



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Required Report - public distribution

Date: 8/09/2005

GAIN Report Number: IS5009

Israel

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Country Report

2005

Approved by:

Fred Giles
U.S. Embassy, Cairo

Prepared by:

Gilad Shachar

Report Highlights:

The following sections have been updated:

- Biotechnology Policy
- Organic Food Products
- By the end of CY 2005, the Standards Institution of Israel will publish new standards for the following products: Butter (SI 323), Wheat flour (SI 46), Fruit and vegetable preserved with preservatives (SI 926), Minced meat and minced meat products (SI 1188).

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
Tel Aviv [IS1]
[IS]

A. Food Laws	Page 4
B. Labeling Requirements	Page 5
C. Food Additive Regulations	Page 11
D. Pesticides and Other Contaminants	Page 12
E. Other Regulations and Requirements	Page 12
1. Kashrut	Page 12
2. Biotechnology Policy	Page 13
F. Other Specific Standards	Page 13
1. General	Page 13
2. Nutritional Labeling	Page 14
G. Copyright/trademark Laws	Page 16
H. Import Procedure	Page 16
I. Import Documentation	Page 17
J. Import Requirement for Dairy Products	Page 18
K. Preserved Meat Products	Page 18
L. Import of Wine and Alcoholic Beverages	Page 19
M. Grain Import	Page 19
N. Imports of Gelatin Made of Bovine or Other Products Containing Gelatin	Page 19
O. Organic Food Products	Page 19
Annex 1: Major Regulatory Agencies	Page 21
Annex 2: Regular Products	Page 23
Annex 3: Non-Regular Products	Page 27
Annex 4: Food Import Procedures	Page 28
Annex 5: Israel Standards for Food Products	Page 32
Annex 6: Size of Hebrew Lettering Required on the Labels of Prepackaged Food	Page 39
Annex 7 - List of Vitamins, Minerals, and Free Amino Acids	Page 40
Annex 8: Additional Food Components and the Minimum Content Required to Enable Them to Be Included in the Nutritional Labeling (Contents per 100 Gr. Or 100 MI of Net Content).	Page 41
Annex 9: Allowable Concentrations of Sodium in Various Foods	Page 42
Annex 10: Purity and Quality of Artificial Sweeteners	Page 43
Annex 11: Purity and Quality of non-High Intensity Sweeteners	Page 44

Annex 12: Acids, Bases, and Reaction Regulators	Page 45
Annex 13: Sweetener Content Limits	Page 47
Annex 14: World Trade Organization (WTO) Enquiry Point	Page 48
Annex 15: Import Requirements for Dairy Products	Page 52
Annex 16: Import Of Intoxicating Beverages	Page 55

A. Food Laws

General Food Import Considerations

Israeli importers face two main considerations when selecting a particular product - quality and price. In the price range, American products are not always attractive; due to the high production costs in the U.S., and high transportation costs to Israel, relative to suppliers from near-by Europe and the Mediterranean basin. Transporting costs from the United States is about the same as the transportation cost from the Far East. From Europe, the costs are significantly lower not to mention even closer countries such as Turkey, which competes, with the United States over imports of dried fruit and nuts to Israel. The problem of transportation costs is less crucial when dealing with expensive products and materials, with very high value-to-volume ratios such as spices, essences, flavorings, concentrates etc. The problem is also partially resolved when dealing with products that are eligible for tariff preferences on imports from the United States. This partially compensates for the high transport costs. US goods enjoy a 10-22 percent tariff advantage over European and third world country suppliers on a broad range of processed and semi-processed foodstuffs.

Another subject to be considered is the issue of "kashrut". Kosher certification is not a legal requirement for importing food into Israel. However, non-kosher products have a much smaller market as supermarkets and hotels refuse to carry them. Manufacturers who produce kosher products must be able to satisfy Israeli rabbinical supervisors that all ingredients and processes are kosher. According to the Law for Prevention of Fraud in Kashrut, only the Chief Rabbinate of Israel is authorized to determine and approve a product as kosher for consumption in Israel, or authorizes another supervisory body to act in its name. Here too United States products have an advantage as the kashrut certification issued by many American rabbis is recognized by Israel's Chief Rabbinate. It is, however, quite simple for Israeli importers to send an Israeli rabbi to any supply source, thereby reducing the American advantage. In recent years, opportunity for non-kosher foods has been increasing as immigrants from Former Soviet Union (FSU) consist now a significant share of purchase power. (15 percent)

Prohibited Imports

Israel, which is a signatory to the WTO Agreement, maintains relatively few restrictions on agricultural imports. U.S. meat exports face an especially difficult environment due to the enactment at the end of 1994 of a ban on all non-kosher meat and poultry imports except offal. The United States - Israel FTAA of 1985 allows both countries the use of nontariff restrictions or prohibitions on products from agricultural sub sectors, which are subject to agricultural policy considerations. The recent WTO accords do not. Instead WTO rules call for tariffication of administrative and technical barriers. Israel has removed most administrative barriers to United States imports but has retained high levies on sensitive products and imposes various constraints and barriers, for example, those pertaining to kosher certification, for meat and poultry.

The only other product prohibitions are targeted against internationally controlled substances and/or are designed to protect public morals, human, animal or plant health, or national security.

B. Labeling Requirements

Labeling and Marking Requirements

Israel has strict marking and labeling requirements, which frequently differ from those of other countries. It is recommended that United States exporters consult with their Israeli importer prior to shipping.

All imports into Israel must have a label indicating the country of origin, the name and address of the producer, the name and address of the Israeli importer, the contents, and the weight and volume in metric units. In all instances, Hebrew must be used; English may be added provided the printed letters are no larger than those in Hebrew. Nutritional labeling is compulsory on all packaged foods. Specific information on weights and measures standards is available from the Commissioner of Standards, Ministry of Industry and Trade, 30 Agron Street, Jerusalem 94190. As of September 1, 1998 weights and measures have become voluntary and no longer serve as a barrier to entry of foods packaged in avoirdupois units. However, where packaging is non- standard, the package must indicate the unit price of the product.

Marking should be done by printing, engraving, stamping, or any other means, on the package on the goods themselves. If marking is not possible, a label should be well sewn or stuck to the goods or package. Marking details should be clear, legible, easy to trace, and in a different color from the background in order to be clearly distinguishable. Printing dyes and other marking materials should not affect merchandise quality. The marking should not be blurred.

On a multi-layered package, the external layer should be marked. If the external layer is transparent, the marking should be done underneath that layer, provided it is still clear and legible. On a package containing sub packages, the labeling should specify: the number of sub packages, the net content of a sub package, and the overall net weight of the package. For products that tend to lose weight under regular marketing/commercial conditions, the maximum quantity of expected depletion should be mentioned.

Specific labeling regulations apply to some consumer goods, as well as fertilizers, insecticides, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, some food products, seeds, and alcoholic beverages. In addition, special packaging requirements apply to fruit, plants and meat. Outside and inside containers of dangerous articles, such as poisons, insecticides, drugs, reptiles, insects, bacteria should be clearly marked. For information on food labeling and packaging contact: Israel Ministry of Health, Food Control Administration, 12-14 Ha'Arba'a St., Tel Aviv 64739; Telephone: 972-3-6270100; Fax: 972-3-5619549.

Application of the Labeling Standard

The Standard sets requirements for labeling prepackaged food intended for retail sale, excluding unprocessed fruits and vegetables. It also sets the labeling requirements for prepackaged foods listed below, not intended for retail sale:

- food for industrial processing and for repackaging;
- food in wholesale packaging;
- prepackaged food containing packaged sub units.

Where there is a contradiction between the requirements of Standard 1118 for prepackaged foods and the labeling requirements of the Special Standard which applies to a particular food or the labeling requirements in a Group Standard which applies to a particular group of

foods, the requirements of the special Standard or of the group Standard shall take precedence.

All labels shall be accurate and not misleading and shall be capable of proof.

The label of the product shall not give indication of medicinal properties attributed to the food nor shall it state that the product's use is likely to heal or prevent illness. However, see the section on nutritional labeling in Section F for special references to certain types of food.

Mandatory labeling information must be in Hebrew: such writing may be repeated in a foreign language provided that it includes all the required information and that it is identical in content to the Hebrew.

The size of the Hebrew letters and numbers on the label must be at least as large as indicated in Table 1 below. The size of the letters in the other language must not be larger than the size of the Hebrew letters. The size of the letters of the trade name shall not be larger than three times the size of the letters of the name of the food.

Food, which can be marketed in a number of forms, which are of significance to the consumer, shall be appropriately labeled: whole, sliced, crushed, segments, cubes, etc. The size of the letters of this labeling shall be at least half the size of that of the letters in the name of the product.

The Name of the Food

The label shall include the name of the food. If there are several words in the name of the food, all these words shall be written in the same size and with the same emphasis.

If there is a special Standard for the product, the name of the food shall be that name which appears in the special Standard.

In addition to the name of the food, it is permissible to also add a trade name. The size of Hebrew lettering required on labels, see Annex 6.

The Name of the Manufacturer, Importer, Marketer, and Packer

The label shall include a clear indication of the name of the manufacturer and his address. Alternatively, instead of indicating his name, the manufacturer may indicate in addition to his address, his registered trademark for the product, which he produces, on condition that the trademark includes letters and does not mislead concerning the nature of the product.

The labeling of an imported product, which is marketed in its original package, shall also include the name of the importer and his address.

It is permitted to indicate on the food the name and address of some other person instead of the name and address of the manufacturer of the food if that other person has taken all the necessary measures to ensure compliance with all the regulations relating to manufacture of the food, including constant control of the production, packaging, weighing, labeling, marketing, transport, and storage of the product. If the name of a person other than the manufacturer is indicated, the name of the manufacturer shall be noted in code.

Producer Country

Imported food shall be labeled with the name of the producer country. It is permitted not to indicate the producer country of imported products, which are used in the manufacture of

food in Israel. For purposes of this paragraph, if only the packaging is changed, it will not be considered as manufacture.

Content

Labeling shall include the net content of the food in the package, by weight or by volume.

The content of liquid food shall be indicated in units of volume:

- Milliliters (ml) for a product containing less than 1000 ml;
- liters for a product containing 1000 ml or more.

The content of solid, semi-solid, or viscous food shall be designated by weight:

- grams (gr) for a product containing less than 1000 grams;
- kilograms (kg) for a product containing 1000 grams or more.

The net content of a product packed in aerosol containers shall be marked in units of weight when the product is in a semi-solid or powdered state or marked in units of volume when the product is liquid.

It is prohibited to add alongside the units of volume or weight any adjective, which is likely to be misleading.

The content of food packed in liquid shall be indicated in units of weight and will state the content after draining as well as the net weight. When indicating the content after draining, the words "weight after draining..." shall be included.

On the composite package the number of units inside shall be marked as well as the net content of each packaged unit and the total net content.

For a product, which is liable to lose weight in regular commercial or marketing conditions due to storage or display for sale, the expected lesser content shall be indicated.

Ingredients and Food Additives

The contents shall be indicated for all ingredients, including water in descending order according to their relative weight in the food except for the following foods:

For dry food, which is to be reconstituted by the addition of water, it is permissible to indicate the ingredients in descending order of their relative content in the reconstituted product if the words "ingredients after reconstitution" are included.

If one of the ingredients is food to which an Israeli Standard applies, the name of the food shall be indicated in the list of ingredients as required in the applicable Standard and its ingredients shall not be listed. However, if coloring and preservatives have been added to the above food their presence shall be indicated in the list of ingredients of the labeled food.

A food product to which no Israel Standard applies shall be labeled with the percent of an ingredient that significantly affects the price of the product, if so required by the authorities.

Date

The date of manufacture or alternatively identification of the production lot as well as the last date for marketing shall be marked as indicated below:

Products whose shelf life is up to 60 days from the date of manufacture:

The date of manufacture shall be marked openly or in code (day and month or else day, month, and year). The last date for marketing shall be marked openly (day and month or else day, month and year).

Products whose shelf life is between 60-365 days from the date of manufacture:

The date of manufacture shall be marked openly or in code (day, month, and year). The last date for marketing shall be marked openly (day, month and year or month and year) if the date of manufacture is indicated in code. It is not required to indicate the last date for marketing if the date of manufacture is marked openly.

Products whose shelf life is longer than a year:

Either the date or the code (day, month and year) of the date of manufacture shall be indicated.

It is not required to indicate the last date for marketing.

The manufacturer shall determine the shelf life of the product and shall mark the dates accordingly. The length of the shelf life shall be determined in accordance with the nature of the product, the form of its packaging, and the recommended storage conditions assigning the product to one of the three groups of products according to the nature of the explicit marking of the date.

The manufacturing date indicated on the product is not to be changed except in the case where a mistake has been made in the marking and the product has still not left the plant for market.

Instructions for Storage, Transport, and Use

Instructions for storage, transport and use shall be included in the label when:

- the food has been cooled to a temperature of less than +8 degrees Centigrade or has been frozen;
- there are special instructions for handling either before or after the package is opened;
- when the nature of the product demands it, for example the words "keep in a dry place", "keep in a cool place", "keep in the shade", "do not refreeze after thawing" etc.

Labeling Prepackaged Food, Which Is Not Intended For Retail Sale

Food used in industrial manufacture (including repackaging): the following items shall be marked on the package of food used in industrial manufacture:

- the name of the food;
- labeling which identifies the lot.

If required by the responsible authority, the manufacturer shall present the specifications of the food.

Note:

Despite what is stated above, the language of the labeling of food to be used in industrial production (including repackaging) may be not in Hebrew but rather in one of the following languages: English, French, German, Spanish, Italian instead of Hebrew.

Food in a Wholesale Package

The following items shall be marked on wholesale packages:

- the name of the food
- the name and address of the manufacturer as specified
- ingredients as specified
- the date as specified

Prepackaged food, which contains several packed units

The following items shall be marked on the package:

- the name of the food
- labeling which identifies the lot.
- number and size of retail units in the large package.

Sweeteners

(1) No person shall produce or market a food which contains any sweetener unless the sweetener is listed in column A of the Fifth Appendix below, the food is low calorie, and the amount of sweetener in it is not greater than the amount indicated beside each sweetener in column C.

(2) No person shall produce a sweetener, a non-high-intensity sweetening substance or food, which contains such substances unless –

- (a) the sweetener meets the requirements for purity and quality as indicated alongside it in column B of the Second Appendix;
- (b) the non-high-intensity sweetening substance meets the requirement for purity and quality as indicated alongside it in column B of the Fourth Appendix.
- (C) if the product is a personal (tabletop) sweetener - it does not contain any food additive other than those listed in the Fifth Appendix;

Personal (Tabletop) Sweeteners

No person shall produce or market any personal (tabletop) sweetener unless it meets the following conditions;

- (a) it is in its pure form or in a mixture with carbohydrates or food additives;
- (b) it is packed in a packet weighing one gram (henceforth - packet) or in a container whose net weight is not more than 200 gr;
- (C) if it is in the form of a solution or powder - attached to its packaging there will be some implement for measuring the sweetener with a capacity equal to 5 gr of sucrose.

C. Food Additive Regulations

The food additive regulations are based on " The Public Health Regulations (Food) (Food Additives) 1997. A new full list of approved food additives was published by the Food Control Service (FCS) in 2001.

The basic ingredients and the additives must be marked with either their group or specific names except when the responsible authority has required that the specific name either of the basic ingredient or of the additive be used or when it has required some other identifying label concerning either the basic ingredients or the additives.

The group names for the basic ingredients and the additives shall be as follows:

Basic ingredients

- animal fats and oils
- vegetable fats and oils (if the fat is hardened, it shall be so stated)
- starches (except for modified starches)
- sugars
- vegetable protein
- animal protein
- flours
- alcohols
- herbs
- spices

Additives

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| - anti foaming agents | - anti caking agents |
| - anti oxidants | - bleaching agents |
| - food colorings | - emulsifiers |
| - flavor and odor additives | - ripening agents |
| - preservatives | - stabilizers |
| - thickeners (including modified starches) | - acidifiers |
| - gelling agents | - whipping agents |
| - clarifying agents | - leavening agents |
| - vitamins | - neutralizers |
| - flavor enhancers | - enzymes |
| - non-nutrient sweeteners | - solvent residues |

Food Additives Importation Guidance

In order to get a permit for the import food additives to Israel, the following documentation is required, in accordance with the Food Additive Regulation from 5/18/97:

1. Confirmation submitted by an approved authority that the production plant is under inspection.
2. Free Sale Certificate, submitted by an approved authority.
3. A Confirmation that the manufacturer is producing under Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP). Confirmation will be accepted only if submitted by an approved authority, or by an independent body that was approved by the Israeli Food Control Service (FCS) to submit GMP certificates.
4. Content - A certificate from the manufacturer listing the content of the capsule, including botanical names of the plants.
5. Analysis results - A document from an authorized laboratory, signed by the test executor, detailing the analysis results. In addition, microbiological test should be executed for the following products; food additives made of vegetative raw materials (leaves, dried plants and powders), plant extracts and food additives that include microorganisms.
6. Original label of the product.

7. Stability of the product - test results of the shelf life of the product, or an announcement made by the manufacturer that the claimed shelf life was determined on the basis of stability tests.

D. Pesticides and Other Contaminants

The Plant Protection and Inspection Services (P.P.I.S.) publishes the "Israeli Directory of Pesticides" which lists pesticides registered in Israel under the Plant Protection Law of 1956, and the Regulation concerning the sale of pesticides, 1994. The latest English version was published in 1996. A new version of the law is currently under discussion.

Pesticides according to the Israeli law include Plant Growth Regulators, Defoliants, Adjuvants, Wound Sealing Materials and Plant Nutrients applied for specific, established mineral deficiencies, in addition to herbicides, fungicides and insecticides.

The directory includes a list of established National Maximum Residue Limits. This list is based whenever appropriate on the Codex Alimentarius limits. The system used for the pesticide compounds is according to the IUPAC nomenclature.

The Israeli office responsible for pesticides is the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Plant Protection and Inspection Services (PPIS), Pesticides Division. Contact: Miriam Freund (Deputy Director), P.O. Box 78, Bet-Dagan 50250, Israel. Tel: 972-3-968-1561, Fax: 972-3-9681582, Email: miriamf@moag.gov.il

E. Other Regulations and Requirements

1. Kashrut

Any food marked with the word "kosher" shall also be marked with the name and location of the person certifying the kashrut or the registered mark in Israel of the organization certifying the kashrut.

It is recommended to add to the word "kosher" the words "meat" "dairy" or Passover" "donations and tithes have been set aside" "free from suspicion of 'orla' or third year fruit", "not from the Sabbatical year", etc. According to the nature of the matter and on the authority of the person certifying the Kashrut.

Meat products, including poultry meat, which are not "kosher", non-kosher fish products and products made from non-kosher fish shall be marked with the words "non-kosher". It is illegal to import nonkosher meat, including poultry, to Israel.

The size of the letters in the word "kosher" shall not be smaller than the minimum size of letters of the name of the product as stipulated in Table 1 above. The size of the letters denoting the name and location of the person giving the certification shall not be smaller than the minimum size of the letters of the name of the manufacturer as stipulated in table 1.

Similar products, produced by one manufacturer, some of which contain the kashrut certification as noted in paragraphs 12.1 and 12.2 of the Regulation and some of which do not carry this marking, shall have conspicuously different labels. This requirement does not apply to those products, which are marked "Kosher for Passover".

As Israeli law stipulates that the council of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel is the sole authority responsible for determining whether a product is kosher, exporters of kosher products should

ensure through their importing agents, that their kosher certification is accepted by Israel's Chief Rabbinate.

2. Biotechnology Policy

Israel's Regulatory Framework

Two committees are responsible for the biotechnology regulatory framework in Israel: The Governmental New Foods Committee of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and The National Committee for Transgenic Plants (NCPT) of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture. The labeling of food products and the registration of food ingredients, which contain biotech components, are the responsibility of the food committee. The testing of biotechnology crops and the regulations on genetically modified organism plants are the responsibility of the NCPT committee.

The committee has suggested new regulations governing GMO products in two areas:

- 1) the registration process of GMO foods; and
- 2) the labeling process

Since the legislative process is expected to take approximately two years, the food committee will publish the procedures for food registration for the time being. The new procedures will not be concerned with the labeling of modified food products.

Under the premise of protecting public health, the food committee will begin registration of food products containing GMO ingredients derived from the following crops: soybean, corn, canola and chicory.

Imported food products will be divided into two groups – food products existing in the food market and new food products. The procedures for the two groups will be as follows:

1. Existing food products – the importer must provide information of the legal regulations for the specific product in industrial countries (U.S., EU, Switzerland, Norway, Japan, Australia, and Canada). The information must include the approved purpose of the food product and description of any genetically engineered procedures in the manufacture of the product.
2. For new food products which are not yet registered the importer must submit a registration application accompanied by the following required certification: Toxicology test, safety assessment, results of previous clinical experiments, commercial name of the product and nature of the biotech modifications.

F. Other Specific Standards

1. General

It is the declared policy of the Government of Israel to adopt international standards wherever possible, and to implement mandatory standards related only to safety, health, and the environment. In practice, however, many products are still subject to mandatory standards some of which were designed to favor domestic producers over importers. As in the case of plywood, these local standards often specify in terms of design rather than performance. The Israel plywood standard effectively excludes most United States plywood from the market.

The Standards Institution of Israel (SII) is the agency responsible for the development of most product standards, compliance testing, and certification of products and industry

quality assurance systems. For further information, interested firms should contact: The Standards Institution of Israel, 42 Levanon Street, Tel Aviv 69977; Tel: 972-3-6465154; Fax: 972-3-6419683. Email: General Information: vered@sii.org.il. Web site: <http://www.sii.org.il>

Israel has not officially adopted ISO-9000 standards, although there is a growing preference for ISO-9000 standards among Israeli importers. This is especially important in the case of ingredients and raw materials destined for the production of export products. In the past, most imported food products were subject to specified size (weight or volume) requirements which often excluded standard non-metric sizes used by United States companies. Late in 1998 the imposed metric weight and measure standards became voluntary, i.e. served as guidelines to manufacturers but ceased to be obligatory. It remains obligatory to denote on the package the contents in metric terms. Packages of a size which does not conform to the official standard must bear an indication of the unit cost of the product.

The Government of Israel requires that food and health products be registered with the Ministry of Health before they can be sold in the country. FDA approval for food and health care products is not mandatory, but Israeli importers prefer it as it accelerates the product registration process and import license approval. Product registration normally takes from 4-6 weeks if all documentation is in order.

2. Nutritional Labeling

Nutritional labeling of food is mandatory and should list the following values per 100 grams or 100 milliliters of food content:

- Caloric value (kilo-calories per 100 gr or 100 ml of net content);
- Protein content (grams per 100 gr or 100 ml of net content)
- Carbohydrates (grams per 100 gr or 100 ml of net content);
- Fat content (grams per 100 gr or 100 ml of net content).

If the product label indicates the size of the portion and the number of portions, it is also permitted to indicate these nutritional values per serving portion.

For minimum content of other nutrients which allows its inclusion in the nutritional labeling See Annex 7.

The labeling of food using expressions which refer to its qualities in regard to: calories, fat, salt, and cholesterol content must be labeled as follows:

I Calories

Concerning the reduction of calories in a food product, two categories are defined:

1. Low Calories
2. Reduced Calories

1. Low Calories

- a. Non-alcoholic beverages, including concentrates and powders for the preparation of beverages containing not more than 20 calories per 100 ml of ready-to-drink beverage.

- b. Food that is not non-alcoholic beverages, including milk products in which the amount of calories is not more than 40 per 100gr/ml of food.

2. Reduced Calories. A food product which contains not more than 2/3 the caloric content of a product covered by a standard or order or regulation.

II Fat.

Concerning the reduction of fat in food products, three categories are defined:

1. Food Without Fat Or Fat Free. Food in which the amount of fat is not more than 0.5%.

2. Low Fat. Food in which the total amount of fat is not more than 2 grams of fat per 100 gr or 100 ml of food.

3. Reduced Fat. A food which contains not more than 2/3 the fat contents of a product covered by a Standard or Order or Regulation. This requirement does not apply to food rich in fat such as: butter, margarine, peanut butter, and sesame paste.

III Salt (For labeling purposes, salt means sodium)

Concerning the reduction of sodium in food products, three categories are defined:

1. Without Salt or Salt Free. Food in which the amount of salt is no more than 0.5 percent.

2. Low Sodium. A food product in which the amount of sodium is not more than 100 mg of sodium per 100 gr or ml of food.

3. Reduced Sodium. Food which contains not more than 1/4 the sodium content of a product covered by a standard or order or regulation and which contains more than 100 mg of sodium per 100 gr or ml of food.

IV Cholesterol

Concerning the reduction of the amount of cholesterol in food products, three categories are defined:

1. Without Cholesterol or Cholesterol Free. A food product in which the amount of cholesterol is zero. In a laboratory test, deviation of up to 2.5 mg cholesterol per 100 gr or ml of food will be permitted.

2. Low Cholesterol. A food product in which the amount of cholesterol is not more than 30 mg per 100 gr or ml of food.

3. Reduced Cholesterol. A food product which contains not more than two-thirds of the cholesterol content in a food covered by a standard or order or regulation.

V General

The nutritional labeling of food products generally relates to 100 gr or ml of food. If the package indicates the number of portions contained in it, the nutritional content may be

shown on a per portion basis. If the producer's instructions indicate that the product is to be diluted with water, the nutritional labeling shall be for 100 gr or ml of food consumed.

For Full List of Israeli food standards see Annex 4.

G. Copyright/trademark Laws

Application

Any proprietor of a trademark used, or proposed to be used in Israel, may apply for registration of the mark. Collective marks and certification marks are also entitled to registration. Application may be made by the owner of the mark or by the owner's agent. The agent must work in Israel and must present written authorization by the owner. All applicants must present a local address for correspondence and contact, so that the Government of Israel generally advises foreign trademark owners to engage a local attorney to file their applications. The fee for a trademark application changes from time to time. At present it is approximately \$175. The term of protection for a trademark is seven years. This may be renewed indefinitely for periods of 14 years on payment of fees.

Case law in Israel gives priority of registration to the first local user of the trademark. Every application for trademark registration must specify goods falling in one class only, according to the International Classification of Goods and Services (ICGS). Under the terms of the Paris Convention, one who has made an application to register a trade or service mark in another signatory country has a right to claim priority for registration of the same mark in Israel for the same use. An application for registration of the trademark claiming such priority must be made within six months from the date of the first application in a Convention country. A draft unfair competition law has been submitted for consideration. It contains a substantial section on trade secrets which aims to clarify ambiguities governing trade secrets as well as addressing appropriate remedies for their breach.

Enforcement

Injunction relief, damages and forfeiture or destruction of the competing wares, are all available remedies under Israeli civil law. Criminal sanctions include imprisonment for up to a year and a fine of the local currency equivalent of close to \$5,000.

The Israel Patent and Trade Mark Office can supply information to interested parties on patents, registered designs and trademarks. Contact: Israel Patent and Trade Mark Office, P.O.Box 354, 91002, Jerusalem, Israel.

Need for a Local Attorney

United States companies should seek professional legal and/or accountancy advice whenever engaged in complicated contractual arrangements in Israel. Companies, who wish to establish an office, invest, or apply for Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) registration in Israel, should seek professional legal advice. Companies may also wish to seek legal assistance when encountering trade or payment problems. A list of local law firms is available from the Consular Section of the United States Embassy, Tel Aviv.

H. Import Procedure

See detailed procedures and requirements for food importation in Annex 4.

New procedures for food import were published recently. Imported products were divided into two groups - regular and non-regular products. (see Annex 2 and 3)

The procedures for the two groups are as follows:

Importer Registration:

1. The importer must fill out an application that he is a qualified importer, and he declares that he or someone on his behalf has a warehouse for the purpose of storage. This procedure is used for the two kinds of products.
2. An importer of regular products has to fill out the following certificate: Importer Statement.
3. Following the importer certificates filling, he will receive an official importer certificate from the Israeli Food & Nutrition Services.

Product Registration:

1. Requires filing a preliminary application for authorization to import regular food products.

Non-Regular Products:

Importation of these kinds of products requires the following procedures:

1. See section 1- importer registration.
2. A preliminary application for authorization to import food products, and a border station release application. The following certificates are required for the purpose of releasing the food products from the border station:
 - a. original/copied official importer certificate.
 - b. original/copied food certificate.
 - c. shipment invoice.
 - d. gate pass certificate.
 - e. copy of the bill of lading and packing list.
 - f. copy of the import tax.

Import Licenses

All import licensing requirements for U.S. made consumer and industrial goods have been eliminated under the United States - Israel Free Trade Area Agreement (FTAA) of 1985 and World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements. Imported food items require the approval of the Ministry of Health's Food Control Administration, which is also responsible for approval of labeling and packaging. All plant material (including dried fruits and nuts) requires import approval from the Plant Protection and Inspection Service. Unprocessed and unpackaged imported meat must be licensed by the Israel Veterinary Services (IVS) and originate in a plant which has been certified as approved by the IVS. Packaged meat and poultry for retail sale is subject to licensing by the Food Control Administration of the Ministry of Health. Israel law requires that all meat and poultry imports be certified kosher by the Rabbinical Council of the Chief Rabbinate or a body authorized by the Council. As an exception it is possible to import nonkosher beef offal. Israel's veterinary authorities ban imports of bone-in beef from countries where there is a danger of transmitting Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) or Bovine Spongiform Encephaly (BSE), also known as the Mad Cow Disease.

I. Import Documentation

1. Shipping documentation

United States exporters to Israel must follow United States Government requirements regarding export control documentation. The Israeli Customs Services prefer that exporters use their own commercial invoice forms containing all required information including name and address of supplier, general nature of the goods, country of origin of the goods, name and address of the customer in Israel, name of agent in Israel, terms, rate of exchange (if applicable), Israel import license number (if applicable), shipping information, and a full description of all goods in the shipment including shipping marks, quantity or measure, composition of goods (by percentage if mixed), H.S. tariff heading number, gross weight of each package, net weight of each package, total weight of shipment, price per unit as sold, and total value of shipment. The total value of the shipment includes packing, shipping, dock and agency fees, and insurance charges incurred in the exportation of the goods to Israel. The commercial invoice must be signed by the manufacturer, consignor, owner, or authorized agent. United States exporters should also double-check whether other documentation, including bill of lading and packing list, is required.

Fresh produce and seeds require a phytosanitary certificate (PC) issued by USDA/APHIS. Fresh and frozen meat and poultry products must be accompanied by an FSIS inspection certificate. The veterinary or phytosanitary requirements of the Israeli authorities are indicated on the import permit which must be obtained prior to contracting for the goods. Application for an import permit must be made by a resident of Israel.

2. United States Certificates of Origin for Exporting to Israel

In order to benefit from the provisions of the FTAA, a special "United States Certificate of Origin for Exporting to Israel" (CO) must be presented to Israel Customs. The certificate does not need to be notarized or stamped by a Chamber of Commerce if the exporter is also the manufacturer. Instead, the exporter should make the following declaration in box 11 of the certificate:

"The undersigned hereby declares that he is the producer of the goods covered by this certificate and that they comply with the origin requirements specified for those goods in the United States - Israel Free Trade Area Agreement for goods exported to Israel."

The actual forms are printed by a number of commercial printing houses in the United States. For further information on how to obtain them, United States exporters should contact the United States Department of Commerce Israel Desk Officer in Washington DC.

3. Approved Exporter Status

It is possible for exporters to apply for a blanket CO, or "Approved Exporter" status. An "approved exporter" needs only to present an invoice which substitutes for the CO, and which contains an "approved exporter" number and a declaration that the goods comply with the origin requirements. Certification and notarization are not necessary.

4. "Approved Exporter" Authorization Procedures

a) A manufacturer or exporter who wishes to become an "Approved Exporter" should complete a declaratory form and present it to: Export Department, Israel Customs Services, 32 Agron Street, P.O. Box 320, Jerusalem. Potential candidates are United States firms with total annual exports to Israel of at least \$20 million who have an unblemished record with the Israel Customs Services.

b) Israel Customs will check whether the manufacturer or exporter complies with the criteria and grant approval for "Approved Exporter" status. The approved exporter will be given an identity number to be stamped on all invoices. The approval is valid for six months after which the exporter should receive an automatic extension from Israel Customs. Exporters who do not receive an automatic extension from Israel Custom, must terminate use of the approval.

5. Compliance Procedures for Approved Exporters

a) The "Approved Exporter" should stamp the invoice with the firm's identity number and add the following declaration:

"The undersigned hereby declares that the goods listed in this invoice were prepared in the United States of America and they comply with the origin requirements specified for those goods in the United States - Israel Free Trade Area Agreement for goods exported to Israel."

b) Invoices involving mixed goods: Separate invoices must be prepared for goods which do not comply with origin requirements and/or for which approval to operate as an "Approved Exporter" has not been granted.

J. Import Requirement for Dairy Products

All milk products and their substitutes are within the non-regular products group (see annex 3). See annex 16 for import milk requirement.

Contact: Mr. Eli Gordon, milk specialist, Food & Nutrition Services, Tel: 972-3-6270100, Ext 136.

K. Preserved Meat Products

Import requirements for the imports of preserved meat products are detailed below.

The further documents should be submitted when applied for an import license:

1. Kosher certificate from the Chief Rabbinate of the State of Israel (excluding imports to the Palestinian Authority).
2. Product Composition
3. Test results: Net weight
 - Water percentage
 - Fat percentage
 - Protein percentage
 - Vacuum test
4. Preservative content
5. Incubation test for 7 days 55C and 14 days 35C.
6. Product code and explanation to the code.
7. LACFC document for each size of package, filled up by the producer.
8. Origin Certificate of the meat.
9. An approval that the slaughterhouse is inspected by an authorized authority.
10. Veterinary Health Certificate that also refers to residuals and heavy metals.
11. Additional requirements from Preserved Beef:
 - Veterinary Health Certificate proving that the product is manufactured of cattle free of BSE.
 - Approval as for the age of the slaughtered cattle.

L. Import of Wine and Alcoholic Beverages

See detailed regulations and requirements in Annex 15.

Note: Appendix 2 of Annex 15 details the laboratory tests needed, prior to submittance of import license.

M. Grain Import

A list of procedures and regulations for the import of grains is detailed in a paper from September 1999 published by the Plant Protection and Inspection Services (PPIS). The document is available only in Hebrew. The Standards Institution of Israel (SII) will publish in the immediate future new standards for wheat flour. The previous standard (April, 1984) will be replaced by the new standard (S.I. number 46).

N. Imports of Gelatin Made of Bovine or Other Products Containing Gelatin

1. Import from countries which are highly unlikely to present a BSE risk: imports of gelatin and other products containing gelatin allowed under the Israeli Food Control Services regulations.
2. For countries who are unlikely, but a BSE risk cannot be excluded. Import of gelatin and products containing gelatin allowed. However, a veterinary certificate is required which must state the following: the origin of the gelatin is cows that were not infected by BSE.
3. Gelatin Imports, and Products that Contain Gelatin, from Countries with a Risk for BSE but it does not exist yet or exist in several cases: Gelatin imports from these countries are possible under the following conditions:
 - A. The gelatin manufacturing plant works under a HACCP inspection system.
 - B. The shipment is accompanied by a Veterinary Health Certificate that contains the following:
 - Approval that the bones, which were used as raw material are not bones of the skull, vertex, head, spine or vertebra, or a written approval that the gelatin was produced of hides of cows free of BSE.
 - Approval that the manufacturing process of the gelatin contains the following steps:
 - a. Steam wash and fat removal,
 - b. Demineralization by acids,
 - c. Long treatment with Alkaline agents,
 - d. Sterilization (at 138°C for at least 4 seconds) or a different process that monitors the bacterial contamination level.
 - e. Labeling.
4. Import from countries with BSE risk confirmed at a high level is allowed under the following conditions:
 - veterinary certificate as mentioned in the previous paragraph 3/B.
 - the origin of the gelatin was produced in a BSE free country.
5. No import of gelatin is allowed from Portugal and England.

O. Organic Food Products

The Israeli organic food market is valued at \$50 million annually (including exports). Of the total local organic production, 80 percent (\$40 million) is for export and the remainder for the local market. Recently the Israeli parliament approved an organic law (S.I. number-

1315). Official inspectors will inspect all organic food products. In addition, the local organic planted area and organic livestock will be inspected. Labeling of all organic food products is required.

Annex 1: Major Regulatory Agencies

1. Food Control Service
Ministry of Health
12-14 Ha'arba'a St.
61203, Tel Aviv
Israel
Web site: <http://www.health.gov.il/english/>
Contact: Dr. Dorit Nizan - Kaluski, Director
Tel: 972-3-6270112
Fax: 972-3-5619549, 972-3-6270126
2. Israel Veterinary Services.
Web Site: <http://agri3.huji.ac.il/~yakobson/vetserv/index.html>
Ministry of Agriculture
P.O. Box 12
50250, Bet Dagan
Israel
Contact: Dr. Moshe Chaimovich, Director. E-mail: cvo_vsah@moag.gov.il,
mosheh@moag.gov.il
Tel: 972-3-9681614, 972-3-9690871
Fax: 972-3-9681641, 972-3-9681746
3. Import and Export Veterinary Division.

Chief Import & Export Veterinary Officer Dr. Med. Vet. Roni Ozari

Tel: 972-3-9681649, Fax: 972-3-9605194. E-mail: ronio@moag.gov.il
4. Plant Protection & Inspection Service
P.O. Box 78
50250, Bet Dagan
Israel
Contact: Mr. Eldad Landshut, Director
Tel: 972-3-9604891
Fax: 972-3-9603005
5. Standards Institution of Israel
42 H. Levanon St
69977, Tel Aviv
Israel
Web Site: [http:// www.sii.org.il](http://www.sii.org.il)
General Information: E-mail: vered@sii.org.il
Tel: 972-3-6465154
Fax: 972-3-6419683
Contact: Ms. Ziva Patir, Director. E-mail: patir@sii.org.il

Tel: 972-3-6465100

Fax: 972-3-6419683

5. Consumer Products Administration
Ministry of Industry & Trade
30 Agron St
91002, Jerusalem
Contact: Mr. Yoram Levy
Tel: 972-2-6220472
Fax: 972-2-6220499

Annex 2: Regular Products (may change in the future)

Group	Description	Group	Description
1. White Chocolate	1.1 White chocolate with additions (almond, raisin, etc.).	6. Candies	6.1 Pressed candies.
	1.2 White chocolate with cream.		6.2 Hard candies with flavors.
	1.3 White chocolate snack, with cream.		6.3 Hard candies filled with flavors.
	White chocolate candy, with cream.		6.4 Hard candies filled with chewing gum.
2. Milk Chocolate	2.1 Milk chocolate.		6.5 Toffee with flavors.
	2.2 Milk chocolate with additions (almond, raisins, etc.).		6.6 Toffee filled with flavors.
	2.3 Milk chocolate snack, with cream.	7.	Other confectionery
	2.4 Milk chocolate candy, with cream.	8.	Beverage flavors
	2.5 Milk chocolate with cream.	9.	Brown flavors
3. Acrid Chocolate	3.1 Acrid chocolate	10.	Dairy flavors
	3.2 Acrid chocolate with additions (almond, raisins, etc.)	11.	Fruit flavors
	3.3 Acrid chocolate snack, with cream.	12.	Meat flavors
	3.4 Acrid chocolate candy, with cream.	13.	Mint flavors
	3.5 Acrid chocolate with cream.	14.	Nuts flavors
4. Chewing Gum	4.1 Chewing gum with flavors	15.	Tobacco flavors
	4.2 Chewing gum filled in flavors	16.	Vanilla flavors
5. Confectionery	Starched candies	17.	Vegetables spices and herbs

Group	Description	Group	Description
18. Sugar	18.1 White sugar	31. Wafers	31.1 Regular wafers
	18.2 Brown sugar		31.2 Coated wafers
	18.3 Burnt sugar		31.3 Filled wafers
19.	Cocoa powder		31.4 Filled and coated wafers
20.	Mix for Ice cream (parve)	32.	Crackers
21.	Sweet spreads (like Nutella)	33. Biscuits	33.1 Regular biscuits
22. Chocolate for cooking	22.1 Regular Chocolate for cooking		31.2 Coated biscuits
	22.2 Chocolate for cooking with additions		31.3 Filled biscuits
	22.3 Chocolate for cooking with cream		31.4 Filled and coated biscuits
	22.4 Candy chocolate for cooking		34. Pasta products
	22.5 Snack chocolate for cooking	34.2 Dried pasta, based on wheat, without durum	
23. Milk Chocolate for cooking	23.1 Milk Chocolate for cooking	35. Starch	35.1 Wheat starch
	23.2 Milk chocolate for cooking with additions		35.2 Corn starch
	23.3 Milk Chocolate for cooking with cream		35.3 Potato starch
	23.4 Candy milk chocolate for cooking	36. Wheat and products	Wheat, Wheat flour, Matzot flour, Matzot, Wheat products
	23.5 Snack milk chocolate for cooking	37. Bread and products	37.1 White bread
24.	Sweetening (like sorbitol)		37.2 Black bread
25.	Sweetening (like Aspartame)		37.2 Special bread
26.	Emulsifiers		37.3 Sabbath loaf, standard and sweet
27.	Emulsifying salts		37.4 Rolls and Bagels
28.	Firming agents		37.5 Muffins
29.	Flavor enhancers		37.6 Toasts
30.	Glazing agents		37.7 Croutons
			37.8 Pastry flakes
		37.9 Pitta (oriental bread)	

Group	Description	Group	Description
38. Halvah	38.1 Sesame halvah	52. Desserts and powder for desserts	52.1 Pudding mix, without gelatin
	38.2 Sesame halvah with additions		52.2 Gels and powders
	38.3 Other halvah	53. Processed fruit and vegetables	53.1 Dried fruits
	38.4 Other coated halvah		53.2 Sweated fruits
39. Cookies	39.1 Regular cookies		53.3 Dried vegetables
	39.2 Filled cookies		53.4 Sweated vegetables
	39.3 Coated cookies	54.	54.1 Canned fruits in syrup
	39.4 Pizza	55. Oiled/salted/vinegary vegetables and fruits	55.1 Canned fruit and vegetables in vinegar
	39.5 Filled and coated cookies		Canned fruit and vegetables in salt
	39.6 Cakes		Canned fruit and vegetables in oil
40. Yeasts	40.1 Instant dried yeasts for baking	56. Jams	56.1 All kind of jams
	40.2 Other yeasts		56.2 Confiture
41.	Colors		56.3 Fruit dainty
42.	Flour treatment agents	57. Sauces	57.1 Vinegar
43.	Gelling agents		57.2 Vinegary sauces
44.	Modified starches	58.	Mustard
45.	Raising agents	59.	Fillings and coating for cakes
46.	Stabilizers	60.	Acidity regulators
47.	Enzymes	61.	Anti foaming agents
48. Non alcoholic beverages	48.1 soft drinks, carbonated	62.	Preservatives
	48.2 Soft drinks, non carbonated	63.	Propellants
49.	Beer, till 0.5% alcohol	64. Snacks	64.1 Snacks with potatoes
50. Syrup	50.1 Syrup with flavors		64.2 Snacks with cereals
	50.2 Fruit syrup		64.3 Snacks with rise
	50.3 Industrial syrup		64.4 Snacks with dried fruits
	50.4 Syrup for Ice cream, drinks.		64.5 Snacks with nuts
51.	Powders for making drinks		64.6 Snack with soy protein
			64.7 Granola snacks
			64.8 Snacks with corn

Group	Description	Group	Description
65.	Rise and products	84.	Antioxidants
66.	Flavor and smell materials	85.	Humectants
67. Coffee	Instant coffee, ground coffee	86.	Acids
68.	Tea	87.	Bulking agents
69.	Beans: Cocoa, soy, coffee	88.	Foaming agents
70.	Cereals flour, without wheat	89.	Thickeners
71.	Dried soy products	90. Juices and nectars	90.1 Juices
72.	Corn and products		90.2 Nectars
73. Spices	73.1 Mixed spices	91. Concentrates	From fruits
74. Fresh vegetables and fruits	74.1 Fresh fruits		
	74.2 Fresh vegetables		
75. Dried soups	75.1 Dried soups with noodles		
	75.2 Fried soups with rise.		
	75.3 Dried soups with vegetables		
76. Paste	Sesame oil (tahina), nut paste		
77. Dishes	77.1 Instant Noodles dish		
	77.2 Instant Rise dish		
	77.3 Instant cereals dish		
78. Potato products	Instant potato powder		
79. Oils	Vegetables oils		
80.	Attar Oils		
81.	Morning cereals		
82. Nuts and Seeds	82.1 All kinds of nuts		
	82.2 All kinds of seeds		
83.	Anti caking agents		

Annex 3: Non-Regular Products (may change in the future)

Group
1. Milk products, and milk products substitutes (crops)
2. Meat and poultry products, and their substitutes (crops)
3. Fish products, and their substitutes (crops)
4 Food supplements: vitamins, minerals and herbs
5. Baby food
6. Eggs products
7. Canned food (under pH 4.5)
8. Gelatin products, including products that contain gelatin
9. Honey products
10. Other food products that have to be storage in low temperature
11. Mineral water
12. Mushroom products
13. The food and nutrition services have the final approval if they think that other products are not regular
14. Food that was exported, but was returned to Israel.

Annex 4: Food Import Procedures

STATE OF ISRAEL

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
TEL AVIV

FOOD CONTROL

IMPORTATION OF FOOD PRODUCTS

Applications to import food products will be accepted by mail only, addressed to the Ministry of Health, Food Control Administration, 14 Ha'arba'a St., Tel Aviv 61203.

The Food Control Administration will answer to importers' questions by telephone only between 9:00 and 12:00 on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For imported food products and following items must be submitted to the Food Control Administration:

1. A photograph of a sample package as sold abroad.
2. Results of laboratory analysis in two copies:
 - a. Products for which an Official Standard or legal order exists.
Laboratory results must conform with the specifications of the Official Israel Standard or order.
 - b. Products for which there is no Official Standard or order.

Laboratory findings must conform with existing relevant general standards.
For example: the Official Standards for processed fruit or vegetables.

General Standards are:

- IS 136 - tin cans
- IS 143 - fruit or vegetable products preserved by heat treatment
- IS 926 - fruit or vegetable products preserved with preservatives

Where a general standard for the product does not exist, laboratory findings must be produced in accordance with the composition of the product, including chemical and microbiological analyses.

The findings of the processor's plant laboratory must refer to the production date of the product, and the analysis date must not be more than six months earlier than the date of submission of the application.

Supplementary analyses will be requested, where required.

In principle, the findings from either the plant laboratory abroad or a food laboratory in Israel may be submitted.

- c. For preserved food products with low acidity, i.e. pH 4.6 or higher, and with water activity (a_w) of more than 0.85, a document detailing the production process must be produced (see Annex 4 attached).

3. Food supplements: vitamins, minerals and herbs.

a. Where the product name indicates a vitamin or mineral, e.g. Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Calcium, the product may be imported through the Pharmaceutical Department of the Ministry of Health.

b. A food product with added vitamins and/or minerals in Quantities of up to 2 RDA is considered a food product.

e.g. beer yeast - Vitamin B1 (3 mg Vitamin B1).

Quantity of Vitamin B1 - 1.5 mg - 1 RDA, 2 RDA - 3 mg.

A product such as rose hip or fish liver, for which no vitamin or quantity is indicated, is regarded as a food product.

c. A list of admissible herbs is available from the Food Control Administration. Israeli standards may be obtained from the Standards Institution, 42 Haim Levanon St., Tel Aviv, Tel: 972-3- 646-5154. Regulations and orders may be obtained from stores selling legal publications.

No therapeutic properties should be attributed to food products.

No descriptive phrases should be indicated on the product e.g.: "pure," "high quality," etc.

4. When submitting an application requesting authorization to import food products, the importer or his representative must fill in an application form (sample attached) in duplicate.

A separate application form must be filled in for each food product or identical group of products.

The purpose of the form is to allow follow-up of the import licensing procedure, as well as to ensure that all the requirements that apply to the importer have been met, including payment for the license.

The importer must attach a confirmation of payment when sending his application.

Payment is charged for each product.

Payment is at present \$80 U.S. and is adjusted twice a year in accordance with the rise in the Consumers Price Index.

Payment must be made through the Postal Bank only, according to the following details:

Postal Bank account number: 0-03807-9.

Name of account: Ministry of Health, Food Control Administration, Jerusalem.

Import licenses that have lapsed must also be renewed only through the post, as stated above. The original payment slip and application form. This is contingent on the food products for which the lapsed authorization was granted, not having undergone any change.

CLEARANCE OF IMPORTED FOOD PRODUCTS FROM QUARANTINE STATION.

The importer must submit the following documents to the quarantine station of the Ministry of Health in order to clear an imported food product:

a. Food import license, including all annexes, registered with the Food Control Administration.

b. Supplier's invoice.

- c. Customs entry form.
- d. Results of laboratory analysis.

All food products imported into Israel must be accompanied by the processor's laboratory analysis, referring directly to the imported consignment.

All laboratory results must be signed, with the name of the signatory and his position. The signatory must belong to the laboratory, or be a production or plant manager.

The results of the analysis must refer to the following findings:

Microbiological

Chemical/physical

Product safety, such as:

Pesticides

Heavy metals

color and mycotoxins

Organoleptic

Entomological

All depending on the products and taking into consideration the relevant standard, regulation or order.

All the laboratory results must be submitted to the quarantine station for purposes of clearing the consignment.

In the case of preserved and packaged food products that are coded, a document must be produced from the manufacturer explaining the code, with reference to the name of the product, manufacturing plant and production date.

For preserved products having low acidity, i.e. pH 4.5 or more, and water activity (aw) of over 0.85, a document detailing the thermal treatment must be produced (see attached annex).

- e. Label in Hebrew

A food product reaching Israel must be labeled in Hebrew, in accordance with the general standard regarding labeling of food products, IS 1145, in addition to any specific standard or regulation relating to the product.

Nutritional labeling of food products is mandatory in Israel, as stated in the Collection of Regulations 5524 dated 25.5.93.

Where an imported food product has received approval for labeling in the importer's warehouse, as stated in the import license, a Hebrew label that will appear on the product must be presented at the quarantine station.

- f. Confirmation from the manufacturing plant that the materials used for packaging of the food product meet the requirements of the European Community or the FDA in the United States of America.

- g. Document attesting to radiation pollution, where required by the import license.

- h. Any other document stated in the "Remarks" item of the import license.

- i. The quarantine station is entitled to analyze the imported food product in a recognized laboratory at the importer's expense.

STATE OF ISRAEL

MINISTRY OF HEALTH FOOD CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
TEL AVIV

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO IMPORT FOOD PRODUCTS

Date: _____

Name of Importer: _____ Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Hereby requests prior authorization to import the following products:

Name of Product	Raw Material	Finished Product	Type of Packaging	Contents/ Drained Weight	Manufacturer or Supplier	Country of Origin	Labels Affixed

Through agent: _____ Tel: _____ Receipt No. _____ Amount: _____

1. Make sure to fill in the name, address and telephone number of the importer on the form for the purpose of clarifications.
2. Make sure to enter the name of the product in Hebrew and its commercial name.
3. Make sure to enter the name of the exporter and the country of origin of the goods.
4. Make sure to state the type of packaging and its weight (volume). In the case of preserved food products, the net weight and drained weight must be indicated.
5. For finished products, the original packaging or a photograph thereof must be attached.
6. All the documents, including the application form, must be submitted in two separate copies.
6. Make sure that the date of the analysis appears on the laboratory analysis and that the analyses are signed by the person who conducted them and include a description of his position. An unsigned document will not be accepted.
7. A food product for which approval has been granted to affix a label in Israel and which is found in marketing outlets to lack labels in Hebrew will have the approval cancelled.
9. An addressed, unstamped envelope must be attached for receipt of return mail.

The above instructions in no way alter or derogate from existing instructions or any other law.

Material arriving that does not comply with the procedural instructions will be returned unhandled.

Import Department - Food Control Administration

Serial No.	Delivered to Engineer	Delivery Date	Approval No.	Remarks

- Price: \$80 US for each product. An original receipt is required a proof of payment.

Annex 5: Israel Standards for Food Products

English translation available

S.I. No.	Issued	Revised	Title	Price Group
10.1	1967	1987	Concentrated orange juice, pasteurized (AS 1976) (Official)	B
10.2	1967	1987	Concentrated orange juice, preserved (AS 1976) (Official)	B
16.1	1967	1987	Concentrated grapefruit juice, pasteurized (AS 1976) (Official)	B
16.2	1967	1987	Concentrated grapefruit juice, preserved (AS 1976) (Official)	B
17	1967	1987	Concentrated lemon juice, preserved (AS 1976) (Official)	B
56	1976	1995	Canned green peas (AS 1983, 1988) (Official)	D
57	1975		Edible Oils: sunflower oil (AS 1986) (Official) (Superseded by S.I. 216)	
112	1975	1995	Canned grapefruit segments (AS 1979) (Official)	D
113	1975	1995	Canned orange segments (AS 1979) (Official)	D
131	1974	1989	Edible oils: cottonseed oil (AS 1986) (Official) (Superseded by S.I. 216)	
167	1974	1989	Edible oils: sesame seed oil (AS 1986) (Official) (Superseded by S.I. 216)	
177	1955		Glass jars for pasteurized preserves (AS 1990)	B
191	1970	1989	Olive oil (AS 1986, 1987) (Official)	D
219	1975	1987	Edible oils: Coconut oil (AS 1978) (Official) (Superseded by S.I. 216)	
220	1974	1989	Edible oils: Peanut oil (AS 1986) (Official) (Superseded by S.I. 216)	
256	1957		White bread (AS 1958, 1989) (Superseded by S.I. 1241)	
263	1957		Dark wheat bread (Superseded by S.I. 1241)	
291	1958	1989	Canned fish in oil (AS 1975) (Official)	C
297	1976	1987	Canned melons (AS 1979) (Official)	C
304	1974	1989	Edible oils: niger seed oil (Official) (Superseded by S.I. 216)	
305	1974	1990	Edible oils: safflower seed oil (AS 1986) (Official) (Superseded by S.I. 216)	
315	1959		Halah (Shabbat bread) (Superseded by S.I. 1241)	
335	1975	1989	Canned apricots (AS 1983) (Official)	C
360	1960	1987	Canned guavas (AS 1978) (Official)	B
373	1970	1987	Honey (AS 1973, 1981, 1987) (Official)	D

Annex 5: Israel Standards for Food Products (Cont.)

S.I. No.	Issued	Revised	Title	Price Group
384	1973	1987	Grape juice, heat preserved (AS 1990) (Official)	C
406	1964		Fruit soda drinks (Superseded by S.I. 1071, Part 3)	
407	1980	1990	Beer (AS 1994) (Official)	E
423	1975	1995	Apple Sauce (Official)	B
441	1975	1989	Canned peaches (Official)	C
451	1962		Mayonnaise spread (Superseded by S.I. 431)	

Price List for English Translated Standards, \$ U.S.

B -	12.64
C -	12.04
D -	18.84
E -	25.25

Exchange rate (July, 2005): \$1 = 4.50 (New Israeli Shekel)

Annex 5: List of Israeli Standards for Food Products**Available in Hebrew only**

S.I. No.	Issued	Revised	Title	Price Group
34	1993		Jams, marmalades, jellies, fruit preserves and povidle (Official)	D
36	1983	1990	Chocolate (Official)	F
38	1990		Sesame halvah (official)	C
39	1989		Testing methods of homogenous citrus products (Official)	C
41	1991		Concentrated tomato juice (Official)	D
46	1984	2005	Wheat flour (AS 2005) (Official)	E
52	1979	1992	Citrus juice (in sealed containers) (AS 1985, 1990) (Official)	D
54	1981	1990	Bases for preparation of fruit drinks (AS 1982, 1983, 1989) (Official)	D
55	1983	1989	Raw cow's milk (AS 1988, 1993) (Official)	C
58	1977	1992	Pickled cucumbers (AS 1990) (Official)	E

96	1979	1987	Pickled cabbage: fermented (Sauerkraut or acidified) (AS 1991) (Official)	C
111	1977	1988	Essential oil form oranges (Official)	C
115	1992		Soft w white cheese (Official)	E
128	1985	1990	Colorants for foodstuffs	C
143	1978		Canned fruit and vegetables (AS 1985, 1994) (Official)	H
147	1981	1995	Canned green peas and carrots (AS 1990) (Official)	C
157	1978	1995	Pickled green olives (As 1982, 1987) (Official)	D
172	1979		Glass containers for food and beverages: Quality requirements (AS 1981, 1985, 1990) (Obligatory)	F
180	1977	1988	Essential oil from lemons (Official)	C
197	1982	1989	Canned figs (Official)	D
216	1994		Edible vegetable oils (Official)	D
221	1982	1988	White spirit (Official)	D
228	1995		Vegetable edible oils: Tests (Official)	C
229	1981	1995	Canned string beans (AS 1983) (Official)	C
237	1985		Cream (AS 1993) (Official)	D
244	1985	1990	Sour cream (AS 1993) (Official)	D

**Annex 5: List of Israeli Standards for Food Products
(Cont'd)**

S.I. No.	Issued	Revised	Title	Price Group
262	1985		Pasta products: Macaroni, spaghetti, noodles, vermicelli, lasagna & others (AS 1987, 1989, 1991) (Official)	E
284	1981		Pasteurized cow's milk (AS 1987, 1989, 1992) (Official)	E
285	1		Fermented milk products (AS 1993) (official)	E
300	1978	1989	Canned plums (AS 1983) (Official)	C
301	1991		Canned fish in tomato sauce (Official)	E
323	1988	2005	Butter (Official)	D
327	1984	1990	Ice cream, water ices and mixes for their preparation: Part 1: Requirements (AS 1985, 1990,	F
329	1979	1989	Preserved lemon juice (Official)	B
331	1983	1989	Edible starch (Official)	D
338	1990		Canned fish: smoked fish or smoke-flavored fish (Official)	F
356	1991		Sugar (Official)	E

357	1990	1995	Tomato Juice (Official)	C
358	1986	1992	Soda water (Official)	D
370	1992		Margarine (Official)	D
387	1982	1992	Dehydrated soups (AS 1990) (Official)	D
389	1977	1989	Canned beef (Official)	C
394	1992		Canned white beans in tomato sauce (Official)	C
408	1981	1987	Pepper, black and white (Official)	C
411	1983	1989	Edible salt: sodium chloride (Official)	F
424	1979	1995	Tinned okra in tomato sauce (Official)	B
431	1986	1992	Mayonnaise and mayonnaise-like products (Official)	D
440	1981	1995	Canned carrots (Official)	D
443	1983	1989	Glucose syrup (AS 1986) (Official)	D
445	1994		Malt beer	C
450	1985	1995	Testing of milk: fat contents, Gerber method (Official)	B
468	1987		Ground paprika (Official) (AS 1993)	D
476	1980	1987	Mustard and mustard spread (Official)	E

**Annex 5: List of Israeli Standards for Food Products
(Cont'd)**

S.I. No.	Date Issued	Revised	Title	Price Group
486	1979	1995	Asparagus preserves (Official)	C
524	1979	1995	Ketchup (AS 1983) (Official)	C
526	1985	1992	Microbiological test of milk and milk product: total count (Official)	B
531	1979	1989	Canned apples (Official)	C
627	1986	1992	Testing of milk and milk products: Fat content in cheese (Van Gulik method) (Official)	B
628	1983	1995	Microbiological testing of milk and dairy products: Sampling and preparation of mixed samples for	C
642	1987		Sesame tehina (AS 1990) (Official)	C
650	1987		Cocoa powder (Official)	E
662	1987		Testing of milk: determination of its freezing point (Official)	B
664	1979	1995	Pickled black olives (AS 1982, 1987, 1990) (Official)	D

671	1981	1995	Canned wild mushrooms (Official)	C
729	1992		Canned sardines in oil (Official)	D
730	1988	1995	Tomato products (Official)	D
737	1979	1992	Canned sweet peppers (AS 1983, 1990) (Official)	D
776	1989	1995	Fruit nectar (Official)	D
877	1995		Frozen fruits and vegetables: general	F
920	1986	1992	Frozen carrots (Official)	C
926	1980	2005	Fruit and vegetable products preserved with preservatives (AS 1981, 2005) (Official)	G
929	1984	1990	White mineral oil, food technology grade (Official)	C
976	1977	1989	Fresh sardines (Official)	B
1006	1981	1989	Marzipan and marzipan products (AS 1983) (Official)	D
1015	1978	1990	Low fat margarine (Official)	C
1059	1980	1989	Tolerances for weight and volume of prepackaged food products (Official)	D
1071	1982	1990	Soft drinks: Part 1: Citrus soft drinks (AS 1987, 1989) (Official)	D
1075	1980	1992	Dried fruits: raisins (AS 1986, 1989) (Official)	D

**Annex 5: List of Israeli Standards for Food Products
(Cont'd)**

S.I. No.	Date Issued	Revised	Title	Price Group
1085	1980	1989	Canned beef or mutton with additions of plant origin (Official)	D
1103	1981		Roasted coffee (AS 1983, 1993) (Official)	D
1104	1983		Vinyl chloride monomer in PVC packages and in the packaged foodstuffs (Official)	C
1118	1981 1994	1989	Uniform contents of prepackaged food: Part 1: General (AS 1984, 1987) (Official)	B
1130	1981	1990	Dried fruits: plums (AS 1986, 1989) (Official)	D
1131	1981	1987	Frozen mixed vegetables (Official)	D
1140	1981	1995	Syrup, fruit and other flavors (AS 1989) (Official)	C
1151	1982	1989	Commercial food grade lecithin (Official)	C
1152	1981	1987	Pudding and jelly powders (Official)	D
1160	1982	1990	Natural vinegar (Official)	D

1162	1982	1989	Synthetic vinegar (Official)	D
1181	1986	1992	Part 1: Shelf-stable bakery products: biscuits, cookies and crackers (Official)	D
1188	1985	1990	Minced meat and minced meat products (Official)	D
1193	1983	1995	Canned processed peas (AS 1983) (Official)	C

**Annex 5: List of Israeli Standards for Food Products
(Cont'd)**

S.I. No.	Date Issue	Revised	Title	Price Group
1203	1983		Frozen french fried potatoes (Official)	C
1204	1984	1995	Canned celery (Official)	D
1208	1983	1990	Processed rice (AS 1989) (Official)	D
1242	1985	1995	Microbiological tests of milk and dairy products: Yeast and mold count (Official)	B
1246	1984		Tea (Official)	D
1248	1985		Beverage powders having fruity or other flavors (AS 1987) (Official)	D
1251	1984	1990	Dried fruits: dates (AS 1989) (Official)	D
1252	1988		Humus (chick-pea) salad (Official)	D
1253	1984	1992	Fruit pulp (AS 1990) (Official)	C
1254	1988		Salads made from vegetable matter, preserved by low-temperature storage with or without addition of preservatives (Official)	D
1295	1987		Dried or semi dried fruits: General (Official)	D
1312	1987		Dried fruit: figs (Official)	D
1314	1988		Tehina (sesame) salad (Official)	D
1315	2005		Organic food products	
1318	1988		Wine (AS 1994) (Official)	G
1325	1987		Crumbs from bakery products ("breadings") (Official)	D
1333	1988		Edible oils: Rapeseed oil (Official) (Superseded by S.I. 216)	
1359	1991		Mixed spices and other food seasoning powders or mixtures (Official)	E
1361	1990		Salty cheeses (Official)	D
1384	19 91		Dried plants for preparation of drinks by brewing	D

1412	1989		Methods of identification of color additives in food: Water soluble synthetic color additive (Official)	D
1415	1990		Edible oils: Mixtures of vegetable oils (Official) (Superseded by S.I. 216)	
1426	1992		Bakers' yeast	D
1450	1993		Passover Matzoth	B
1501	1994		Bottled drinking water	D
1505	1994		Drinking water treatment units for domestic use: Filtration and purification	E

Price List for Hebrew Standards, \$ U.S. :

B	-	6.62
C	-	6.02
D	-	9.42
E	-	12.62
F	-	18.47
G	-	24.87

Exchange rate (July 2004): 1 \$ - 4.50 (New Israeli Shekel)

Annex 6: Size of Hebrew Lettering Required on the Labels of Prepackaged Food

Content (gr or ml)	Name of Food, Content	Name of Manufacturer, Importer, Marketer, Packer	Date	Ingredients, Address
up to 10	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.0
10+ to 25	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.0
25+ to 50	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
50+ to 250	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.5
250+ to 450	3.0	2.0	2.0	1.5
450+ to 900	3.0	2.0	2.0	1.5
above 900	4.0	2.0	2.0	1.5

Note: The lettering in other languages shall not be larger than for the Hebrew fonts.

Annex 7 - List of Vitamins, Minerals, and Free Amino Acids

VITAMINS	FREE L-AMINO ACIDS
Vitamin A	Alanine
Vitamin B 1 - Thiamine	Serine
Vitamin B 2 - Riboflavin	Cysteine
Niacin	Cystine
Pantothenic Acid	Aspartic Acid
Vitamin B 6 - Pyridoxine	Glutamic Acid
Biotin	Arginine
Folic Acid	Tyrosine
Vitamin B 12 - Cyanocobalamine	Histidine
Vitamin C - Ascorbic Acid	Proline
Vitamin D 2 - Calciferol or Ergocalciferol	Valine
Vitamin D 3 - Cholecalciferol	Leucine
Vitamin E (Compounds of Alpha-tocopherol)	Isoleucine
Vitamin K 1	Threonine
	Methionine
	Lysine, Phenylalanine
MINERALS Iron Calcium Phosphorus Iodine Magnesium Zinc Copper Sodium Manganese Potassium Selenium Molybdenum Fluorine	Tryptophane Glycine

Public Health Regulations (Food) (Dietetic Food and Sweeteners), 1987

Annex 8: Additional food components and the minimum content required to enable them to be included in the nutritional labeling (Contents per 100 gr or 100 ml of Net Content).

Ingredient	Units	Minimum Content of Nutrient Which Allows it to be Listed in the List of Ingredients.	Minimum Content of Nutrient Which Allows it to be Indicated on the Label Other Than in the List of Ingredients
Vitamin A	International Units	100.00	800.00
Vitamin B 1	mg	0.03	0.30
Vitamin B 2	mg	0.03	0.30
Niacin	mg	0.40	3.00
Vitamin C	mg	1.00	15.00
Calcium	mg	20.00	100.00
Iron	mf	0.30	3.00

Annex 9: Allowable Concentrations of Sodium in Various Foods

Column A	Column B
1. Low Sodium meat and fish product milk powder baked goods canned vegetables powders for preparing soups salt substitutes	Largest Concentration of Sodium in mg per 100 gr 60 80 80 80 300 (and not more than 50 mg per portion) 1000
2. Low Calorie non-alcoholic beverages powders for preparing beverages ice creams, except for ices packaged in units weighting less than 150 gr and sherbet candies	Largest Concentration of Calories per 100 gr or per 100 ml 15 15 (in ready to drink beverage) 100 150

chewing gum	100
powders for preparing soups	20 (in soup ready to eat)
jam	100
ices and sherbets weighing less than 100 gr	70
milk products	40

Annex 10 : Purity and Quality of Artificial Sweeteners

Specifications for Degree of Purity and Quality of Artificial Sweeteners

Column A	Column B
Name of Sweetener	Degree of Purity and Quality According to the BooSweetner Following Edition and Page -
1.Saccharin	Saccharin Edition 25, 1982, pp. 166-169 Calcium Saccharin Edition 17, 1980, pp. 24 and 25 Sodium Saccharin Edition 17, 1980, pp. 111-114 Potassium Saccharin Edition 31/2, 1984, pp. 81-84
2.Cyclamate	Calcium Cyclamate Edition 17, 1980, pp. 21-23 Sodium Cyclamate Edition 19, 1980, pp. 109 and 110
3.Aspartame	Edition 17, 1980, pp. 10-12
4.Acesulfame -K	Edition 28, 1983, pp.3 and 4

Annex 11: Purity and Quality of non-High Intensity Sweeteners

Specifications for Degree of Purity and Quality of non-High Intensity Sweeteners

Column A	Column B
Non-high intensity Sweetener	Degree of Purity and Quality
1. Sugar	Israel Standard 356, June 1978
2. Dextrose Anhydrous	Codex Standard 7-1981
3. Dextrose Monohydrous	Codex Standard 8-1981
4. Dried Glucose Syrup	Codex Standard 10-1981
5. Glucose Syrup	Israel Standard 443, July 1983
6. Lactose	Codex Standard 11-1981
7. Fructose	Codex Standard 102-1981
8. Powdered Dextrose	Codex Standard 54-1981
9. Malto-Dextrin, Dextrins	the Book, edition 19, pp.120, 121
10. Sorbitol	the Book, edition 34, pp. 213-216
11. Manitol	the Book, edition 37, pp. 77-80
12. Xylitol	the Book, edition 28, pp. 143-145
13. Maltitol	Per the Director's instructions
14. Lactitol	the Book, edition 28, pp.60-63
15. Isomaltitol	the Book, edition 19, pp. 120, 121
16. Hydrogenated Glucose Syrups	the Book, edition 34, pp. 99-102

Annex 12: Acids, Bases, and Reaction Regulators

Acids, Bases, and Reaction Regulators

Acetric Acid
Citric Acid
Fumaric Acid
Glucono Delta-Lactone
Hydrochloric Acid
Lactic Acid
Malic Acid
Phosphoric Acid
Potassium Acid Tartrate
Sodium Bisulfate
Sulfuric Acid
Tartaric Acid
Calcium Phosphate, Tribasic
Calcium Silicate
Calcium Stearate
Cellulose, Microcrystalline
Cellulose Powdered
Kaolin
Magnesium Carbonate
Magnesium Hydroxide
Magnesium Stearate
Silicon Dioxide
Sodium Silica- aluminate
Magnesium Stearate
Silicon Dioxide
Sodium Silica- aluminate
Magnesium Silicate
Adipic Acid
Aluminum Ammonium Sulphate
Aluminum Potassium Sulfate
Aluminum Sodium Sulfate
Ammonium Carbonate
Ammonium Phosphate, Dibasic
Ammonium Phosphate, Monobasic
Calcium Citrate
Calcium Gluconate
Sodium Bicarbonate
Acids, Bases, and Reaction Regulators (continued)
L-Glycine
Calcium Hydroxide
Calcium Lactate
Calcium Phosphate, Monobasic
Calcium Pyrophosphate
Magnesium Oxide
Potassium Acid Tartrate
Potassium Citrate
Potassium Phosphate, Dibasic
Potassium Phosphate, Monobasic
Sodium Acetate
Sodium Acetate, Anhydrous
Sodium Acid Pyrophosphate

Sodium Citrate
Sodium Phosphate, Dibasic
Sodium Phosphate, Monobasic
Sodium Phosphate, Tribasic
Sodium Potassium Tartrate
Sodium Pyrophosphate
Sodium Sesquicarbonate
Succinic Acid

Crystallization-Inhibiting Substances

Silicon Dioxide
Calcium Orthophosphate

Emulsifiers and Stabilizers

Substances listed in the First and Second Appendices of the Public Health Regulations (Food) (Emulsifiers and Stabilizers in Food Products), 1966

Ethyl Alcohol
Glycerol
Stearic Acid
L-Leucine
Poly Ethylene-Glycol
PVP (Pyrolidone Vinyl Polymer)

In Solutions For Personal (Tabletop) Sweeteners Only

Benzoic Acid - up to 1000 parts/million
Para-Hydroxy Benzoic Acid - up to 1000 parts per million (ppm).

Annex 13: Sweetener Content Limits

Column A	Column B	Column C
Sweetener	ADI	Maximum amount of sweetener/100 ml per 100 gr of the product (items 1-6) maximum amount of sweetener in a portion equivalent to 5 gr Sucrose (item 5)
1. Saccharin	2.5 mg/kg body weight	1. ready-to-drink non-alcoholic beverages - 4.4mg 2. ice cream - 17.5mg 3. candies and chewing gum - 8.5mg 4. jam - 8.5 mg 5. personal (tabletop) sweetener - 18mg 6. milk product - 8.5 mg
2. Cyclamate	11 mg/kg body weight	1. ready-to-drink non-alcoholic beverages - weight 19.3 mg 2. ice cream - 77 mg 3. candies and chewing gum - 38.5 mg 4. jam - 38.5 mg 5. personal (tabletop) sweetener - 150 mg 6. milk product - 38.5 mg
3. Aspartame	40 mg/kg body weight	1. ready-to-drink non-alcoholic beverages - 70mg 2. ice cream - 280 mg 3. candy and chewing gum - 140 mg 4. jam - 140 mg 5. personal (tabletop) sweetener - 18 mg 6. milk products - 140 mg
4. Ace-sulfame -K	9 mg/kg body weight	1. non-alcoholic beverages - 15.75 mg 2. ice cream - 63 mg 3. candy and chewing gum - 31.5 mg 4. jam - 31.5 mg 5. personal (tabletop) sweetener - 20 mg 6. milk products - 31.5 mg

Annex 14: World Trade Organization (Wto) Enquiry Point

Each member government is responsible for the notification procedures associated with agreement under the World Trade Organization (WTO). Examples here relate to the Sanitary, PhytoSanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreements. WTO obligations include notifying to the WTO any trade-significant proposals which are not substantially the same as international standards, providing copies of the proposed regulation upon request, allowing time for comments, and also to provide upon request copies of other relevant documents on existing regulations related to food and agriculture. Information on the country's regulations, standards and certification procedures can also be obtained through the Enquiry Point listed below:

Ms. Bernadette Golczewski- WTO Enquiry Point, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor

Email: Bernadette@moital.gov.il

Tel: 972-3-7101581/520, Fax: 972-3-7101585

76 Mazez Street, Tel Aviv, Israel, 65789

Annex 15: Import Requirements for Dairy Products

As a reference, listed below are examples of customs documents, health certificates, permits, registrations, and additional information which may be required by customs, health or agriculture authorities for the import of United States dairy products into Israel.

I. DOCUMENTATION	III. INSPECTION & SAMPLING
Customs Documentation:	- Pre-Shipment INSPECTION in the United States.
Import Declaration	- Pre-Shipment TESTING by United States Laboratories.
Invoice or Pro-forma Invoice	Mandatory Testing upon entry
Packing List	Random Testing/Sampling upon entry
Import Certificates:	IV. PERMIT and REGISTRATION
APHIS Export Certificate	Import Permit / Import License
Certificate of Analysis	PRODUCT Registration or Approval
Certificate of Conformity	LABEL Registration or Approval
Certificate of Free Sale	U. S. DAIRY PLANT Registration or Approval
Certificate of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP)	V. SPECIAL / ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
Certificate of Origin	Shelf - Life requirements
Health Certificate	Storage requirements
Halal Certificate	Transportation requirements

Kosher Certificate	Additional import requirements or procedures for PRODUCT SAMPLES.
Radiation - free Certificate	Additional requirements for dairy products as SPECIALTY FOODS
Other Country - Specific Certificates	
Declaration regarding the existence of Inhibitors, pharmaceutical components, antibiotics, or pesticide residues.	
II. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS REQUIREMENTS	VI. ISRAEL SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS
Sample of Label (original label needed)	"U.S. Certificate of Origin for Exporting to Israel" (CO)
Ingredient List	
Additive List	
Description of Manufacturing Process Authorization/Certification/Notarization of Documents.	

The government of Israel requires food products to be registered with the Ministry of Health before they can be sold in the country. United States Food and Drug Administration approval is not mandatory, but is preferred by Israeli importers as it accelerates the product registration process and import license approval. Product registration normally takes from 14 to 21 days if all documentation is in order.

All dairy products imported to Israel must be pasteurized and abide by all official standards and regulations of Israel. The following documents have to be presented.

1. List of ingredient including food additives, identified by their chemical name or respective E- number (as in the European Union).
2. Product label (original).
3. Certificate of analysis including chemical phosphatase test and microbiological.
4. Declaration or analysis certificate regarding inhibitors, drug residues, antibiotics, pesticide residues, and preservatives (The only preservative allowed is sorbic acid up to 750ppm).
5. Certificate from the veterinary authorities, according to EEC. An APHIS Export Certificate, VS Form 16-4 (Attachment) stating that they come from herds free from foot- and- mouth disease.
6. Flow diagram of production, including technological process.
7. Certificate of GMP, HACCP, and/or any other quality control systems.

Other Documents:

1. Commercial Invoice.

Three copies are required. If more than one commodity is being imported in the same shipment then each must be described separately on the invoice or a separate commercial invoice must be used for each. The Israel Customs Services prefer that exporters use their own commercial invoice forms containing all required information including name and address of supplier, general nature of the goods, country of origin of the goods name and address if the customer in Israel, terms, rate of exchange (if applicable), shipping information, and a full description of all goods in the shipment including shipping market, quantity or measure, composition of goods (by percentage if mixed), tariff heading number, gross weight of each package, net weight of each package, total weight of shipment, price per unit as sold and total value of shipment. The total value of shipment includes packing shipping, dock and agency fees, and insurance charges incurred in the exportation of goods to Israel. The Commercial invoice must be signed by the manufacturer, consignor, owner, or authorized agent.

2. United States Certificate of Origin.

In order to benefit from the provision of the United States - Israel Trade Area Agreement (FTAA), a special "United States Certificate of Origin for export to Israel" (CO) must be presented to Israel Customs. The certificate does not need to be notarized or stamped by a Chamber of Commerce if the exporter is also the manufacturer. Instead, the exporter should make the following declaration in the certificate:

"The undersigned hereby declares that he is the producer of the goods covered by this certificate and that they comply with the origin requirements specified for those goods in the United States - Israel Free Trade Agreement for goods exported to Israel."

Actual CO forms are printed by a number of commercial printing houses in the United States, specializing in export document forms.

It is possible for exporter to apply for a blanket CO, or "Approved Exporter" status. An "approved exporter" is only required to present an invoice which substitutes the CO, and which contains an "approved exporter" number and a declaration that the goods comply with the origin requirements. Certificate and notarization are not necessary. A manufacturer or exporter who wishes to become an "Approved Exporter" should complete a declaratory form and present it to:

Export Department
Israel Customs Services
32 Agron Street
P. O. Box 320
Jerusalem

Potential candidates are United States firms with total annual exports to Israel of at least \$20 million who have a clean record with the Israel Customs Service.

3. Kosher certification for dairy products is a commercial requirement. Supermarkets and most hotels will not stock products, which are not kosher. The competent authority for kosher certification is :

Chief Rabbinate of Israel
Head of Imports Division
Kashrut Department
58 King George Street
Jerusalem

Tel: 972-2-624-3484

When exporting milk replaces or milk products used for animal feeds to Israel, you must obtain the following certifications from APHIS:

1. Veterinary certificate stating that the products are free from food-and-mouth disease, pathogenic microorganisms, BSE and radioactive contamination.
2. Certification that the processing plant where the items are produced is under the direct supervision of APHIS Veterinary Services.

Annex 16: IMPORT OF INTOXICATING BEVERAGES

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S CIRCULAR

IMPORT OF INTOXICATING BEVERAGES

2.5

1. Introduction

1 - A

For the purpose of import of intoxicating beverages to Israel, the importer must obtain a special permit from the Ministry of Industry and Trade for the import of intoxicating beverages, in accordance with the provisions of the Free Import Order, 1978. The requirement for a special permit for the import of intoxicating beverages was intended to protect the public health and to prevent beverage consumers from being misled.

1 - B

The purpose of this circular is to set forth the conditions and procedures for the granting of special permits for the import of intoxicating beverages.

2. General

2 - A

As a general rule, there are two principal stages in the process of import of intoxicating beverages. The first stage involves receipt of a special permit, prior to import, and requires the use of an "Application for Import License" (or "Application for Special Permit") form. The second stage involves receipt of a permit for release of the merchandise, and requires the use of an "Examination and Release of Intoxicating Beverages" form.

2 - B

This circular, with regard to the type and quality of the examination required, distinguishes between the import of intoxicating beverages to Israel for the first time and the import of intoxicating beverages which have already been imported in the past. As a general rule, the import of intoxicating beverages for the first time requires the importer to produce certificates of origin from the manufacturer, whereas the import of intoxicating beverages which have been imported in the past does not require the importer to produce such certificates. In both cases, the importer is required to provide the Consumer Goods Administration in the Ministry of Industry and Trade with a certificate of examination by an approved laboratory, attesting to the fact that the beverage is not toxic and that it complies with all of the requirements of the law and of this circular. A certificate of examination is required both in the stage prior to the import and in the stage of release of the products from Customs.

2 - C

The Consumer Goods Administration is entitled to withhold the granting of the special permit, to suspend it after it has been given, or to cancel it, should it deem this necessary in order to ensure that no beverage is imported to Israel which does not comply with the requirements of the law and of this circular.

3. Definitions

3 - A "Intoxicating Beverages"

Beverages and potable alcohols of the types set forth in Chapter 22 of the Supplement to the Customs Tariff and Exemptions Ordinance, 1937, whose import is contingent upon a special permit pursuant to the Free Import Order, 1978.

Should the name of a certain beverage be mentioned in this circular, it shall be interpreted as set forth with regard to said beverage in IS 1318 – Wine, IS 407 – Beer, IS 309 – Ethyl Alcohol, or IS 1572 Part 1 – Alcoholic Beverages – Definitions, Descriptions and Marking. A list of the laws applying to imported alcoholic beverages is appended to this circular as Appendix A.

3 - B "New Intoxicating Beverage"

An Intoxicating Beverage which has not yet been imported to Israel.

3 - C "Previously Imported Intoxicating Beverage"

An Intoxicating Beverage which has previously been lawfully imported to Israel.

3 - D "Certificate of Origin"

A permit from the competent authority in the country of production, verifying the country of cultivation of the original materials and the area of cultivation, if the latter is set forth on the Label of the beverage.

3 - E "Approved Laboratory"

A laboratory which has been approved by the Commissioner for Standardization, pursuant to Section 12 (a) of the Standards Law, 1953.

3 - F the "Administration"

The Consumer Goods Administration in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

3 - G "Competent Authority"

The Director of the Administration or anyone empowered for the purpose, pursuant to the Import and Export Ordinance [New Version], 1979, are in charge of granting of the permits and implementation of this circular.

3 - H "Label"

Any writing on the package, whether said writing is glued on, stamped on or applied in any other manner.

4. Conditions for Granting of a Special Permit Prior to Import An importer seeking to import Intoxicating Beverages to Israel shall submit to the Administration an application for a special permit, on an "Application for Import License" (or "Application for Special Permit") form (MDF 5060)) along with the following documents:

* A certificate of examination by an Approved Laboratory, as set forth in Sections 4 - A, 4 - B and 4 - C of this circular, which sets forth the composition of the Intoxicating Beverage and attests to the fact that the beverage is not toxic and that it complies with all of the requirements of the law and of this circular. With regard to a Previously Imported Intoxicating Beverage – the certificate of examination shall state that its composition is identical to the known composition of the beverage as documented by the Approved Laboratory at the time of the first import of the beverage to Israel.

* The original documents which were submitted to the laboratory.

If the requirements of the law and of this circular are fulfilled, the importer shall be granted a special permit for the import of Alcoholic Beverages.

4 - A Laboratory Examination for a New Intoxicating Beverage

An importer seeking to obtain a certificate of examination for the purpose of receiving a special permit for the import of a New Intoxicating Beverage shall provide an Approved Laboratory with the following:

1)A sample of the beverage with regard to which the import permit is requested, in a container of the type in which the beverage is to be marketed to consumers. If the beverage is beer, the importer must produce 5 bottles/cans for each sample.

2)Three original Labels (separately or on the bottles).

3)Three labels in Hebrew.

4)Original documents issued by the manufacturer of the beverage, approved and verified by the Competent Authority in the country of production, and including the following details:

a) Analysis which sets forth the components listed in Appendix B of this circular, as well as the names, types and international identification numbers of the artificial coloring used in the production of the beverage, and the types and quantities of preservatives used in the production of the beverage.

- b) A description of the production process.
- c) A list of the original materials used in the production of the beverage.

d) If the beverage is wine, the areas of cultivation and the composition of the grape varieties used in the production of the wine shall be set forth in detail. Should a certain area of cultivation be listed on the Label, the importer shall provide a Certificate of Origin.

e) If the beverage is whiskey, brandy, tequila, cognac, ouzo or fruit distillates, the importer shall provide a Certificate of Origin issued by the Competent Authority in the country of production, which also sets forth the original materials and the production process (including the aging process).

5) Documents written in a foreign language (except for English and French) shall be submitted in Hebrew translation and shall be notarized.

4 - B Laboratory Examination for a Previously Imported Intoxicating Beverage

An importer seeking to obtain a certificate of examination for the purpose of receiving a special permit for the import of a Previously Imported Intoxicating Beverage shall provide an Approved Laboratory with the following:

1) A sample of the beverage with regard to which the import permit is requested, in a container of the type in which the beverage is to be marketed to consumers. If the beverage is beer, the importer must produce 5 bottles/cans for each sample.

2) Three original Labels (separately or on the bottles).

3) Three labels in Hebrew.

4) If the beverage is wine, the Approved Laboratory must be provided with a Certificate of Origin from the manufacturer as set forth in Section 4 - A, (4).

Documents written in a foreign language (except for English and French) shall be submitted in Hebrew translation and shall be notarized.

4 – C Examination in the Laboratory and Certificate of Examination

1) An Approved Laboratory shall perform tests on Intoxicating Beverages as set forth in Appendix 2 of this circular.

2) Upon conclusion of the examination, the Approved Laboratory shall produce a Certificate of Examination for the Intoxicating Beverage, which shall include the following details:

a) The composition of the Intoxicating Beverage.

b) Designation of whether the Intoxicating Beverage is toxic.

- c) Details with regard to the compatibility of the composition of the Intoxicating Beverage with the requirements of the law and of this circular, including a detailed listing of any deviation.
- d) If the beverage is beer, and if its expiry date has passed or is about to fall within 30 days, it must be clarified that no beer whose expiry date is about to fall within three months shall be released from Customs.
- e) With regard to a New Intoxicating Beverage: whether the composition of the beverage is identical to the composition which was described by the manufacturer in the document submitted pursuant to Section 4 - A, (4) above, and if not, a detailed listing of the deviation from said composition and the required correction of the Label, provided the beverage is an Intoxicating Beverage as this term is defined in this circular.
- f) With regard to a Previously Imported Intoxicating Beverage: whether the composition of the beverage is identical to the known composition of the beverage as documented at the time of the first import of the beverage to Israel.

5. Release of the Shipment from the Control of the Customs Authorities

Following the arrival of the shipment of Intoxicating Beverages in Israel, the manufacturer shall take action to have the shipment released from the control of the Customs authorities, according to the following rules:

5 - A

The manufacturer shall ensure that a representative of the Approved Laboratory which issued the Certificate of Examination during the stage prior to the import shall take samples of each brand name and submit them for examination. With regard to the import of a New Beverage, one sample shall be taken for each brand name. With regard to the import of a Previously Imported Beverage, three samples shall be taken for each brand name.

5 - B

The Approved Laboratory shall examine the composition of the Intoxicating Beverage of which said sample were taken, shall draw up a Certificate of Examination with respect thereto, in the format set forth in Section 4 - C above, and shall determine whether the composition of the beverage is identical to the composition in respect of which the special permit was issued during the stage prior to the import.

5 - C

The importer shall provide the Administration with the Certificate of Examination issued by the Approved Laboratory and with an "Examination and Release of Intoxicating Beverages" form (IC 70.032), including the documents required in accordance with said form: a copy of

the bill of lading; a commercial invoice; a Certificate of Origin; a Label for the beverage, approved by the Administration within the framework of the special permit; and a copy of the special permit.

5 - D

Should the requirements of the law and of this circular be fulfilled, the importer shall be granted a permit for the release of the Intoxicating Beverage from the control of the Customs authorities, provided that the commodity examined is an Intoxicating Beverage as this term is defined in this circular. Should the commodity be another beverage, which is not an "Intoxicating Beverage", the commodity shall be examined pursuant to the relevant applicable law. If the beverage is beer, an "Examination and Release of Intoxicating Beverages" form shall not be issued for beer whose expiry date has passed or is about to fall within 30 days.

6. "Green Track"

The Administration is entitled to approve the release of an Intoxicating Beverage from the control of the Customs authorities prior to the issue of the Certificate of Examination as required in Section 5, or to waive the issue of the Certificate of Examination, according to the rules set forth below:

6 - A

The Administration shall maintain a list of all of the importers of Intoxicating Beverages.

6 - B

The Administration is entitled to grant an importer of Intoxicating Beverages the status of "Recognized Importer" after said importer has brought to Israel at least ten shipments of Intoxicating Beverages on different dates, in a total quantity of at least ten cargo containers, over a period of at least one year, and has been found, on the basis of the cumulative experience, compliant with the provisions of the law and this circular. The Administration is entitled to grant an importer the status of "Recognized Importer" provided that said importer, prior to the publication of this circular, has been recognized by the Administration as a regular importer of Intoxicating Beverages which has complied with the requirements applicable to the import.

6 - C

The release of Intoxicating Beverages imported by a Recognized Importer from the control of the Customs authorities shall be implemented following the provision of an "Examination and Release of Intoxicating Beverages" form

6 - D

At the time of issue of the examination form, the Administration shall determine whether it is necessary for an Approved Laboratory to examine samples of the shipment. Within the framework of its decision, the Administration shall consider past experience with regard to the compliance of beverages of the same type with the requirements applicable thereto, the

quantity of beverages of the same type which have been imported and examined, and the interval which has elapsed since the last examination of that type. Should the Administration decide that it is necessary for an Approved Laboratory to examine samples of the shipment, samples of each brand in the shipment shall be taken by a representative of the Approved Laboratory, who shall transfer them for examination as set forth in Section 5 - A above.

6 - E

Should the laboratory examination reveal that the Intoxicating Beverages which have been released from the control of the Customs authorities do not comply with the requirements of the law and this circular, the Administration shall issue an order for the cessation of marketing of the beverages, subject to the importer being given the right to state his case before the Administration.

6 - F

Should the Administration decide to order the cessation of marketing of the merchandise, the importer shall be required to immediately cease the marketing thereof and to collect the merchandise in an agreed place acceptable to the Administration, pending a decision as to what shall be done with it.

6 - G

Should the Administration decide to prevent or to terminate the marketing of the merchandise, the Administration shall approach a Court for the receipt of an order for confiscation, destruction or return of the shipment to its country of origin, as the Court shall decide.

6 - H

The Administration is entitled to revoke an importer's status as a Recognized Importer, should it transpire that the importer misused said status or that the importer does not comply with the requirements of the law and of this circular, or when there is a real suspicion of the import of Intoxicating Beverages which do not comply with said requirements, in such a manner as to justify the performance of laboratory testing prior to release of the shipments from the control of the Customs authorities. The Administration is entitled to decide as stated above in a general manner or with regard to a specific shipment. Prior to such a decision by the Administration, the importer shall be given an opportunity to state his case before the Administration.

7. Applicability

This Director-General's Circular shall enter into force as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

(-)

Reuven Horesh
Director General
Jerusalem, 12 Kislev 5760

Appendix A (Section 3 of the Circular)

Laws Applying to the Import of Intoxicating Beverages¹

A. Israeli Legislation

1. National Health Ordinance (Food), 1935.
2. National Health Regulations (Food) (Coloring in Food), 1984.
3. Consumer Protection Law, 1981.
4. Consumer Protection Ordinance (Marking and Packaging of Food Products), 1999.
5. Standards Law, 1953, and Israel Standards IS 1318 – Wine, IS 407 – Beer, IS 309 – Ethyl Alcohol, or IS 1572 Part 1 – Alcoholic Beverages – Definitions, Descriptions and Marking.
6. Intoxicating Beverages Ordinance (Manufacture and Sale) [New Version].
7. Intoxicating Beverages Regulations.
8. Control of Products and Services Law, 1957.
9. Merchandise Marking Ordinance.
10. Import and Export Ordinance [New Version], 1979.
11. Free Import Order, 1978.

B. International Rules and Standards

1. The requirements of the *Codex alimentarius*.
2. Food Chemical Codex.
3. British Pharmacopoeia.
4. EEC Council Regulations No. 1576/89 – 1989, published in the Official Journal of European Communities No. L - 160 dated June 12, 1989, as these shall be in force from time to time, and other regulations and guidelines issued by the European Union with regard to intoxicating beverages.
5. Recueil des méthodes internationales d'analyse des vins et des moûts, Complément n° 1 à l'édition officielle de juin 1990, Office International de la Vigne et du Vin.
6. Laws and circulars issued by the United States Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.
7. Laws, regulations, standards, quality requirements, and other legal provisions of the country of manufacture.
8. Other requirements of any institution which has been recognized by the Director-General of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

¹ We would like to clarify that the list of binding laws and rules is not a closed list. The Approved Laboratory must determine that the Intoxicating Beverage complies with all of the binding laws and rules, even if they do not appear in this Appendix. Thus, for example, amendments of laws and regulations which are published following the date of publication of this procedure shall be binding even if they were not yet updated in this Appendix.

Appendix B (Section 4 of the Circular) Laboratory Testing²

A. Test methods:

1. Laboratory testing shall be conducted in accordance with the generally accepted professional criteria in the intoxicating beverages industry, according to the test methods set forth in the Israel Standard applicable to the beverage under test or in any other legislation.
2. In the absence of Israel Standards and Israeli legislation governing the test methods, the testing shall be carried out in accordance with generally accepted international test methods, or the test methods generally accepted in the country of manufacture. In particular, use shall be made of the test methods set forth in the following compendia:
 - (a) The test methods of the Office International de la Vigne et du Vin, as set forth in Recueil des méthodes internationales d'analyse des vins et des moûts.
 - (b) The test methods set forth in EEC Council Regulations No. 1576/89 – 1989, published in the Official Journal of European Communities No. L - 160 dated June 12, 1989, as these shall be in force from time to time, and other relevant regulations and guidelines issued by the European Union.
 - (c) The test methods set forth in the Test Book of the American Organization of Agricultural Chemists (A.O.A.C.), according to the most recent valid edition.

B. List of Chemical Tests for Intoxicating Beverages

- (1) Tests for whiskey, cognac, brandy, slivovitz and rum
 1. Effective (real) alcohol in % by volume.
 2. Synthetic alcohol in % by volume.
 3. Overall acidity
 4. Fixed acidity } in milligrams of acetic acid per liter
 5. Volatile acidity
 6. Dry extract (dry material) in grams per liter
 7. Overall sugar as reducing sugar in grams per liter

² We would like to clarify that the Approved Laboratory must determine that the Intoxicating Beverage complies with all of the binding laws and rules, even if they are not reflected in this section.

8. Methyl alcohol (methanol) in milligrams per liter
9. Non-alcoholic elements, in grams per 100 liters of 100% alcohol, including:
 - a. Volatile acids such as acetic acid
 - b. Aldehydes such as ethanal
 - c. Furfural
 - d. Esters (such as ethyl acetate)
 - e. Total high alcohols, including:
 - Propanol 1
 - Methyl 2 – propanol 2
 - Butanol 1
 - Methyl 2, butanol 1 and methyl 3, butanol 1
 - Total non-alcoholic coefficient

(2) Tests for liqueurs, cordials, cocktails and aperitifs

1. Alcohol in % by volume.
2. Total fat in grams per liter (milk fat)
3. Overall sugar as reducing sugar in grams per liter
4. Protein (about 25.6 X)
5. Acidity such as citric acid in grams per liter
6. Dry extract (dry material) in grams per liter
7. Ash in grams per liter
8. Color index
9. Methyl alcohol in milligrams per liter

(3) Tests for wines, dessert (sweet) wines, sparkling wines and sangria

1. Alcohol in % by volume.
2. Alcohol by weight (in grams per liter)
3. Specific weight 20/20
4. Volumetric mass
5. Specific weight of non-alcoholic distillate residue
6. Sugars: total expressed as reducing sugar
7. Reducing sugar (in grams per liter)
8. Sucrose (in grams per liter)
9. Polarization of polarimetric plane
10. Dry extract: Total according to densimetry (in grams per liter)
11. Less sugar (non-reducing extract) (in grams per liter)
12. Corrected (reduced extract) (in grams per liter)
13. Total acidity expressed as wine acid (in grams per liter)
14. Volatile acidity expressed as acetic acid (in grams per liter)

15. Fixed acidity expressed as wine acid (in grams per liter)
16. Tartaric acid (in grams per liter)
17. Malic acid (in grams per liter)
18. Citric acid (in grams per liter)
20. Sulfur dioxide, total (in grams per liter)
21. Sulfates expressed as (in grams per liter)
22. Glycerol (in grams per liter)
23. 2-3 butylene glycol (in grams per liter)
24. Preservatives: Benzoic acid (in grams per liter)
25. Sorbic acid (in grams per liter)
26. Ascorbic acid (in grams per liter)
27. Presence of whitener (Malvidin Diglucozide)
28. Precipitate index
29. Organoleptic test
30. Ash (in grams per liter)
31. Alkalinity of ash (in meq/L)
32. Potassium (in grams per liter)
33. Phosphorus expressed as (in grams per liter)
34. Analytic formula: dry alcohol (2) / reduced dry extract (13)
35. Total sugar
Polarization of polarimetric plane
36. Revlaine coefficient
37. Alcohol in % by volume (1) – fixed acidity (18)
38. Ash (30) / alkalinity (31)
39. Fixed acidity (18) / alcohol in % by volume (1)
40. Residual dry extract (in grams per liter)

Procedure for Importation of Wine Import Department, Chief rabbinate of Israel

The Chief Rabbinate of Israel has published an official procedure or set of principles as a guide to the perplexed importer who seeks to import kosher wine into Israel. The guide, as set out in this publicly available document, provides a striking example of the Chief Rabbinate's expertise in setting up technical barriers to trade (TBT). Careful examination of the implications of these instructions produces the inevitable conclusion that it is only possible to import wine from wineries which exclusively produce kosher products. Following is an unofficial translation of the Chief Rabbinate's guidelines.

Introduction

Production of kosher wine requires expertise and careful supervision of both the production process and any auxiliary ingredients employed in the process. Accordingly it has become necessary to introduce specific kashrut procedures to be followed by importers of wine to Israel.

In addition to the problems, which occur in the course of production, it is evident that lacunae also exist in the marketing of imported wine. These require the development of a clear-cut and uniform procedure for all importers and wineries.

- A. The Import Department will not license importation of wine in bulk.
- B. An importer of kosher wine must produce the following documents, in addition to completing the special application form for requesting permission to import (kosher wine T.F.).
 - 1. Copies of all labels of the winery which are used outside of Israel for **nonkosher** wines.
 - 2. Copies of the proposed labels for the **kosher** wine.
 - 3. A kashrut certificate from abroad, from the supervising rabbi, indicating: filling dates; ingredient list and auxiliary materials used in the manufacture of the wine; description of the manufacturing process; a declaration by the kashrut supervisor that he has sole responsibility for the labels.
- C. The brand name and name of the kosher wine ("the line") will under no circumstances be the same as that of the nonkosher labels. Decisions on this issue are at the sole discretion of the Import Department.
- D. The Import Department will not issue import permits for kosher wine to an importer who also imports or markets nonkosher wine.
- E. An importer of kosher wine will confirm that he does not store kosher and nonkosher wines in the same warehouse.
- F. The importer of kosher wine will undertake to refrain from advertising kosher and nonkosher wines together.

Note: An importer who, for whatever reason, imports kosher wine without the direction and instruction of the Import Department, will bear the consequences of having his application rejected. Therefore, it is necessary to apply to the Import Department before contracting to import wine. The Chief Rabbinate can provide a list of kashrut supervision bodies and of rabbis who specialize in the production of kosher wine. We note here that in spite of their specialization, the Import Department will approve the wine only if it is certain that the supervisors acted according to the kashrut procedures of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel and according to the procedure shown above.