



20 October 2025

(25-6763)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

1. Notifying Member: <u>ISRAEL</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2. Agency responsible: Israel National Food Service, Ministry of Health
3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): Microbiological criteria for foodstuff, except for raw meat, raw milk, honey, and fresh eggs in their shells (ICS code(s): 67.040); General methods of tests and analysis for food products (ICS code(s): 67.050)
4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: ☒ All trading partners ☐ Specific regions or countries:
5. Title of the notified document: Public Health Protection (Food) Notice (Application of Changes to the Annex to the European Union Directives) (Regulation 2073/2005 - Concerning Microbiological Criteria for Foodstuff), 5785-2025. Language(s): Hebrew. Number of pages: 44 https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2025/SPS/ISR/25_06888_00_x.pdf
6. Description of content: The EU Regulation No. 2073/2005 of 15 November 2005 regarding microbiological criteria for foodstuff was adopted in Israel in the framework of the Economic Plan Law (Legislative Amendments for the Implementation of Economic Policy for the Budget Years 2021 and 2022), 5782-2021 (notified in G/TBT/N/ISR/1218 too), using an indirect amendment to the Protection of Public Health (Food) Law, 5776-2015, (Amendment No. 3), and appears in Item 3 of Appendix II A to the Law. In addition, the EU Regulation 2073/2005 was re-adopted as part of Amendment No. 10 to the Food Law (notified in G/TBT/N/ISR/1332/Rev.1 too), which was published on 4 August 2024. The version that was adopted and published on the Food Service's website was the version in force in the European legislation as of 8 March 2020. The EU Regulation 2073/2005 has not been fully applied in Israel yet. The exclusions and changes were listed in columns A and C of Item 3 of the Second Appendix A, in addition to the exceptions as stated in section 3a(a1) to (a5) of the Law. The main change introduced in this proposed Amendment is in Annex I to Regulation 2073/2005, as published by the European Union on 20 November 2024, in (EU) 2024/2895. This change regards the application of a strict food safety criteria, from production to the end of shelf life, in ready-to-eat foods other than those intended for infants and for special medical purposes capable of supporting the development of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> bacteria, " <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> not detected in 25 grams" when the food dealer was unable to prove, to the satisfaction of the competent authority, the level of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> bacteria shall not exceed the limit of 100 cfu/g over the shelf life of the said foods. The change will enter into force on 1 July 2026.

	It is clarified that the exclusions and changes appearing in columns A and C of Item 3 of the Second Appendix A will continue to apply concerning the changes that are proposed to be applied in Israel. Therefore, the exclusion in column C of the addendum described above, according to which "in chapter 1 of Appendix I to the Regulation, in details 1.2 and 1.3, in column "Limits", instead of "100 cfu/g" read "not detected in 25 grams" will continue to apply and therefore the change detailed above in Appendix I has no practical significance.
7.	Objective and rationale: ☒ food safety, ☐ animal health, ☐ plant protection, ☐ protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, ☐ protect territory from other damage from pests.
8.	Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard: ☐ Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text): ☐ World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number): ☐ International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number): ☒ None Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard? ☐ Yes ☐ No If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:
9.	Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 of 15 November 2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs (available in English)
10.	Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy): 1 July 2026 Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy): 17 August 2025
11.	Proposed date of entry into force: ☐ Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): 1 July 2026 ☐ Trade facilitating measure
12.	Final date for comments: ☒ Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): 19 December 2025 Agency or authority designated to handle comments: ☐ National Notification Authority, ☒ National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:
13.	Text(s) available from: ☐ National Notification Authority, ☐ National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body: Israel National Food Service Ministry of Health E-mail: michal.sela@moh.gov.il