

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: April 22, 2024

Report Number: IS2024-0010

Report Name: Israel Notifies WTO of Proposed Import Standard Regulations Related to the European Union

Country: Israel

Post: Tel Aviv

Report Category: Country/Regional FTA's, Trade Policy Incident Report, Trade Policy Monitoring, WTO Notifications

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Report Highlights:

Since March 25, 2024, the Government of Israel has notified the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) several times on regulatory proposals related to European Standards. On April 8, 2024, Israel's WTO/TBT notification G/TBT/N/ISR/1329/Rev. 1 was updated to allow for a period of public comment until May 21, 2024, and G/TBT/N/ISR/1332/Rev.1 was updated to allow for public comment until May 24, 2024. Both measures have been approved by the Israeli Parliament in the first reading (with more readings to come) and are linked to standard regulations related to the adoption of European Union regulations.

General Information

G/TBT/N/ISR/1329/Rev. 1

On March 8, 2024, Israel's Minister of Economy and Industry notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Committee) via [G/TBT/N/ISR/1329](#) of a draft amendment to Israel's standards law, but subsequently shortened the period for public comments via [G/TBT/N/ISR/1329/Corr.1](#) to March 31, 2024. The Israeli government then revised the notification via [G/TBT/N/ISR/1329/Rev. 1](#) which extended the period for public comment until May 21, 2024, and changed the description of its content because “{t}he Israeli Parliament (the Knesset) approved the proposed 19th amendment to Israel's Standards Law and the proposed 6th amendment to the Import-export Decree in the first reading.”

Israel describes the updated notification as follows:

“{t}he proposed amendment aims to reduce the regulatory and bureaucratic burden on manufacturers, importers, and retailers. It promotes competition and encourages free international trade, by adding an alternative route to importing and marketing goods subject to a mandatory standard. The new alternative route relies on European regulations and its binding requirements. It reduces regulatory requirements at the import stage and focuses on market surveillance performed by the Commissioner of Standardization and his administration, in addition to sampling of goods at the ports according to a new risk management system. Accordingly, an importer will be able to import goods that meet the requirements of the European regulation without, for example, presenting proof of compliance or performing laboratory tests upon inserting the product into the Israeli market. The importer shall hold a declaration that he is not aware of any defect or non-compliance of the product with regulation. This proposed amendment also includes a new Fifth Annex that details 17 European Directive that is adopted in correlation to Israel Mandatory Standards.”

(Note: The amendment to the 2021 Israeli Standards law was only published in Hebrew, but an unofficial Google translation is attached.)

G/TBT/N/ISR/1332/Rev. 1

Separately, on March 25, 2024, Israel notified the WTO's TBT Committee via [G/TBT/N/ISR/1332](#) of an amendment published by the Israeli Ministry of Health to promote and extend the food reform law which was implemented in 2021. This amendment was originally open for public comments until March 31, 2024, but was later revised via [G/TBT/N/ISR/1332/Rev. 1](#) to allow for public comments until May 24, 2024.

Israel described the updated notification as follows:

“The Israeli Parliament (The Knesset) approved the proposed amendment to the ‘Protection of Public Health Law (Food) (Amendment No. 9 and Temporary Provisions) (Expanding the Adoption of European law and its streamlining and removing barriers to importing food through the European compliance route), 5784-2024’ in the first reading. This amendment promotes and extends the food reform implemented in 2021, which aims to reduce the cost of living and is based on the European model. The major changes introduced in this amendment are as follows:

1. Simplifies and streamlines the procedures for updating changes in European law and delegates the updating authority to the Food Service Director;
2. Adopts an additional 24 European food Directives and Regulations, including food labeling, food additives, and substances that come into contact with food and creates harmonization and compatibility between Israeli and European food safety legislation (detained in the Second Annex A) and details all the exclusions in Second Annex B;
3. Promotes significant ease to the importation of food marketed in the EU for Authorized Economic Operator AEO ("Appropriate Importer").
4. Extends the obligation to manage a self-safety system to all food distributors. This requirement is necessary to regulate food labeling similar to that in Europe, especially for labeling foods that cause allergy or intolerance.”

(Note: The Amendment to the Israeli Food Reform law was only published in Hebrew, but an unofficial Google translation is attached.)

Interested parties are encouraged to submit comments to:

Israel WTO-TBT Enquiry Point
Ministry of Economy and Industry
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E-mail: Yael.Friedgut@service.economy.gov.il

Attachments:

[Unofficial Google Translation of the Amendment to the 2021 Israeli Standards Law.pdf](#)

[Unofficial Google Translation of the Amendment No 9 to the Israeli Food Law.pdf](#)