

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Israel Seeks Public Comments on Draft Order - Temporary Exemption from Microbiological Testing Requirements for Frozen Fruits and Vegetables

Country: Israel

Post: Tel Aviv

Report Category: Country/Regional FTA's, Trade Policy Monitoring, Vegetables

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Report Highlights:

On January 20, 2026, the Israeli Ministry of Economy and Industry (MoEI) published a request for public comments on Draft Order: Temporary Exemption from Microbiological Testing Requirements for Frozen Fruits and Vegetables. The publication is open for public comment until January 27, 2026, 23:59 (Israel Standard Time).

A. Background

On January 20, 2026, the Israeli Ministry of Economy and Industry (MoEI) published a draft order for public comment that would temporarily exempt certain importers and manufacturers from the microbiological testing requirements¹ outlined in Section 209 of SI 877,² the official standard for frozen fruits and vegetables. This move is part of a broader government effort to streamline food import and production regulations, reduce barriers to entry, and enhance consumer choice.

The exemption applies exclusively to frozen fruits and vegetables that are classified as "not ready-to-eat." To qualify, importers must be registered as a "Proper Importer," while manufacturers are required to hold a proper manufacturing permit, or, in the case of gluten-free products, operate under an approved self-control food safety program. All products benefiting from the exemption must include detailed, validated cooking instructions on their packaging to ensure that pathogens are reduced to safe levels. Additionally, the exemption is contingent upon the implementation of a food safety management system in accordance with Israeli law. This temporary measure will remain in effect until August 1, 2026, when the official status of Section 209 is scheduled to be revoked as part of ongoing regulatory reforms.

This exemption is part of ongoing regulatory reforms in Israel's food sector. The MoEI, in coordination with the Ministry of Health and other relevant authorities, has outlined strict conditions for eligibility, including registration of importers and manufacturers, implementation of food safety management systems, and clear labeling with validated cooking instructions. Exemption applies only to products classified as "not ready-to-eat" and is intended to ensure consumer safety while reducing regulatory burdens.

B. Submission of Comments

This publication is open for **public comments until January 27, 2026, 23:59 (Israel Standard Time)**.

- To submit comments, users must first register on the [Tazkirim](https://tazkirim.gov.il) 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 MoEI reserves the right to invite submitters to present their positions. The MoEI may utilize the content of the submitted documents to shape its position before publishing the announcement in the records. Please note that the submission of a position paper in response to this request implies consent for publication, as explained above.

C. Rationale and Impact to U.S. Exporters

The draft order is intended to open the Israeli market to greater competition, lower costs for importers and manufacturers, and align local standards with international practices. The measure is expected to

¹<https://tazkirim.gov.il>

² <https://ibr.sii.org.il/ibr/#/standards/1>

benefit U.S. exporters of frozen fruits and vegetables by reducing regulatory burdens and facilitating market access. The Israeli government has emphasized that public health will be safeguarded through strict eligibility criteria and oversight.

Stakeholders are encouraged to monitor further regulatory developments and ensure compliance with all specified conditions to benefit from the exemption. The reform is expected to support increased competition in the Israeli market and potentially expand opportunities for U.S. exporters.

Attachments:

[01-Draft Order - Hebrew Original.docx](#)

[01-Draft Order - Unofficial Translation.docx](#)

[02-Regulatory Impact Assessment \(RIA\) - Google Translate.pdf](#)

[02-Regulatory Impact Assessment \(RIA\) - Hebrew Original.pdf](#)