory framework governing all food products and food handlers throughout the entire product value chain. A complete record of past, current, and future amendments to Israeli food legislation is available on the Israeli legal database [NEVO](#) (Hebrew only), an online legal database, website for registered members only. Non-registered visitors can only access the currently implemented iteration of legislation or use the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) [National Legislation Database](#) (Hebrew only).

- The MoH’s NFS is in charge of supervising food for human consumption in Israel and has developed a web page (“[Food regulation based on the European Union](#)” (Hebrew only)) and “[A list of information items on the subject of Hebrew translations of the adopted instructions](#)” (Hebrew only). These sites aim to help food industry professionals track updates to adopted provisions, offering access to versions from the initial adoption to the latest update in both Hebrew and English. During the adoption period, it is possible that both the adopted legislation and the pre-existing local legislation will coexist

simultaneously -- different parts of the adopted legislation have varying implementation dates, as specified in the law and on the NFS website.

[MoAFS](#) oversees all agricultural aspects of growing, exporting, and importing fresh produce, feed, and other agricultural products.

- [Plant Protection and Inspection Services \(PPIS\)](#) – Responsible for enforcing laws and regulations and providing professional services in the field of plant protection, monitoring and prevention of plant pests, as well as the import and export of agricultural produce. PPIS is authorized to issue international certificates required for trade in agricultural produce, such as health certificates, export certificates for organic produce and certificates attesting to the quality of fresh agricultural produce.
- [Israel Veterinary Services and Animal Health \(IVSAH\)](#) - Prevents animal diseases and diseases common to humans and animals, controls the import and export of animals, control slaughterhouses, license veterinarians, supervise processed animal foods, and enforce the Animal Cruelty Act (protection of animals).
- [Center for Foreign Trade and International Cooperation \(CFTIC\)](#) - Oversees the management of international trade in fresh produce and processed agricultural products. CFTIC, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy, is responsible for drafting the agriculture-related chapters in Israel's multilateral and bilateral trade agreements, as well as implementing import policies. It also manages tariff rate quotas and imports licensing, promotes export and reports policies, and trade data to the WTO and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

[Ministry of Environmental Protection](#) - Oversees environmental food related legislation.

- [Implementation of Manufacturer's Warranty Laws Department - Waste](#) –This department oversees the enforcement of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), which holds manufacturers and importers accountable for the environmental impact of their activities. It ensures compliance with legislation that requires producers to address and mitigate the environmental damage caused by their products. The department is involved with the implementation of three out of five food-related laws:
  1. [Law to Regulate Packaging Treatment](#)
  2. [Beverage Container Deposit Law](#)
  3. [Plastic Bag Law \(This law is not part of the EPR system.\)](#)

[Ministry of Economy and Industry](#) - Tasked with fostering economic growth and supporting the advancement of the Israeli economy. It offers tools and support mechanisms in areas such as development and investment, foreign trade, regulation and enforcement, domestic trade, and standards, while also providing essential services and information in these fields.

- [The Standard Institution of Israel \(SII\)](#) – SII is part of the international quality community and an active member in international standards and certification organizations. SII has recognition agreements that facilitate foreign trade.

- [Israel Competition Authority](#) - Responsible for maintaining and promoting competition in the Israeli economy.

[Ministry of Finance](#) - Oversees economic policy, public sector labor agreements, government companies, wage policy, and capital market supervision.

- [Israel Tax Authority \(ITA\)](#) - Unifies multiple tax divisions, among them VAT, purchase tax, and the customs act. ITA also supervises the commercial imports to the Palestinian Territories through all seaports, airports, and land border crossings, including the performance of security checks.

[Ministry of Religious Services](#) - Provides religious services for the Jewish population in Israel. The activities include marriage registration and ceremonies, supervising the kosher regulations for religious buildings and synagogues, cemeteries and burials, and developing relations with Jews in diaspora.

- [Chief Rabbinate of Israel](#) - A subordinate unit within the Ministry of Religious Services that operates, in part, under the “Chief Rabbinate of Israel Law” and the “Prohibition of Fraud in Kashrut Law.” The Chief Rabbinate oversees sensitive matters such as kashrut (dietary laws) – including slaughter, agricultural commandments specific to the Land of Israel, and more.

[Ministry of Justice](#) – Oversees a wide range of legal and professional matters including protection of trademarks, brand named and intellectual property rights

- [The Israel Patent Office \(ILPO\)](#) - Provides legal protection of industrial and intellectual property, through the registration of patents, designs, trademarks and appellations of origin.

## **D. Transparency**

Israel has a web portal, “[Tazkirim](#),” where citizens and stakeholders can provide feedback on proposed amendments to legislation or new legislative proposals.

- To submit comments, users must first register on the [Tazkirim](#) website.
- Click the "Comment" button next to the document summary.
- Submit your response and attach up to three support files.
- Choose whether to make your comment public or private.
- Privacy settings can be modified at any time.

Commenters must specify their affiliation when submitting a response. The MoH’s NFS reserves the right to invite submitters to present their positions before the NFS’ professional team or before the Director of the NFS. The NFS may utilize the content of the submitted documents to shape its position before publishing the NFS director's announcement and may also publish them on the NFS website. Please note that the submission of a position paper in response to this request implies consent for publication, as explained above.

## **E. Advisory Committee for Minister of Health**

The provisions adopted under Amendment 10 of the Food Law, as well as the lists and annexes included in the European directives, are legally binding in Israel as well (with exemptions). If discussions need to be held on changes to the legislation, the “Advisory Committee,” which was established under the Ministry of Health, will deliberate and examine the possibility of expanding the existing lists in the European directives.

Both food handlers and committee members are entitled to submit a request to the Advisory Committee for an expansion. Requests must be submitted through the Food Service Portal via [this website](#). Applicants must provide detailed information including their name, role, company information, contact details, and the regulation they seek to update. They should also specify the food category, the nature of the request, and details about the substance or process involved. The submission should outline the purpose and necessity of the substance, its consumption levels, potential health impacts, possible contaminants, and methods for identification and control. In addition, applicants must indicate whether the request relies on approvals from other countries, including supporting documentation and relevant risk assessments. A clear explanation for the proposed expansion is also required, explaining the reason behind the request. Once a request is submitted, the applicant will receive confirmation of receipt. Notifications are sent automatically via the portal for food business operators, while committee members receive an email from the committee coordinator. If the request is incomplete, the applicant will be asked to provide the missing materials to allow the committee to proceed with its review and discussion.

The committee’s focus for 2025 is on requests related to pesticide residue, specifically Regulation [396/2005, Item 4 in Appendix II\(a\) of the law](#). In 2026, the committee will shift its focus to food additives, addressing expansions related to [Regulations 1333/2008 and 231/2012, Items 8 and 9 in Appendix II\(a\)](#). These priorities reflect the need to comply with temporary and transitional directives outlined in Amendment 10 to the Food Law.

Further information on the committee work and protocols are available on the Food regulation based on the European Union – Advisory Committee [web page](#).

## **F. Enforcement<sup>3</sup>**

The NFS, acting on behalf of the MoH, handles administrative and financial enforcement related to food health risks. In serious cases, the MoH may escalate matters to criminal enforcement authorities, such as to the police or the Office of the State Attorney. For violations of food and feed legislation in other areas, each ministry office is responsible for its own enforcement mechanisms and procedures.

## **Section II. Labeling Requirements**

### **A. General Requirements**

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[https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Israel%20Passes%20Amendments%20to%20Ease%20Food%20Imports-%20Updates\\_Tel%20Aviv\\_Israel\\_IS2022-0001](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Israel%20Passes%20Amendments%20to%20Ease%20Food%20Imports-%20Updates_Tel%20Aviv_Israel_IS2022-0001)

Israel enforces strict labeling requirements for food products, which differ from those in other countries. Currently, Israel has adopted 19 EU Regulation<sup>4</sup> that governs food information for consumers. The list of modifications, exemptions and extensions to the adopted regulations can be found in the [Second Appendix A \(Section 3A\)](#) of the Food Law. The implementation of the adopted regulations will continue until January 1, 2028. If a business chooses to implement the adopted regulations in accordance with the law, all food industry professionals will be required to comply with the adopted food labeling regulations.

Further information on EU labeling requirements is available in the latest [EU FAIRS report](#).

Israeli regulations, orders, guidelines, and procedural instructions regarding labeling requirements that will not apply during the temporary provision period can be found in the [Thirteen Appendix \(Section 321A\)](#) of the Food Law.

Basic NFS instructions are available in English on the [Food Label and Nutritional Labeling](#) web portal. The information on this portal refers to food labeling regulations currently in effect in Israel, prior to the adoption of European legislation on this matter. A transition period to adopt the related EU legislation has been established until January 1, 2028, under Amendment No. 10 of the Food Law. Starting from this date or earlier, if a business chooses to implement the adopted EU regulations in accordance with the law, all food industry professionals will be required to comply with the labeling regulations therein.

During the period from January 1, 2025, to July 31, 2026, the provisions under [1169/2011](#) will not apply to raw meat, processed meat, or imported fish. After August 1, 2026, the provisions of the regulation will apply to imported fish but not to raw meat.

**U.S. exporters are strongly advised to check for additional requirements with an Israeli importer.**

## 1. Compulsory Information

Article 9 of Regulation 1169/2011 sets out the list of mandatory declarations on food and drink labels. In the adopted regulation, modifications were made to the compulsory list:

- Name of the Food
- List of product ingredients
- Allergens listed in Appendix 2
- Quantity of certain ingredients or categories of ingredients
- Net food content
- Marking dates: production date, minimum durability date or "use by" date
- Any special storage, transport, and usage conditions
- Name and address of the food manufacturer.

For food imported into Israel, the name and address of the importer must be provided.

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<sup>4</sup> As of December 10, 2025.

- The country of production. If the food was produced in a country that is an EU Member State, the country of production may not need to be indicated, provided it is marked that the food was produced in the EU. An imported product that is simply packed and labeled in Israel, and not subjected to any additional production activities, will not be considered an Israeli product but a product of the country of origin.
- Instructions for use when there is difficulty in properly using the food in the absence of such instructions.
- For beverages containing more than 2 percent alcohol by volume, the actual alcoholic strength by volume.
- Nutrition declaration.

In addition, the standard arranges for optional markings (such as “no” / “low” / “reduced ...”) for certain nutritional ingredients, as well as conditions for labeling a “natural” or “fresh” food product.

## 2. Language Requirements

Hebrew labeling must be applied to packaging. All other languages such as English, Arabic, Russian, etc. are optional.

## 3. Minimum Font Size

Without detracting from the specific provisions applicable to certain foods, when they appear on the packaging or on the attached label, the mandatory labeling details must be printed on the packaging or label in a manner that ensures clear readability. This must be done using characters with a font size of the height of the character “x” and as defined below, equal to or greater than 1.2 mm.



Legend for Font Size:

1/2	(Cap) Uppercase letter line / (Ascender line) Top line (Example: a letter extending upward, such as "ל" in Hebrew)
3	Middle line
4	Baseline
5	(Descender line) Bottom line (Example: a letter extending downward, such as "ק" in Hebrew)
6	X-height (Example: the height of a character, such as "ח" in Hebrew)
7	Font size

Font size for marking the net food content (different from the EU):

- Up to 50 g/ml – minimum 2 mm\*
- 50 g/ml to 200 g/ml – minimum 3 mm\*

- 200 g/ml to 1 kg/liter – minimum 4 mm\*
- Over 1 kg/liter – minimum 6 mm\*

\*The measurements refer to the height of the numeral, not the height of the "X" font size.

#### 4. Stick-On Labels

Israel permits the use of stick-on labels for prepacked consumer products.

#### B. Nutritional, Health Claims, Vitamin and Minerals

The list of information from the MoH on the amended EU adopted regulations and it's description for Nutrition and Health Claims (aka, Group 2 – Labeling Instructions), is available [online](#) (Hebrew Only). In addition to the adopted EU legislation there is also local, Israeli food labeling legislation that currently still applies. The mandatory nutritional information must include energy value and the content of fat, saturated fat, carbohydrates, sugars, protein, and sodium.

Red Labeling for Food – The nutritional labeling regulation requires that red labels be affixed or printed on the front of retail packaging for specific products larger than 25 square centimeters. These front-of-pack labels are in addition to previous nutritional labeling requirements. Impacted products include those containing levels of sodium, sugar, and saturated fats above the following, prescribed limits:

Label Item	Amount per 100g of Solid Food	Amount per 100ml of Liquid Food
Sodium	400mg	300mg
Total Sugars	10g	5g
Total Saturated Fats	4g	3g

**Image 2: Red Labeling of Food for High Sugar, Sodium, and Saturated Fat Levels**



Source: Israeli Ministry of Health

Foods that are required to display sugar content under this regulation must also indicate the number of teaspoons (or fractions of teaspoons) of sugar, if the sugar content is 2 grams or more per 100 grams of solid food or 100 milliliters of liquid food. This labeling must appear below the word “Sugars.”

For infant and toddler formula or specialized food for these groups, the nutritional content of each ingredient must be labeled according to local Israeli food legislation requirements “[Public Health Protection Regulations \(Food\) \(Nutritional Labeling\), 2017](#),” except for molybdenum content. For other specialized foods not included in the above category, the labeling must include the content of vitamins and minerals as detailed in EU regulation 1169/2011.

Products not considered prepackaged -- such as fruits, vegetables, meats, fresh eggs, and prepared foods purchased at food service establishments -- are currently excluded from the regulation. Additionally, the rule provides a list of exempted products -- including tea, coffee, yeast, and food extracts. Other specific products may be excluded from certain aspects of the regulation. For example, dietary supplements, infant formulas, and alcohol beverages are not required to include a label denoting sugar content.

Additional information about the criteria for labeling, including information on products that must be labeled with red labels, is available on MoH [webpage](#).

Green Labeling for Food – Green labeling is voluntary for healthy food, to encourage consumption of healthy food by consumers. The green label is a prominent symbol that will appear on the front of packages or on the shelf of unpackaged foods, whose composition is consistent with the national nutrition recommendations of the MoH for a healthy population, such as dairy products, soy-based products, vegetable oils, seeds, nuts, cereals, legumes, tahina, fish, chicken, turkey, fruits and vegetables. Additional information about the criteria for labeling, including information on the products that may be labeled with green labels, is available on MoH [webpage](#).

**Image 3: Health Food Label**



*Source: Israeli Ministry of Health*

### **C. Gluten-Free Labeling Regulation**

Israel adopted EU Regulation No 828/2014 of 30 July 2014 regarding the requirements for consumers in the absence or reduced presence of gluten in food. However, food will not be considered "specialized food" solely because it is labeled as "gluten-free." Additionally, the provisions of the regulation regarding reduced gluten content in food and the labeling of "very low gluten" will not apply.

An importer bringing in food not under the European import pathway may label the food in accordance with this regulation, provided they have certification confirming that the food was produced under proper manufacturing conditions as outlined in the Food Law.

From **January 1, 2025, to July 31, 2026**, new food cannot be imported unless it is listed as a “new food” under Section 18 as of August 31, 2023, specialized food, food intended for infants and toddlers (including formula and complementary foods), or food requiring proper manufacturing approval under Section 41. However, "gluten-free" food imported through the European pathway is exempt, provided the importer holds certification confirming that the food was produced under proper manufacturing conditions.

#### **D. Infant Formula Labeling Regulation**

Food intended for infants and toddlers (including formula and complementary foods) is currently excluded from some of the EU adopted labeling regulations. Israel's MoH has specific regulations on labeling infant formula via the [Public Health Regulations \(Food\) \(Breast-Milk Substitute Labeling\)](#). Exporters of these or similar sensitive products are encouraged to work closely with Israeli importers to become familiar with these requirements.

#### **E. Pre-packaged Food Labeling**

Israeli standard No. 1145 is a broad standard that regulates the general labeling of all prepackaged food for retail sale, excluding unprocessed fruits and vegetables. The standard also defines requirements for prepackaged food labels not intended for retail sale, such as food for industrial production, food in wholesale packaging, and prepackaged food that is a combination of standard packaging units. The standard is available online from the [Standards Institute of Israel](#). Additional marking requirements for specific food products are detailed in relevant food standards. If there is a contradiction between the marking requirements of SII No. 1145 and those specified in other special or group regulations, the requirements of the special or group regulation will take precedence.

#### **F. Country of Origin Labeling Regulation**

In July 2023, the Israeli parliament passed an amendment to the Consumer Protection Law<sup>5</sup>, requiring Israeli retail sellers to mark the country of origin (in Hebrew) next to the price label of fresh agricultural produce sold in bulk or packaged at retail stores. The labeling requirement applies to fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, fresh meat (poultry and beef), and fish. This requirement also extends to products sold on online sales platforms.

The country of origin for beef and poultry refers to the slaughterhouse in the U.S. State, and for fish, the fishing location in the U.S. State.

#### **G. Labeling of Genetically Engineered (GE) Products**

Currently, Israel has no governmental policy on the labeling of GE products. If passed, current draft regulation (Novel Foods 5773 -2013) would create a mandatory labeling requirement for food items containing GE ingredients. See GAIN report [Agricultural Biotechnology Annual](#).

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.consumers.org.il/files/files/madrih-simun-mazon/hakika/hok1.pdf> (Hebrew only)

According to the MoH, mandatory labeling is not a deterrence or warning; it exists to address consumers' rights regarding access to information about food. Under the proposed regulation, the following product categories are exempt from labeling:

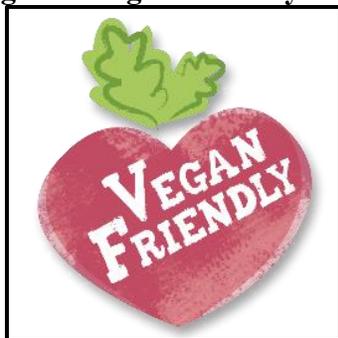
- Products not containing foreign DNA or protein.
- Products with less than 0.9 percent of the product being comprised of GE ingredients.

Highly refined foods (such as oil) would not require special labeling since refining removes proteins from the product. When the new labeling regulations are approved, exporters of food items to Israel must 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.

### **H. Labeling of Plant Based Meat/Dairy Alternatives**

Currently, Israel has no governmental policy on labeling plant-based meat/dairy alternatives, although a voluntary "Vegan Friendly" label is allowed. More information can be found [online](#).

**Image 4: "Vegan Friendly" Label**



Source: <https://www.vegan-friendly.co.il/>

### **I. Labeling of Wine and Alcoholic Beverages**

Alcoholic beverages containing more than 15.5 percent alcohol by volume require a warning label. The regulation specifies that wine and spirits having an alcohol content of more than 15.5 percent display the following text: "Warning: Excessive consumption of alcohol is life threatening and is detrimental to health!" For products with alcohol content of less than 15.5 percent, the following label must appear: "Warning: Contains alcohol - it is recommended to refrain from excessive consumption." More information is available on SII alcoholic beverages [webpage](#).

### **J. Labeling Requirement for Food Products Containing Certain Sweeteners**

On August 19, 2019, the Israeli parliament's Labor, Welfare, and Health Committee approved the new regulation "[Protection of Public Health \(Food\) \(Labeling of Products Containing Certain Sweeteners\) 2018](#)." The regulation specifies that food products containing aspartame or salt of aspartame-acesulfame must display the text: "Contains Aspartame (a source of Phenylalanine)." For products with added polyols that account for more than 10 percent of the packaged food's weight, the label shall display the following text: "Excessive consumption may lead to intestine dysmotility." In the case of table sweeteners, in addition to the warnings above, the name of the food must contain the text "Table sweetener based on ...". The regulations entered into force on

January 1, 2021. The provisions of these regulations are intended to supplement other labeling requirements in the food legislation.

### **K. Fresh Organic Produce Labeling**

For the regulations for the import labeling and sale of organic plant-based produce, [Regulation of Organic Produce \(Organic Plant-Based Produce – Its Production and Sale\), 2008](#) and [Regulation of Organic Produce Law, 2005](#) stipulate that the import of organic produce from outside Israel is permitted only if:

1. The produce is certified by an approval and control body in the country of origin that is also recognized by Israel;
2. marked with the recognized body's symbol;
3. and accompanied by an original document confirming this, which must be retained by the importer for at least three years.

Additionally, the sale of organic produce to consumers must be in pre-packaged form, displaying the symbols and the name of the producer. However, non-pre-packaged organic produce may be sold under specific conditions, such as sales from a non-mixed farm or in locations where only organic bulk produce is available.

Under the law, consumers can identify a uniform Israeli organic symbol on organic products as verification that the product was grown and produced according to the organic standard. The MoAFS has appointed three private companies to oversee the production of organic foods. More information is available on [The Plant Protection and Inspection Services, Production and Sale of Organic Produce web portal](#).

**Image 5: Organic Produce Labeling and Approved Regulating Control Bodies Labeling**



*Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security website*

As of 2024, there are 686 individuals and entities engaged in organic agriculture in Israel, including: 277 growers, 87 marketers, 79 factories, 61 packing houses, 60 exporters, 105 importers, and 17 input suppliers. The total area dedicated to organic farming in Israel amounts to approximately 44,000 dunams (about 4,400 hectares), of which 35 percent is allocated to field crops, 42 percent to fruit cultivation, 3 percent to vegetable cultivation, 2 percent to spice crops, and 18 percent to other types of crops. Israel's strategic plan for advancing organic agriculture has a goal to expand organic agricultural areas in Israel from 1.15 percent today to 10 percent by 2035.<sup>6</sup>

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

### **A. Food Packaging Materials Regulation**

Israel has adopted 7 EU regulation and directives with modifications that relate to materials and articles intended to come into contact with food. The adopted legislation will apply only to the following:

- An importer who imports food through the European pathway;
- A manufacturer with a valid Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) certificate or a manufacturer with an approved commitment declaration, meeting the requirements Israeli food legislation during the period of January 1, 2025, to August 31, 2029;
- A distributor who purchased or received food from those mentioned above.

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.gov.il/he/pages/plan\\_promote\\_organic\\_agriculture\\_in\\_israel](https://www.gov.il/he/pages/plan_promote_organic_agriculture_in_israel) (Hebrew Only)

The temporary guidelines set under the “[Public Health Regulations \(Food\) \(Packaging Materials\), 1977](#)” and “[Public Health Regulations \(Food\) \(Prohibition of Packaging\), 1979](#)” will not apply to regulate food packaging use in Israel.

Prior regulation prohibits the usage of food packaging that may transfer harmful material:

- Regulations on importing agricultural unprocessed produce, available [online](#).
- Specific requirements ensure that plastic packaging in direct contact with food and beverages complies with Israeli Standard 5113 public health regulations. (Note: The standard was last updated in January 2019 and is available for purchase [online](#).)

## **B. Regulation Controlling Plant-Based Packaging**

The Plant Protection and Inspection (PPIS) Regulations “[Regulations \(Plant Import, Plant Products, Pests and Regulated Articles\) - 2009](#)”, Section 12, mandates that wooden packaging materials, including pallets and beams, must comply with International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 15 under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). This ensures packaging is pest-free and properly marked. Full details are available online.

## **C. Extended Product Responsibility Legislation**

### **1. Deposit on Beverage Containers Law**

The [Deposit on Beverage Containers Law - 1999](#) came into effect in 2001, and requires manufacturers, importers, and retailers to collect deposits on beverage containers made from plastic, glass or aluminum larger than 0.1 liters and smaller than 1.5 liters, except for bags and paper containers. As of December 1, 2021, the law was extended to include large bottles- larger than 1.5 liters up to 5 liters. The deposit sum ranges from 30 Israeli agorot (approximately 9 US cents) and up to 1.2 Israeli shekels (approximately 36 US cents)<sup>7</sup> depending on the type and use of the container. Each beverage container subject to the Deposit Law should be stamped with the words "Liable for Deposit" with the amount of the deposit (in Hebrew) adjacent. More details on the deposit system and Beverage Container Law are available on the Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection [web portal](#).

### **2. Packaging Management Law**

Israel's [Packaging Management Law - 2011](#) places responsibility on manufacturers and importers collect and recycle packaging waste. The law regulates the production and treatment of packaging and packaging waste. The law aims to reduce waste, minimize landfill use, and promote reuse to mitigate environmental harm. It sets recycling targets by material type and requires detailed reporting. The Ministry of Environmental Protection enforces compliance and provides further details [online](#).

### **3. Single-Use Plastic Bag Reduction Law**

The [Single-Use Plastic Bag Reduction Law – 2016](#), aims to minimize environmental harm by reducing the use of plastic bags in Israel. Effective January 2017, the law prohibits large retail chains from distributing free plastic bags and requires them to charge a minimum fee of 8.54

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<sup>7</sup> Exchange Rate 1 USD = 3.3 ILS

agorot (pre-VAT) for bags between 20-50 microns thick, with some exceptions such as bags for medicine bags without handles. Retailers must report quarterly on bag sales and transfer fees to the Cleanliness Fund, a fund which supports environmental initiatives, public awareness campaigns, and assistance to plastic bag manufacturers adopting the law. The Ministry of Environmental Protection enforces compliance and provides further details [online](#).

## Section IV: Food Additives Regulation

### A. Food Additives Regulation

The Minister of Health has adopted seven EU food improvement agents regulations and directives with exclusions as listed in [Second Appendix A \(Section 3A\) European Union Regulations Adopted in Israel of the Food Law](#) (Items 8-14).

On November 18, 2024, NFC issued a declaration<sup>8</sup> that under Israel's adopted EU regulations, certain flavoring substances and smoked flavoring substances approved by organizations like the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) can be used, provided they meet specific EU standards and labeling requirements. Food handlers may request approval to expand the use of:

- Food additives approved before the law's effective date;
- Groups of additives or specifications approved before the law's effective date.

Food handlers who submitted a request may continue to use these additives until the Advisory Committee makes a decision. If denied, they may use them for up to two years after the decision.

The Public Health Regulations (Food) (Food Additives) govern the use of food additives in Israel. However, according to [Appendix Thirteen \(Section 321A\), Part B, paragraphs 6–7](#) of the Food Law, these regulations do not apply—except for the labeling requirements for food additives specified in the regulation. The full text of the regulation is available [online](#).

### B. Additives List

Based on the above mentioned regulations, the NFS publishes a [link](#) for the EU list of approved food additives by food additive name or category. A document describing the food categories in Part E of Annex 2 to regulation No. 1333/2008 on Food Additives (EC) is available [online](#). The NFS database on food additives is available [online](#). Most recent updates are published by NFS on the updated food additives [web page](#). (Note: this is not a complete list. Therefore, if there is no information regarding a specific substance, you will need to submit a request [online](#) for the substance to be reviewed. The request must include full safety documentation in accordance with the requirements published on the NFS website.)

Adding New Food Additives to the List - The Advisory Committee for MoH is planning to shift its focus to food additives in 2026, addressing expansions related to Regulations 1333/2008 and 231/2012, Items 8 and 9 in Appendix II(a).

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.gov.il/he/pages/fia-682790724>

## Section V: Pesticides and Other Contaminants

The Minister of Health has adopted four EU food contaminant regulations with exclusions as listed in [Second Appendix A \(Section 3A\) European Union Regulations Adopted in Israel of the Food Law](#) (Items 1-4).

The adoption of European legislation has shifted the baseline approach. Today, compliance with the maximum levels established in the adopted legislation is required. If no maximum levels are specified in the adopted provisions, a risk analysis must be conducted. As part of food oversight, the food handler must demonstrate the safety of the food to the satisfaction of the authorized authority (Section 64(h) of the law). If the authority is not convinced, the food will be deemed harmful under the law. However, the provisions of Section 5 of the law will continue to apply to food or issues excluded from the scope of the adopted provisions according to the specific regulation.

Expansion and exclusions from EU regulations are examined by the MoH's Advisory Committee. The committee decisions and protocols are available [online](#).

Industry guides for food handlers on food contaminants are available online:

- [Industry Guide - Adopted Provision for Certain Chemical Contaminants in Food](#)
- [Industry Guide - Adopted Provision for Microbiological Contaminants in Food](#)
- [Industry Guide - Adopted Provision for Pesticide Residues in Food](#)
- [EU Pesticide database](#)

## Section VI: Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures

### A. Facility Registration

Food facility licenses or food manufacturer's licenses are issued by NFS. Such licenses are not issued for restaurants, eateries, food stalls, supermarkets, and similar establishments. Instructions on the different steps required for these licenses are available on MoH [webpage](#).

Israeli regulation requires registration with Israeli authorities for slaughterhouses producing meat or poultry product:

- [Facilities approved for importing meat and offal to Israel](#)
- [Facilities approved for importing eggs in their shell to Israel](#)

Slaughterhouses and egg sorting stations must receive authorization from the IVSAH to export to Israel. The registration process begins with submitting an [online](#) application to the Director of IVSAH, as stated in the Meat and Egg Import Procedure Guidelines.

### B. Product Registration

To import food and agricultural products into Israel an importer must first register online as a "certified importer". The registration process depends on the type of produce imported. Food products are registered under Minister of Health; agricultural products are registered under the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security. The certification acts as the official identification.

The Minister of Health product registration is available according to the product category and the import certificate classification (Regular Importer, Proper Importer, Alcohol Importer).

Food import categories:

- [Food of animal origin](#)
- [Food of non-animal origin](#)
  - [Sensitive food](#)
    - [Novel food](#) - Must be registered and approved by NFS
  - [Regular food](#)
- [Alcoholic beverages](#)

Information on product registration for the following types of food imports is available [online](#): food for personal use, food samples, food not intended for human consumption, food donations during state emergencies, United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) food imports, food for airlines and shipping companies, and food for embassy use.

Minister of Agriculture and Food Security commercial imports of agricultural products require registration and pre-approval. Product import categories include:

- [Fruit, Vegetables, Plants and Plans products](#)
- [Pets](#)
- [Livestock and Fish](#)
- [Products of Animal Origin](#)
- [Feed](#)

Each product category requires different product registration process as described in the product link above.

## **Section VII: Other Specific Standards**

### **A. Kashrut (Kosher)**

Kosher certification is not a legal requirement for importing food into Israel, except for beef, poultry, and other meat products ([1994 Kosher Meat Import Law](#)). The Israeli population consist of Jews and other minorities (76.9 percent), Arabs (21 percent), and foreigners (2.1 percent).<sup>9</sup> The national growth rate for 2024 is 1.1 percent. According to the Israeli Democracy Institute,<sup>10</sup> high percentage of Jews (68 percent) consume kosher food. Among Muslim Arabs, 95 percent report that they consume only halal food, and 62 percent consider kosher certification to be equivalent to halal. It is also estimated that around 66 percent of Israeli catering businesses are kosher. Non-kosher products have a smaller market share, as most supermarkets and hotels refuse to carry them due to kosher regulations. In the kosher business sector, most of the businesses are hotels and catering (58 percent) followed by food manufactures (25 percent) and food retailers (17 percent).

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<sup>9</sup> [https://www.cbs.gov.il/he/mediarelease/DocLib/2024/424/01\\_24\\_424b.pdf](https://www.cbs.gov.il/he/mediarelease/DocLib/2024/424/01_24_424b.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.idi.org.il/religion-and-state/2024/?chapter=58140> (Hebrew Only)

However, since the secular population is almost half of the general population (Jews 42.7 percent, Arabs 47.7 percent)<sup>11</sup> and consume non-kosher products, given the population growth rate, there is also a large and growing market for non-kosher products. In recent years, there has been a growth in the number of non-kosher supermarket chains stores.<sup>12</sup>

Manufacturers who produce kosher products must satisfy Israeli rabbinical demands that all ingredients and processes meet kosher standards. According to the [1983 Law for Prevention of Fraud in Kashrut](#), only the Chief Rabbinate of Israel can approve imported meat and meat products as kosher for consumption in Israel. The Chief Rabbinate may also authorize another body to act on its behalf. For other imported goods, the Chief Rabbinate certifies and approves international kosher organizations to issue kosher certificates. More information on kashrut regulations, procedures, and lists of recognized kashrut bodies and rabbis is available [online](#).

Exporters should work closely with importers to gain kosher certification.

## B. Novel Food

Novel food under the Public Health Protection Law (Food) 2015<sup>13</sup> must comply with one or more of the following:

- New Molecular Structure – Food or a food component with a new primary structure or an intentionally modified primary structure (molecular level) with no significant history of a material was deemed safe human consumption before February 2006.
- Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) - The food contains genetically modified organisms or parts of them.
- Unfamiliar Biological Source – Food or food component containing plant, animal, microorganism, fungi, algae or substances derived from them which is not commonly used in Israel.
- New Manufacturing Process - Food or food component in which nutritional value, metabolism or the level of substances changed significantly during the reprocessing process, (except for cleaning and disinfection).

Any novel food under this directive not yet marketed in Israel is required to be evaluated and approved by the NFS. All approved novel food is registered and publicized by NFS [online](#). A novel food application for approval is available in an [online](#) form only. If a food component is intended for use as a nutritional supplement or as a food supplement, an application must be submitted in a separate route [online](#). For more information, see NFS' [web portal](#).

## C. Fortified Food

[EU Regulation 1925/2006](#) notes the addition of vitamins and minerals and of certain other substances to foods which were adopted by Israel with exclusions and modifications.<sup>14</sup> They are listed below:

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<sup>11</sup> [Central Bureau of Statistic social survey generator](#) (Hebrew Only)

<sup>12</sup> [Dun's 100 - 2025 קמעונאות מזון לשינה](#) (Hebrew Only)

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.nevo.co.il/law\\_html/law01/049\\_062.htm#Seif18](https://www.nevo.co.il/law_html/law01/049_062.htm#Seif18) (Hebrew Only)

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.nevo.co.il/law\\_html/law01/049\\_062.htm#med19](https://www.nevo.co.il/law_html/law01/049_062.htm#med19) (Hebrew Only)

- The regulation does not apply to food for infants and toddlers, such as infant formulas, toddler formula, and complementary foods labeled for these purposes. It also does not apply to specialized foods. Foods labeled "gluten-free" are not considered specialized foods.
- Regarding alcoholic beverages, instead of "1.2 percent" it refers to "2 percent."

## D. Food Contact Materials

Israel adopted seven EU Regulations and Directives on Food Contact Materials (FCM), with exclusions and modifications as listed in [Second Addendum A \(Section 3a\)](#) to the Food Law. A webinar in Hebrew and a guide on FCM prepared by Minister of Economy, Standards Administration is available [online](#).

## E. Other Contaminant Regulations

### 1. Ionizing Radiation

[Public Health Regulations \(Food\) \(Preservation of Foodstuffs by Radiation\), 1985](#) was replaced by two adopted EU directives on Ionizing Radiation with exclusions and modifications:

- [Directive 1999/2/EC](#)—Note: this directive will not apply to irradiation carried out to comply with the conditions under the [Plant Protection Law, 1956](#). The NFS director can approve registration of a radiation facility.
- [Directive 1999/3/EC](#)

NFS has also adopted the EU lists of:

- [Approved facilities in third countries for the irradiation of foods](#)  
Local Israeli facility was approved by NFS Director  
**SorVan Radiation Ltd; שור-ואן הקרנות בע"מ**  
Co60-in gamma facility  
Soreq Nuclear Research Center SNRC  
POB 214 Yavne Israel; Zip-Code: 8180000  
(Israel) ישראל  
Tel. 972-8-9437519  
Fax. 972-8-9421597
- [Member States' authorizations of food and food ingredients which may be treated with ionizing radiation](#)
- [Approved facilities for the treatment of foods and food ingredients with ionizing radiation in the Member States](#)

### 2. Radioactive contaminants

Israel adopted regulation Euratom 2016/52 on maximum permitted levels of radioactive contamination of food and feed following a nuclear accident or any other case of radiological emergency. Modification to the adopted regulation is available in Hebrew on the NFS [web portal](#).

### 3. Acrylamide reduction

Israel adopted [regulation \(EU\) 2017/2158](#) establishing mitigation measures and benchmark levels for the reduction of the presence of acrylamide in food. The implementation of this regulation will commence on January 1, 2030.

## F. Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP)

The Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) is a mandatory certificate for manufactures of novel food and specialty food<sup>15</sup> (Hebrew only). Other food manufacturers can submit a request for voluntary certificate or labeling. The certificate may be issued by NFS or any other authorized authority recognized by the NFS, such as members of International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

The regulations for GMP<sup>16</sup> are available online.

**Image 6: Good Manufacturing Practice Label**



*Source: GMP Label - National Food Service*

## Section VIII: Geographical Indicators, Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights

### A. Geographical Indicators

Israel recognizes origin name and geographical indicators registered at the Israel Patent Office in the Ministry of Justice under the Law for [Origin Name and Geographical Indicators 1965](#). Israel is one of 29 countries who are members in the Lisbon Agreement for the protection of Appellation of Origin and their International Registration. Registered geographical indicators can be found in the Israel Patents Office - Trademarks Search [Online](#). More information, including registration, is available [online](#).

Israel has a few local geographical indicators such as: Jaffa Jaffas, Jude Wines, Judean Foothills Wines, Judean Hills Wines.

### B. Trademarks

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

All applicants must present a local address for correspondence and contact; the Government of Israel generally advises foreign trademark owners to engage a local attorney to file their

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.health.gov.il/LegislationLibrary/Health-Mazon59.pdf> (Hebrew only)

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.health.gov.il/LegislationLibrary/health-mazon04A.pdf> (Hebrew only)

applications. Trademark fees are subject to change. More information is available on the Israeli Government's Ministry of Justice Patent Office [website](#).

In general, Israel prioritizes 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, the entity which applied to register a trade or service mark in another signatory country has the right to claim priority for registration of the same mark in Israel for the same use. The priority application for registration of the trademark must be made within six months from the date of the first application in a convention country.

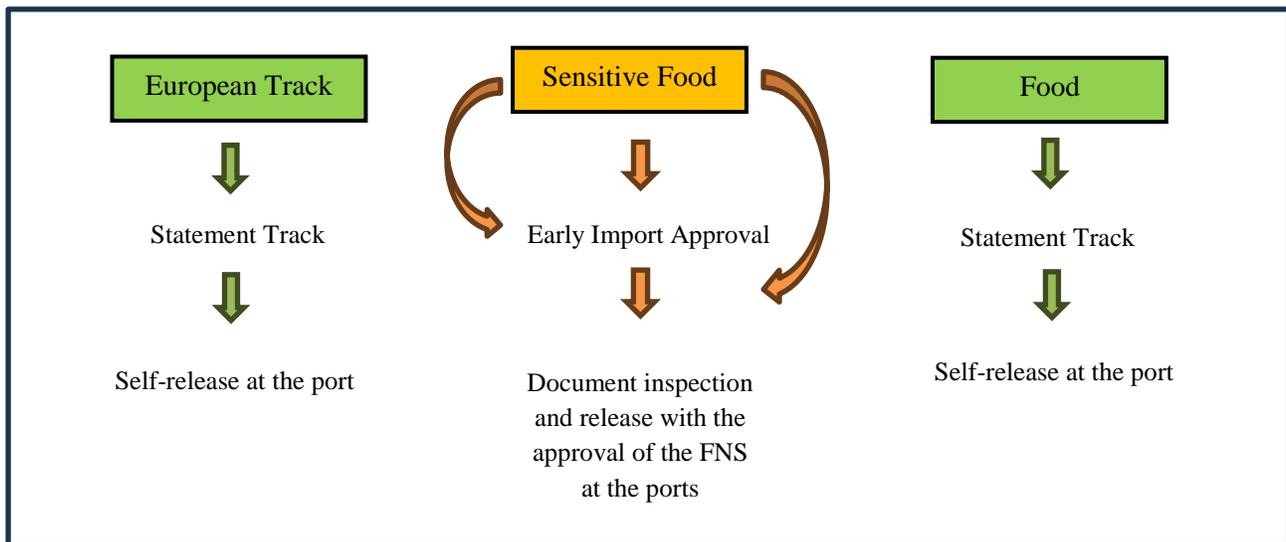
## Section IX: Import Procedures

### A. Food

Food importers must register with the NFS to import food into Israel. A list of importers holding a valid Importer Certificate is available [online](#). In addition, all food products must be registered with NFS for importation into Israel.

NFS divides food imports into two categories: non-animal foods and animal products. Non-animal foods are also categorized into two groups: sensitive and non-sensitive products. Upon registering the food product, NFS determines to which category the product belongs. The [Protection of Public Health \(Food\) \(Declaration of Sensitive Food\) 2019](#) lists which food product groups are considered sensitive. More details on the approval process by NFS are available [online](#).

**Image 7: Food Import Routes**



Source: [National Food Services – Supervision of Imported Food Unit](#)

## 1. Sensitive Foods

For those products considered sensitive, U.S. exporters are advised to work closely with Israeli importers to meet current regulations. These products may face additional barriers and scrutiny by authorities.

- [Public Health Protection Law \(Food\) 2015](#)
- [Protection of Public Health \(Food\) \(Declaration of Sensitive Food\) 2019](#)
- [Import Procedure Guide for Sensitive Foods](#)
- [regulations for the Protection of Public Health \(Food\) \(Laboratory Sample Testing of Shipments of Sensitive Food at the Quarantine Station\) 2020](#)
- [Public Health Protection Act Food \(Certificate of Release for Certain Sensitive Foods\) \(Temporary Provision\) 2022](#)

More details are available on the [Good Importer Practice \(GIP\) and European Track Importers](#) webpage.

### Importation Process for Sensitive Foods (of non-animal foods):

Prior to arrival, the importer must obtain preapproval from NFS for sensitive food products by applying via a secure [online](#) portal with required documents. The documents must be original and signed by the submitting entity (manufacturer, supplier, laboratory, authorized entity). The application undergoes review, inspection by a food engineer, and possible testing, after which the product is either approved with an import certificate or rejected with an explanation.

The following documents and any other document requested by NFS should be submitted with duplicates, signed and stamped.

- A manufacturing document detailing the product's ingredients, including source materials, additives, and their quantities.
- A relevant specification document for this product that includes the product's brand name, generic name, and any other information such as chemical and microbiological aspects, food polluting, shelf life, storage conditions and so on.
- Supervision certificates.
- Decryption of the manufacturer code according to the definition listed in this protocol.
- The product's Hebrew label.
- Additional documents in accordance with [Import Protocol 05-001](#).

More information on issuing a permit for the import of sensitive (non-animal-based) food products can be found [online](#).

### *Release from Quarantine Station*

[Protection of Public Health \(Food\) \(Laboratory Sample Testing of Shipments of Sensitive Food at the Quarantine Station\) 2020](#) regulation sets the frequency in which sensitive food shipments must be tested in an Israeli laboratory after arrival to the quarantine station. Reduced testing frequencies are allowed for certain products (dairy, canned goods, and dietary supplements) if prior tests within specified timeframes meet food legislation standards. Testing frequency varies by product type and intended use, ranging from every three to twelve months.

**Table 1: Certain “Sensitive” Food Products**

1. Eggs and egg products
2. Honey and honey products
3. Products containing gelatin, collagen products, or both
4. Low-acid canned food (pH $\geq$ 4.5)
5. Food products that must be stored, kept, or transported at a controlled temperature or a defined temperature, as defined by law, provided that the temperature is less than eight degrees Celsius
6. Mushrooms and mushroom mixtures, including products in which mushrooms are a primary ingredient
7. Microorganisms for use in the food industry or as a finished product
8. Bottled drinking water, mineral water, and mineral water-based beverages
9. Edible food colors for the retail market

*Source: Public Health Protection Act Food (Certificate of Release for Certain Sensitive Foods) (Temporary Provision) 2022.*

## **2. Non-Sensitive Foods**

Imported food products are inspected and released based on valid import approvals and declarations, with testing conducted at quarantine stations and approved laboratories. Importers must submit required documents, pay fees, and follow specific procedures, including online applications. Conditional release is possible with a bank guarantee and a commitment not to market goods until lab results confirm compliance. Only licensed importers with a valid food importer registration certificate and the necessary import approvals or declarations may submit a release request for food products. The general public is allowed to import food for personal use in limited quantities, as specified under [personal import regulations](#). More details are available on NFS [Release of Imported Food Products \(Non-Animal Food\)](#) webpage.

## **3. European Track**

Importers must register as “Proper Importers” by submitting a quality control plan and signed declaration of compliance. This track reduces import inspection. Training tools, frequently asked questions, and related regulations are available on NFS [Proper Importer Track and European Import Track](#) webpage.

## **4. Animal Food Products**

NFS’s Veterinary Unit oversees the import of fish, fish products, meat, and animal-based food products into Israel. Veterinary inspectors stationed at border control stations supervise the import process and issue permits for product entry. Importers must coordinate with the Veterinary Unit to obtain a registration certificate, import approval for each product, and follow procedures for shipment inspection, permit issuance, and storage at controlled temperatures. All actions may be managed through the Food Portal.

The import process for animal-based food involves three main stages:

1. Issuing a permit to transfer the shipment from the port
2. Inspecting the shipment's contents
3. Issuing a permit for entry into Israel

Importers must submit required documents online, pay fees, and coordinate inspections with veterinary border control stations. Shipments are held in approved cold storage facilities until lab results confirm compliance. If results are satisfactory, an entry permit is issued; if not, the shipment may be destroyed or returned to the country of origin. More information may be found [online](#).

## 5. Alcoholic Beverages

Alcoholic beverages may be imported to Israel through three main tracks:

- Commercial Track - Beverages intended for general commercial sales, excluding high-quality or unique beverages.
- High-Quality and Unique Track - Beverages meeting specific criteria, such as PGI/PDO-labeled wines, spirits aged at least 12 years or beverages with a minimum purchase price of 15 EUR per 750ml bottle.
- Sample Track - Non-commercial samples, limited to a total volume of 9 liters, without requiring prior import approval.

All imports require pre-approval before shipment to Israel and a compliance certificate upon arrival for customs clearance. Testing and documentation are handled through certified laboratories.

As of January 2, 2025, NFS information on imports of alcoholic beverages is available [online](#).

## B. Plants and Plant Products

[Plant Protection Regulations \(Plant Import, Plant Products, Pests and Regulated Articles\) - 2009](#) are under the supervision of the MoAFS' Plant Protection Inspection Service (PPIS) and Food Security. Permits are mandatory to import fresh produce, plants, plant products, seeds, propagation material, and biotic material; permits are necessary for each shipment. Plants and plant products may only be brought into Israel with a valid permit issued by PPIS. Exporters may request an import permit by contacting the PPIS Import Department.

Applications for the import permit should be submitted a minimum of 45 days prior to import. The permit request forms and documentation needed, according to the import type (fresh produce, plants, plant products/ seeds/ biotic material), are available in the PPIS webpages:

- [Plants and plants products import license](#)
- [ePhyto certificate registration and entry](#)
- [Agricultural import license application](#)

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.

PPIS' regulations categorize imported plant products into three risk-based groups:

1. Third Schedule - Exempt from import permits and phytosanitary certificates but require a certificate of origin and visual inspection.

2. Fourth Schedule - Exempt from import permits but require phytosanitary certificates of origin, approval of all the documents, visual inspection and compliance with import terms.
3. Licensed Import - Requires an import permit, phytosanitary certificate, and pest risk assessment; require visual inspection at the port of entry as a condition for release.

All shipments undergo mandatory inspection upon arrival. The PPIS has implemented the “ePhyto” system for electronic phytosanitary certificates, requiring agents to complete online training before accessing the system.

### **C. Animal Feed**

The import of animal feed into Israel is regulated by IVSAH under the [Procedure for Importing Animal Feed](#). Importers must obtain a specific import permit for each shipment, ensuring compliance with health and safety standards. The process includes submitting an application with required documents, paying fees, and undergoing inspections at border control stations. Shipments are subject to document verification, physical inspections, and laboratory testing based on risk assessments. If the shipment meets all requirements, a release certificate is issued; otherwise, the goods may be returned to the country of origin or destroyed. Importers are responsible for maintaining compliance and notifying authorities of any changes to shipment details.

Noncommercial feed can be imported with restrictions as detailed in [Procedure for Personal Import of Pet Food to Israel](#).

### **D. Live Animals**

Importation of Live Animals (including semen and embryos) is regulated under [Animal Disease Regulations \(Imports of Animals\) 1974](#). IVSAH allows individuals or entities to apply for a veterinary import permit for various animal groups. Applicants must submit required documents, proof of fee payment, and additional permits. Applications must be submitted [online](#) at least 10 days before import; processing may take up to 14 business days. Approved permits are sent via Israel Post.

Separate regulations for animal groups are available online:

- [Importing dogs and cats](#)
- [Importing ornamental birds](#)
- [Import of farm poultry](#)
- [Importing chicks and hatching eggs](#)
- [Importing fish](#)
- [Importing horses](#)

The Veterinary Services has updated Israel's import requirements for horses and equine semen (May 7, 2025) based on changes made by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) regarding equine diseases. Import permits must now include the updated certificates or requirements by WOAH, and imports using old certificates will no longer be approved. However, importers with valid permits issued before the update may proceed under the previous requirements if the horses enter quarantine before the permit expires. Importers are advised to prepare accordingly.

For U.S. exporters, veterinary certificates should be issued by a USDA accredited veterinarian and endorsed by USDA's Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service (APHIS) after issuance.

## **Section X: Trade Facilitation**

### **A. Advance Rulings**

Israeli Customs provides [free pre-ruling classification information](#). A request for early classification determinations for commercial goods can be submitted at the [Department of Customs, Tax Authority, Israel Ministry of Finance](#) through the [Application for Preliminary Information - Classification of Goods in Import](#).

According to the Chapters of the Customs Tariff, the Department of Customs has custom houses assigned to the subjects responsible for classification purposes (according to the Chapters of the Customs Tariff). Each custom house provides classification on different custom headings. See Appendix I for the relevant custom houses and contact information for agriculture and food products.

When requesting classification information, one should send a detailed description of the goods and include a catalog and/or prospects which contain the technical information and/or any other relevant information. In addition, one may be requested to submit one or more of the following:

- A sample of the material/product
- Laboratory results
- Authorizations from institutes/authorized government agencies
- Importation license
- Other documents as required by the specific Customs Houses

The customs duties that must be paid upon import of a product depend on the tariff classification applicable to the product. The Israeli Tax Authority [Custom Book](#) is available online in English.

### **B. E-certificates**

Israel accepts ePhyto from APHIS (see [APHIS's Electronic Phytosanitary Certification](#)). In addition, Israel accepts the [Veterinary Export Health Certification System VEHCS](#) certification to import all live animals. Israel continues to exchange information with the [International Plant Protection Convention Secretariat \(IPPC\) Hub](#).

### **C. Release Times**

The release time for agriculture and food products depends mainly on whether Israel considers the product sensitive. The release time for sensitive products is longer than that of non-sensitive products. Release times are also longer near the Jewish High Holidays, which occur in March/April and September/October each year. The most common reason for the delay in agriculture and food products is incomplete documentation or discrepancies within the required paperwork. A common delay in Israel is getting the wrong certificate issued or leaving off required statements/declarations. Please work closely with your local importer to ensure all technical requirements are covered before shipping.

Appendix I: Government and Regulatory Agency Contacts

**Israel General Government and Regulatory Agency Directory**

<https://www.gov.il/en/departments/govil-landing-page>

**Ministry of Health**

Yirmiyahu Street 39

Jerusalem, Postal Code: 9101002, P.O. Box: 1176

Tel: +972-2-5081325

Fax: +972-2-5655993

Email: [sar@moh.gov.il](mailto:sar@moh.gov.il)

Website: [https://www.gov.il/he/departments/ministry\\_of\\_health/govil-landing-page](https://www.gov.il/he/departments/ministry_of_health/govil-landing-page)

**National Food Service**

236 Yaffo St.

Jerusalem, 7th and 8th floors

Tel: +972-8-6241010

Fax: +972-2-5655969

Call center: \*5400

Email: [call.habriut@moh.health.gov.il](mailto:call.habriut@moh.health.gov.il)

Website: [https://www.gov.il/he/departments/units/food\\_control\\_unit/govil-landing-page](https://www.gov.il/he/departments/units/food_control_unit/govil-landing-page)

**Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security**

PO Box 30

5025001, Beit Dagan, Israel

Tel: +972-3-9485555

Fax: +972-3-9485835

Call center: \*6016

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

Website: [https://www.gov.il/he/departments/ministry\\_of\\_agriculture\\_and\\_food\\_security/govil-landing-page](https://www.gov.il/he/departments/ministry_of_agriculture_and_food_security/govil-landing-page)

**Israel Veterinary and Animal Health Services (IVSAH)**

PO Box 30

5025001, Beit Dagan, Israel

Tel: +972-3-9688981

Fax: +972-3-9681657

E-mail: [sharonl@moag.gov.il](mailto:sharonl@moag.gov.il)

Website: <https://www.gov.il/he/departments/Units/2vet>

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

PO Box 30

5025001, Bet Dagan, Israel

Tel: +972-3-9681500

Fax: +972-3-9681507

E-mail: [Ppis\\_web@moag.gov.il](mailto:Ppis_web@moag.gov.il)

Website: <https://www.gov.il/he/departments/Units/2ppis>

### **Center for Foreign Trade and International Cooperation**

PO Box 30

5025001, Bet Dagan, Israel

Tel: +972-3-9485760

Fax: +972-3-9485586

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

### **Ministry for Environmental Protection**

Bank Israel Street 7

Generi Building 2, Jerusalem, 9195024

Tel: +972 -73-2733351

Fax: +972-74-7675995

Call center: \*6911

Email: [pniot@sviva.gov.il](mailto:pniot@sviva.gov.il)

Website: [https://www.gov.il/he/departments/ministry\\_of\\_environmental\\_protection/govil-landing-page](https://www.gov.il/he/departments/ministry_of_environmental_protection/govil-landing-page)

### **Ministry of Economy and Industry**

Bank of Israel 5

Jerusalem 9195021

Online form: <https://govforms.gov.il/mw/forms/mapatz@moital.gov.il#!personalDetails>

Fax: +972-74-7058815

Website: [https://www.gov.il/he/departments/ministry\\_of\\_economy/govil-landing-page](https://www.gov.il/he/departments/ministry_of_economy/govil-landing-page)

### **Competition Authority**

Am VeOlamo Street 4

P.O. Box 34281, Jerusalem, 9134102

Tel: +972-2-5458500

Fax: +972-2-5458555

Email: [lishka@competition.gov.il](mailto:lishka@competition.gov.il)

Website: <https://www.gov.il/he/departments/competition/govil-landing-page>

### **The Standard Institute of Israel (SII)**

42 Chaim Levanon St.

Tel Aviv 6997701

Tel: +972-3-6465154

Phone Directory: <https://www.sii.org.il/en/service-center/>

Webpage: <https://www.sii.org.il/en/>

### **Ministry of Finance**

Kaplan 1

Jerusalem 9195015

Fax: +972-2-5695347

Phone directory: <https://www.gov.il/he/pages/connection>

Webpage: [https://www.gov.il/he/departments/ministry\\_of\\_finance/govil-landing-page](https://www.gov.il/he/departments/ministry_of_finance/govil-landing-page)

### **Israel Tax Authority**

The incoming calls routing system of the Israel Tax Authority: +972-74-7619848

Phone/Email directory: <https://www.gov.il/apps/taxes/taxes/#/kabalat-kahal/en>

Website: [https://www.gov.il/en/departments/israel\\_tax\\_authority/govil-landing-page](https://www.gov.il/en/departments/israel_tax_authority/govil-landing-page)

### **Ministry of Religious Services**

Kanfei Nesharim Street 7

Jerusalem

Tel: +972-2-5311111

Website: [https://www.gov.il/he/departments/ministry\\_of\\_religious\\_services/govil-landing-page](https://www.gov.il/he/departments/ministry_of_religious_services/govil-landing-page)

### **Chief Rabbinate of Israel**

5 Ohaliav Street

P.O. Box 36016

Jerusalem 9446778

Tel: +972-2-5313131

Website: [https://www.gov.il/he/departments/chief\\_rabbinate\\_of\\_israel/govil-landing-page](https://www.gov.il/he/departments/chief_rabbinate_of_israel/govil-landing-page)

### **Ministry of Justice**

2 Wolfson Boulevard,

David Ben-Gurion Government Quarter

Jerusalem, 9711052.

Post address: P.O.B 49029, Jerusalem, Zip Code: 9149001

Tel: +972 -73-3923461

Website: [https://www.gov.il/en/departments/ministry\\_of\\_justice/govil-landing-page](https://www.gov.il/en/departments/ministry_of_justice/govil-landing-page)

### **Israel Patent Office**

Main number

Agudat Hasport Hapoel 1

Jerusalem, Eshel Bldg (number 5)

Tel: +972-73-3927100

Fax+972-2-6467018

Email: [patent@justice.gov.il](mailto:patent@justice.gov.il)

Website: <https://www.gov.il/en/departments/ilpo/govil-landing-page>

## **Appendix II: Sensitive Food Products that Require Additional Documentation**

- Milk products
  - Manufacturer's declaration on the manufacturing process. Certificate of Analysis includes phosphate and microbiological test results.
  - MRL test results
  - Veterinary Certificate
- Meat products
  - USDA Certificate or EU Certificate
- Low Acid Products (PH  $\geq$ 4.5)
  - Low-Acid Canned Foods (LACF) Certificate
- Raw Materials for Nutritional Supplements
  - GMP
  - Certificate of Analysis
  - Self-life signed by the manufacturer
- Medical Food and Baby and Infant Formulas
  - Certificate from an accredited body that the manufacturing facility is under supervision
  - Free Sale Certificate: in the event that the manufacturer does not have an FCS, the manufacturer must provide reasoning
  - GMP or HACCP
  - Original packaging, as sold in the manufacturing country
  - Complete product composition
  - Nutritional values
  - Medical foods must include nutritional values according to the purpose of the product
  - Microbiological testing
  - Chemical testing
  - Declaration with a list of food additives and their quantity
  - Stability Test or Shelf-Life declaration signed by the manufacturer
  - Decoding of codes
  - Manufacturer declaration of the intended usage of the product, including age
  - For liquid foods
    - Product density
    - LACF Certificate
  - If the manufacturer is making product claims, the manufacturer must provide scientific proof supporting the claims

### **Attachments:**

No Attachments