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This table summarises the general requirements and standards for food and agricultural imports into Israel.

Certification/ Requirements	Remark
Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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• The Standards Institution of Israel (SII - www.sii.org.il) is the agency responsible for the development of most product standards, compliance testing, and certification of products and industry quality assurance systems.
Regulatory Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministry of Agriculture (MOAQ - http://www.moag.gov.il)• Food Control Service Ministry of Health (http://www.health.gov.il/english/)• Plant Protection and Inspection Services (PPIS, MOAQ - http://www.ppiseng.moag.gov.il/ppiseng/)• Israel Veterinary and Animal Health Services (IVAHS - http://www.vetserveng.moag.gov.il/vetserveng)
Product Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.
New product registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For new food products which have not yet been registered, the importer must submit the following registration documents: Application to register a new food, Legislative status of the new food (accompanied by a risk assessment certificate), Additional requirements of new foods according to the type of new food.• The Israeli Health Ministry have authorized the following institutions to carry out food risk assessments:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The European Communities/EFSA- USDA (FSIS) FDA- Health Canada- ANZFA – Australia and New Zealand Food Authority/ FSANZ Food Standards Australia New Zealand- Japan – Department of Food Safety

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ministry of Health WHO/FAO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS Expert Committees• If the new food should be approved by at least two institutions on the List of Authorized Bodies, the application for a new food will be sent for consideration by the New Food Committee. If it does not, the application will be passed to Risk Assessment unit for consideration.
License Exemption for Plant Import	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All imported products have been categorized into three groups:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.Third annex – Goods listed in this schedule are exempt from an import permit and a phytosanitary certificate, but must be accompanied by a Certificate of Origin. Their release is conditional on a visual inspection at the port of entry and on being pest-free.2.Fourth annex– Goods listed in this schedule are exempt from an import permit, but must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate from the country of origin, complying with all the import requirements specified in the body of the schedule. Their release is conditional on the approval of all the accompanying documents, on a visual inspection at the port of entry and on compliance with all the import terms.3.Licensed import – As to goods not appearing in the aforementioned schedules, an import permit application must be submitted in respect thereof. Following a pest risk assessment (PRA), it will be decided whether to approve the application and under what restrictions. Such goods must be accompanied by an import permit, phytosanitary certificate and visual inspection at the port of entry as a condition for release from the port of entry.• Please refer to the 2009 Plant Protection Regulations (Plant Import) available at http://www.moag.gov.il/NR/ronlyres/EA507B2D-E18F-44A4-B71D-A249C73121B1/0/PlantImportRegulations2009UnofficialTranslation.pdf
Kosher certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not a legal requirement for importing food into Israel, however, non-kosher products have a much smaller market, as most supermarkets and hotels refuse to carry them• Stringent for meat, cheese, poultry and their products, otherwise prohibited for entry.• 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. It is quite simple for Israeli importers to send an Israeli rabbi to any supply source<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Exception: nonkosher beef offal• Manufacturers who produce kosher products must be able to satisfy Israeli rabbinical supervisors that all ingredients and processes are kosher
Veterinary licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For animal products, to be obtained in country of origin

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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.
Phytosanitary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A phytosanitary certificate is required for the import of plants and their products.It is very important to use the correct botanical names. Botanical Names - Hebrew-Latin-Common: http://www.ppiseng.moag.gov.il/NR/rdonlyres/398FC077-747F-4206-8397-47B5C4B1DA32/1155/PlantNamesOctober2004.pdf
Import permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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.For meat and poultry product, issued by Ministry of AgriculturePlants and their products including dried fruits, nuts, seed, biotic material require import approval from the Plant Protection and Inspection Service.Packaged meat and poultry for retail sale is subject to licensing by the Food Control Administration of the Ministry of Health.
Certificate of Origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Required for plant products that belong to the Third Annex of the 2009 Plant Protection Regulations (Plant Import)
Labeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Israel has strict marking and labeling requirements, which frequently differ from those of other countries. It is recommended that exporters consult with their Israeli importer prior to shipping.
Marking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Marking should be done by printing, engraving, stamping, or any other means, on the package of the goods themselves.If marking is not possible, a label should be well sewn or stuck to the goods or package.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.
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hebrew must be usedEnglish may be added with letter size smaller than those of HebrewMandatory 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.
Standard Declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Standards 1118 on labeling sets the requirements for labeling of pre-packaged foods intended for retail sale, including foods for re-packaging, wholesale however excluding

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	<p>the unprocessed fruits and vegetables.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required information:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Name of food- Country of origin,- Name and address of producer,- Name and address of Israeli importer,- The contents, the weight and volume- Where packaging is non-standard, the package must indicate the unit price.- Net volume- in mL if less than 1000mL, in L if more than 1000mL. For net weight, in mg if less than 1000 mg and in kg if more than 1000 mg- Instructions for Storage, Transport, and Use (if required)• Specific regulation applies for some food products. Where there is some contradiction between the requirement of standards for prepackaged food and labeling requirement of the special standard, the requirement of the special standard should take precedence.
Name of Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.
Country of Origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imported food shall be labeled with the name of the producer country.• Exception: imported products, which are used in the manufacture of food in Israel (note: repackaging ≠ manufacturing)
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For products packed in aerosol containers: semi-solid/powdered state - mark in units of weight; liquid state- volume.• It is prohibited to add alongside the units of volume or weight any adjective, which is likely to be misleading.• Drained weight of food packed in liquid should be indicated by the words "weight after draining..."• 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.• According to the new requirements published by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and

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	Labor (MOITAL - http://www.moital.gov.il) regarding labeling when the package weight of food and non-food product is reduced, the label should mention clearly the new quantity. In addition, a special notification should be added: "The package contains% less than the regular package", and the front size should be the same as the product's name letters.
Ingredients	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The contents shall be indicated for all ingredients, including water in descending order according to their relative weight in the food• For dry food 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.• The presence of coloring and preservatives shall be indicated in the list of ingredients• 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.
Nutritional Labelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mandatory for all packaged goods• Relates content per 100ml or 100g, but if package instructions are per portion, size as per consumed may be acceptable.• More specific information is available from Ministry of Health, Food Control Services or from GAIN Report IS9015 available from www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/attacherep/default.asp
Date Marking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Products with less than 60 days shelf life: date of manufacture can be in code (day and month or else day, month, and year) or marked openly and last marketing should be openly marked (day and month or else day, month and year)• Products with shelf life: 60-365 days: either the date of manufacture (day, month, and year). or last date of marketing (day, month and year or month and year) be marked openly, if manufacturing date is indicated openly, no need to indicate the last date of marketing• Products with more than 365 days shelf life: not required to indicate the last date of marketing, however the manufacturing date should be indicated at least in code (day, month and year)

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Instructions for Storage, Transport, and Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required when:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- the food has been cooled to a temperature of less than +8°C 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.
Choking warning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A warning must be marked in both Hebrew and Arabic on products intended for retail sale like nuts and seeds, with or without shells, popcorn, dried corn kernels for popcorn, spreads containing fragments of shelled nuts and sausages.• Warning must be prominently and visibly displayed on an adhesive label attached to the packaging or printed on the packaging itself for foodstuffs sold by weight (not pre-packaged), and must also be included in its advertisements.
Kosher Labelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• 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 non-kosher 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.
Labeling Prepackaged Food, Which Is Not Intended For Retail Sale	<p><u>Food used in industrial manufacture (including repackaging):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• May be in one of the following languages: English, French, German, Spanish, Italian instead of Hebrew• the following items shall be marked on the package of food used in industrial manufacture:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- the name of the food

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- lot identification- product specifications, if required by the responsible authority <p><u>Food in a Wholesale Package:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the name of the food- the name and address of the manufacturer as specified- ingredients as specified- the date as specified
Specific Labelling Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specific labeling regulations apply to some consumer goods, as well as fertilizers, insecticides, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, some food products, seeds, and alcoholic beverages• 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.
Other Information	
Food Additives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food Additive Regulation is based on the Public Health Regulations (food) Food Additives 1997. A full list of approved additives is published by the Food Control Services.• Food Additive Regulation from 5/18/97 provides information on getting a permit for the import food additives to Israel• Banned: E128(Red 2G), Propyl p-hydroxybenzoate E216, Sodium propyl p-hydroxybenzoate E217, PARA-HYDROXY-BENZOATES (PHB): Ethyl p-hydroxybenzoate E214, Sodium ethyl p-hydroxybenzoate E215, Methyl p-hydroxybenzoate E218, Sodium methyl p-hydroxybenzoate E219
Organic Food and Agricultural Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Standard for Organically Grown Plants and Their Products (2006) applies to organic produce of plant origin and is in compliance with EEC Regulation 2092/91 and its amendments.• The standard is available at http://www.moag.gov.il/NR/rdonlyres/9030C248-0339-493C-B47C-F60E1C8458DB/213/OrganicStandardPlantsEnglishAugust06.doc or http://www.moag.gov.il/NR/rdonlyres/9ED8A2AC-B988-471B-8831-F6BEEC5A9AE2/213/OrganicStandardPlantsEnglishAugust06.doc

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Import Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• An importer of regular products has to fill out Importer Statement.• Following the importer certificates filling, he will receive an official importer certificate from the Israeli Food & Nutrition Services.• Product Registration: Apply for authorization to import regular food products.• <u>Non-Regular Products:</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">- Importer registration- 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:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ original/copied official importer certificate▪ original/copied food certificate▪ shipment invoice▪ gate pass certificate▪ copy of the bill of lading and packing list▪ copy of the import tax
Import of Preserved Meat Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please refer to Minced meat and minced meat products (SI 1188) for packed fresh minced meat in Israel.• Import requirements for the imports of preserved meat products are detailed below.• The further documents should be submitted when applied for an import license:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.Kosher certificate from the Chief Rabbinate of the State of Israel (excluding imports to the Palestinian Authority).2.Product Composition3.Test results: Net weight<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Water percentage- Fat percentage- Protein percentage- Vacuum test4.Preservative content5.Incubation test for 7 days 55C and 14 days 35C.

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	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: 12.Veterinary Health Certificate proving that the product is manufactured of cattle free of BSE. 13.Approval as for the age of the slaughtered cattle.
Import of Wine and Alcoholic Beverages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On January 12 2009, Israel WTO-TBT Enquiry Point notified to the WTO of revised TBT measure for Alcoholic drinks (HS 2208): Description of content: On May 10, 2004 Israel has notified the WTO about the intention to declare the Israeli Voluntary Standard SI 1572 parts 1-2 as Mandatory (G/TBT/N/ISR/43). Following comments received after publishing this notification, Israel has decided to publish an amendment to the Mandatory Standard SI 1572 Part 1, dealing with the definition, the description and the marking of rum and whiskey, as well as allowing adding the geographic area to the name of an alcoholic drink, only if it was produced there.
Import Requirements for Dairy products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All milk products and their substitutes are within the non-regular products group Revised TBT measure for Semi-hard cheeses (HS 0406) Semi-hard cheese regulated by standard SI 1743
Pesticides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Israeli office responsible for pesticides is the Plant Protection and Inspection Services (PPIS), Pesticides Division with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Information regarding correct and safe usage of the pesticides permissible for sale in Israel, including the MRLs in food available from PPIS Pesticide Site: http://www.hadbaraeng.moag.gov.il/hadbara/english <p>Organic Pesticides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PPIS is responsible for their approval and registration Suitability is checked by an advisory committee to the General Director of the PPIS, in relation to the Israeli standard of fresh and processed organic produce from plant origin, and the EU Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2092/91. To enter a substance for a review in the advisory committee for organic agriculture, the

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	<p>following documents must be submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of the substance and its ingredients - Production method - Products containing an animal ingredient must have a preliminary approval of the Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration will be carried out according to the procedure described in "Registration and Licensing of Pesticides" • The following products have been approved for use in organic farming in Israel: http://www.ppis.moag.gov.il/NR/rdonlyres/6A981AA1-A6F4-4520-8D77-10E3728E9CE0/0/OrganicPesticidePublication.doc
Prohibited Imports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All non-kosher meat and poultry imports except offals • Bone-in beef from countries where there is a danger of transmitting Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) or Bovine Spongiform Encephaly (BSE)
Sweeteners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No person shall produce a sweetener, a non-high-intensity sweetening substance or food, which contains such substances unless – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the sweetener meets the requirements for purity and quality as indicated alongside it in column B of Annex 12 (http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200807/146295318.pdf); (b) the non-high-intensity sweetening substance meets the requirement for purity and quality as indicated alongside it in column B of Annex 13 of http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200807/146295318.pdf. • 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.; A. 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.

Reference: USDA FAIRS Country Report

DISCLAIMER:

This document has been prepared by SPRING Singapore with the intention of assisting Singapore based exporters of food products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this document, the information may not be completely accurate as policies may have changed or clear and consistent information on these policies were not available. They cannot be taken as the official interpretation of the regulations. It is highly recommended that Singapore based exporters verify the full set of certification and import requirements with the relevant authorities in importing country. **Please note that final import approval of any product is subject to the importing country's rules and regulations as interpreted by custom officials at the point of entry.**