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Report Name: Israel Adopts Additional European Union Standards for Agricultural Imports

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Report Highlights:

On August 4, 2024, the Government of Israel published the “Tenth Amendment to the Protection of Public Health (Food) – 2015” legislation under the Food Reform Law, which adopted more than 40 new food directives and regulations aligning with European Union standards. The legislation will be implemented on January 1, 2025, for most food products, and is subject to changes and transition periods. An appendix is attached to note the changes in regulations which could impact U.S. agricultural exports to Israel.

A. Disclaimer

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs/Tel Aviv office, 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 PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Access to updates in the legislation or proposed/revised implementation dates (in draft form) are only accessible to those subscribed to the Nevo Legal Database.¹ As a result, Israeli importers heavily rely on lawyers subscribed to the database to remain informed of implementation dates.

As Section 105 of the Food Reform Law was not included in the amendment, the changes do not apply to importers which are defined as those operating in “areas within the territories of the Palestinian Council.”²

B. Legislative Background and History

Adoption of the Food Reform Law

In 2022, the Government of Israel (GOI) adopted several European Union (EU) food safety standards under an economic reform and integrated them into the “Food Reform Law”³ as a part of the “2021 Economic Plan Law.”⁴ Reportedly, the reform was implemented by the Israeli government with the aim of lowering the country’s high cost of living.⁵

In January 2023, four EU regulations related to chemical and biological contaminants and pesticide residues were implemented, as part of expanding the reform. These adopted measures were published in English by the Israeli government and are referenced in the EUR-Lex website.⁶ (See [GAIN Report IS2021-0013: Israel Passes Amendments to Ease Food Imports](#) for more information).⁷ However, these measures represented only one aspect of Israel’s comprehensive food legislation, which led to a further amendments to the Food Reform Law in August 2024.

¹ המשפטי המאגר - נבו (nevo.co.il)

² As defined in the addendum to the amendment and extension law Validity of Emergency Regulations (Judea and Samaria - Judging of Offenses and Legal Aid), 1967-; 2007).

³ Official name of the law: Protection of Public Health Law (Food) -- 2015

⁴ Official name of the law: 2021 Economic Plan Law, 2021 (Legislative Amendments for the Implementation of Economic Policy for the 2021 and 2022 Budget Years)

⁵ See, e.g., <https://www.timesofisrael.com/government-adopts-european-food-standards-in-bid-to-tackle-cost-of-living/#:~:text=The%20adoption%20of%20European%20food,Israeli%20importers%20on%20that%20date>

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>

⁷ <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Israel%20Passes%20Amendments%20to%20Ease%20Food%20Imports%20Tel%20Aviv%20Israel%2011-26-2021>

The 2024 Amendment to the Food Reform Law

Israel recently proceeded to further integrate EU legislation by amending the Food Reform Law via the “Tenth Amendment⁸ to the Protection of the Public Health (Food) – 2015,”⁹ hereinafter known as “Amendment No. 10.” Prior to approving the amendment, the Israeli government sent a notification to the World Trade Organization’s Committee on Technical Barriers¹⁰ (See [GAIN Report IS2024-0010: Israel Notifies WTO of Proposed Import Standard Regulations Related to the European Union](#)).¹¹

On August 4, 2024, Amendment No. 10 was published in the official records -- not only as part of the ongoing food reform, but also as part of a broader reform led by the Israeli Ministry of Economy -- known as "What is good for Europe is good for Israel," (which included adopting regulations on other consumer goods). Amendment No. 10 will come into force on January 1, 2025, and will have different transition periods within the next few years to harmonize food standards and regulations to the EU.

C. Main Points of Amendment No. 10 to the Food Reform Law

Adopting 40 New EU Regulations

Israel adopted 40 new EU regulations which are subject to expansions, conditions, modifications, and exemptions. With certain adjustments, this legislation applies to all “food operators,” herein defined as all manufacturers, importers, and marketers. A list of the new regulations can be found in Appendix I of this report.

Importers Must Implement a Food Safety Plan

Under the 2021 Economic Plan Law, “Proper Importers”¹² were required to register with the Ministry of Health and have a quality and safety control plan for every product that is imported through the “European Track,” (a route which allows importers to import a product that is already sold in the EU). However, Amendment No. 10 expanded this requirement to cover all food operators, including those which sell in bulk and to implement a food safety control plan by August 2026.

Notably, as Section 105 of the Food Reform Law was not included in the amendment, the changes do not apply to importers which are operating in “areas” identified as the “territories of the Palestinian Council.”¹³

⁸ https://fs.knesset.gov.il/25/law/25_lsr_4758414.pdf (Hebrew only)

⁹ https://www.nevo.co.il/law_html/law01/049_062.htm (Hebrew only)

¹⁰ [Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade - G/TBT/N/ISR/1332/Rev.1](#)

¹¹ https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Israel%20Notifies%20WTO%20of%20Proposed%20Import%20Standard%20Regulations%20Related%20to%20the%20European%20Union_Tel%20Aviv_Israel_IS2024-0010

¹² A “Proper importer” is defined in the Import Reform 2022 in <https://govextra.gov.il/media/durokv24/the-import-reform2022.pdf>.

¹³ As defined in the addendum to the amendment and extension law Validity of Emergency Regulations (Judea and Samaria - Judging of Offenses and Legal Aid), 1967-; 2007.

Deepening the European Track for “Proper Importers”

Rather than conducting approvals throughout the import process, the amendment requires that an importer must self-declare (with documentation) its intent to import a product, if the product is already sold in the EU. This enforcement mechanism was created to shift risk management and quality control responsibilities for food products to the food operators.

D. Future Changes and Transition Periods

Implementation and Transition Dates¹⁴

There is a three-year transition period starting January 1, 2025 for the 40 new regulations in Amendment No 10., with the Minister of Health having the authority to extend the transition period two times per year, as long as the extension is justified (the maximum extension of the transitional period being five years). However, implementation periods could be expedited for some products, pending any new updates to the legislation. As previously noted, some updates to changes of implementation dates may be available (in draft form) in the Nevo Legal Database.

NOTE: On January 1, 2025, the new regulations regarding benchmarks to reduce the presence of acrylamide in food will come into force, and all food operators must adopt acrylamide standards (listed in Regulation [2017/2158](#)) by January 1, 2030. This is the only new measure with a different implementation period at present.

Maintaining Four Pre-Existing Regulations

Although there were 40 new amendments to the Food Reform Law, section “Second Addendum A” within the Food Reform Law maintained four pre-existing regulations (labeled as “Contaminants in Food” and found in Appendix 1¹⁵). These regulations were originally adopted on January 1, 2023, and are listed below:

1. Maximum Level Residues (MRLs) for Certain Contaminants in Food
2. MRLs of Mercury Compounds in Certain Products
3. Microbiological Criteria for Food
4. MRLs of Pesticides in Food or Feed of Plant or Animal Origin (or on them)

For these four pre-existing regulations,¹⁶ a transitional provision was applied until December 31, 2024, for a manufacturer or importer who is not considered a “Proper Importer.” To receive this transitional provision, one must submit a form online via the Ministry of Health website¹⁷ stating that a specific food product mentioned in the notification, which is produced in Israel or exported to Israel, complies with the law as it stood on December 31, 2022. Under [Regulation 396/2005](#) concerning pesticide residues, those importing or producing processed products (except for importers using the European Track) must adopt provisions laid out in the regulation by December 31, 2026.

¹⁴ Note: For more information, see Appendix I detailing the list of adopted European legislation.

¹⁵ Items 1-4

¹⁶ Under Section 58(a) of Amendment No. 10

¹⁷ <https://www.gov.il/he/pages/proper-importer>

Future Changes to the Legislation

As part of the broader “What’s good for Europe is good for Israel” reform, Israel passed an amendment to the “Import and Export Ordinance”¹⁸ (an Israeli law that regulates trade) to establish an “**Exceptions Committee**” whose role will be to recommend exceptions to the Ordinance. The Committee consists of the following persons:

1. An employee of the Prime Minister's Office to be appointed by the General Director of the Prime Minister's Office and he will be the Chairman;
2. The Director General of the Ministry of Justice, or an employee of the Ministry of Justice appointed for this matter;
3. The person in charge of “import legality” in the Ministry of Economy and Industry;
4. An employee of the Budgets Division in the Ministry of Finance appointed by the Commissioner of Budgets;
5. An employee of the Competition Authority appointed by the Competition Commissioner;
6. “The person in charge of standardization;”
7. The Commissioner of the Authority for Consumer Protection and Fair Trade or an employee of the Authority appointed by the Commissioner for Consumer Protection and Fair Trade for this matter.

According to “Section 3A” of the Food Reform Law, the Minister of Health will have the authority to expand the legislation (particularly if modifications are made within EU legislation itself) through the establishment of a “**Professional Advisory Committee.**” The Committee consists of the following persons:

1. The Director of the Israeli Food Control Service (IFCS) and two IFCS employees, one of whom, as determined by the Director of the IFCS, will be the Chairperson.
2. A representative of the Minister of Health from among the employees of his office.
3. A representative of the Minister of Economy and Industry from among the employees of his office.
4. A representative of the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security from among the employees of his office.
5. Representatives from the public as follows:
 1. “Two-to-six experts”
 2. A representative of a food manufacturers’ organization
 3. A representative of a food marketers’ organization
 4. A representative of a food importers’ organization
 5. A representative of a farmers’ organization

¹⁸ <https://apps.economy.gov.il/Apps/FreeImport/>

Specifications of Changes to the Food Reform Law

In “Second Addendum A” of Amendment No. 10, the adopted regulations and directives were updated as outlined below, with the adopted EU legislation listed in Appendix I.

Column A: Specifies matters that are excluded from the European legislation and for which local food legislation will apply.

Column B: Specifies regulations and directives that are not adopted, without an alternative set in the local legislation.

Column C: Specifies changes or conditions in the European legislation or expansions to such European legislation.

Appendix I - List of Adopted European Legislation

44 EU Directives and Regulation Approved for Implementation in Amendment No. 10:¹⁹

Note: Directives and regulations listed below are subject to conditions, modifications, or expansions, as stated in the Food Reform Law (Section 3A). “Text with EEA relevance” refers to the European Economic Area (EEA)—Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway.

Directive or Regulation Index Number (Web Link to EUR-Lex)	Item Number in the Second Addendum A of the Food Reform Law	Directive or Regulation Name
Group 1 – Contaminants in Food:		
2023/915	1	Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/915 of 25 April 2023 on maximum levels for certain contaminants in food and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 (Text with EEA relevance)
2018/73	2	Commission Regulation (EU) 2018/73 of 16 January 2018 amending Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for mercury compounds in or on certain products (Text with EEA relevance)
2073/2005	3	Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 of 15 November 2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs (Text with EEA relevance)
396/2005	4	Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 February 2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and amending Council Directive 91/414/EEC Text with EEA relevance
Group 2 – Labeling, Including Messages and Prohibited/Restricted Substances in Food:		
1169/2011	5	Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers, amending Regulations (EC) No 1924/2006 and (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Commission Directive 87/250/EEC, Council Directive 90/496/EEC, Commission Directive 1999/10/EC, Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Commission Directives 2002/67/EC and 2008/5/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) No 608/2004 Text with EEA relevance
828/2014	6	Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 828/2014 of 30 July 2014 on the requirements for the provision of

¹⁹https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/policy/fcs-262994724/he/files_regulation_fcs_fcs-262994724.pdf (Hebrew Only)

		information to consumers on the absence or reduced presence of gluten in food Text with EEA relevance
1925/2006	7	Regulation (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on the addition of vitamins and minerals and of certain other substances to foods
1924/2006	29	Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods
432/2012	30	Commission Regulation (EU) No 432/2012 of 16 May 2012 establishing a list of permitted health claims made on foods, other than those referring to the reduction of disease risk and to children's development and health Text with EEA relevance
384/2010	31	Commission Regulation (EU) No 384/2010 of 5 May 2010 on the authorization and refusal of authorization of certain health claims made on foods and referring to the reduction of disease risk and to children's development and health (Text with EEA relevance)
440/2011	31	Commission Regulation (EU) No 440/2011 of 6 May 2011 on the authorization and refusal of authorization of certain health claims made on foods and referring to children's development and health Text with EEA relevance
665/2011	31	Commission Regulation (EU) No 665/2011 of 11 July 2011 on the authorization and refusal of authorization of certain health claims made on foods and referring to the reduction of disease risk Text with EEA relevance
957/2010	31	Commission Regulation (EU) No 957/2010 of 22 October 2010 on the authorization and refusal of authorization of certain health claims made on foods and referring to the reduction of disease risk and to children's development and health Text with EEA relevance
983/2009	31	Commission Regulation (EC) No 983/2009 of 21 October 2009 on the authorization and refusal of authorization of certain health claims made on food and referring to the reduction of disease risk and to children's development and health (Text with EEA relevance)
1024/2009	31	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1024/2009 of 29 October 2009 on the authorization and refusal of authorization of certain health claims made on food and referring to the reduction of disease risk and to children's development and health (Text with EEA relevance)
1048/2012	31	Commission Regulation (EU) No 1048/2012 of 8 November 2012 on the authorization of a health claim made on foods and referring to the reduction of disease risk Text with EEA relevance

1135/2014	31	Commission Regulation (EU) No 1135/2014 of 24 October 2014 on the authorization of a health claim made on foods and referring to the reduction of disease risk Text with EEA relevance
1160/2011	31	Commission Regulation (EU) No 1160/2011 of 14 November 2011 on the authorization and refusal of authorization of certain health claims made on foods and referring to the reduction of disease risk Text with EEA relevance
1226/2014	31	Commission Regulation (EU) No 1226/2014 of 17 November 2014 on the authorization of a health claim made on foods and referring to the reduction of disease risk Text with EEA relevance
1228/2014	31	Commission Regulation (EU) No 1228/2014 of 17 November 2014 authorizing and refusing to authorize certain health claims made on foods and referring to the reduction of disease risk Text with EEA relevance
2009/980	31	Commission Decision of 17 December 2009 authorizing a health claim on the effect of water-soluble tomato concentrate on platelet aggregation and granting the protection of proprietary data under Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council (notified under document C(2009) 10113) (Text with EEA relevance)
2016/1389	31	Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/1389 of 17 August 2016 authorizing a health claim made on foods and referring to children's development and health (Text with EEA relevance)
2023/648	31	Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/648 of 20 March 2023 authorizing a health claim made on foods and referring to the reduction of disease risk (Text with EEA relevance)
Group 3 – Food Improvement Agents - FIA:		
1333/2008	8	Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on food additives (Text with EEA relevance)
231/2012	9	Commission Regulation (EU) No 231/2012 of 9 March 2012 laying down specifications for food additives listed in Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council Text with EEA relevance
1332/2008	10	Regulation (EC) No 1332/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on food enzymes and amending Council Directive 83/417/EEC, Council Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999, Directive 2000/13/EC, Council Directive 2001/112/EC and Regulation (EC) No 258/97 (Text with EEA relevance)

1334/2008	11	Regulation (EC) No 1334/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on flavorings and certain food ingredients with flavoring properties for use in and on foods and amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 1601/91, Regulations (EC) No 2232/96 and (EC) No 110/2008 and Directive 2000/13/EC (Text with EEA relevance)
2065/2003	12	Regulation (EC) No 2065/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 November 2003 on smoke flavorings used or intended for use in or on foods
1321/2013	13	Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1321/2013 of 10 December 2013 establishing the Union list of authorized smoke flavoring primary products for use as such in or on foods and/or for the production of derived smoke flavorings Text with EEA relevance
2009/32/EC	14	Directive 2009/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States on extraction solvents used in the production of foodstuffs and food ingredients (Recast) (Text with EEA relevance)
Group 4 – Materials in Contact with Food - FCM:		
1935/2004	15	Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 October 2004 on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food and repealing Directives 80/590/EEC and 89/109/EEC
10/2011	16	Commission Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 of 14 January 2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food Text with EEA relevance
450/2009	17	Commission Regulation (EC) No 450/2009 of 29 May 2009 on active and intelligent materials and articles intended to come into contact with food (Text with EEA relevance)
84/500/EEC	18	Council Directive 84/500/EEC of 15 October 1984 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to ceramic articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs
2007/42/EC	19	Commission Directive 2007/42/EC of 29 June 2007 relating to materials and articles made of regenerated cellulose film intended to come into contact with foodstuffs (Codified version) (Text with EEA relevance)
1895/2005	20	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1895/2005 of 18 November 2005 on the restriction of use of certain epoxy derivatives in materials and articles intended to come into contact with food (Text with EEA relevance)
93/11/EEC	21	Commission Directive 93/11/EEC of 15 March 1993 concerning the release of the N-nitrosamines and N-nitrosatable substances from elastomer or rubber teats and

		soothers
Group 5 – Contaminants and Other Methods:		
2016/52	22	Council Regulation (Euratom) 2016/52 of 15 January 2016 laying down maximum permitted levels of radioactive contamination of food and feed following a nuclear accident or any other case of radiological emergency, and repealing Regulation (Euratom) No 3954/87 and Commission Regulations (Euratom) No 944/89 and (Euratom) No 770/90
2017/2158	23	Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/2158 of 20 November 2017 establishing mitigation measures and benchmark levels for the reduction of the presence of acrylamide in food (Text with EEA relevance.)
1999/2/EC	27	Directive 1999/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 February 1999 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning foods and food ingredients treated with ionizing radiation
1999/3/EC	28	Directive 1999/3/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 February 1999 on the establishment of a community list of foods and food ingredients treated with ionizing radiation
Group 6 – Mineral Water and Spring Water		
2009/54/EC	24	Directive 2009/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2009 on the exploitation and marketing of natural mineral waters (Recast) (Text with EEA relevance)
2003/40/EC	25	Commission Directive 2003/40/EC of 16 May 2003 establishing the list, concentration limits and labelling requirements for the constituents of natural mineral waters and the conditions for using ozone-enriched air for the treatment of natural mineral waters and spring waters
115/2010	26	Commission Regulation (EU) No 115/2010 of 9 February 2010 laying down the conditions for use of activated alumina for the removal of fluoride from natural mineral waters and spring waters (Text with EEA relevance)

Attachments:

[Tenth Amendment to the Protection of Public Health \(Food\) - 2015 \(Unofficial Google Translation\).pdf](#)

[Official Notice to Food Importers about Amendment No. 10 \(Hebrew Version\).pdf](#)

[Official Notice to Food Importers about Amendment No. 10 \(Unofficial Google Translation\).docx](#)

[Tenth Amendment to the Protection of Public Health \(Food\) 2015 \(Hebrew Version\).pdf](#)

[Protection of Public Health Law \(Food\) - 2015 \(Hebrew Version\).doc](#)

[Protection of Public Health Law \(Food\) - 2015 \(Unofficial Google Translation\).docx](#)