

Israel Free Trade Agreement

Entered into Force August 19, 1985

Agreement on the Establishment of a Free Trade Area between the Government of Israel and the Government of the United States of America

[PREAMBLE]

The Government of Israel and the Government of the United States of America,

Desiring to promote mutual relations and further the historic friendship between them;

Determined to strengthen and develop the economic relations between them for their mutual benefit;

Recognizing that Israel's economy is still in a process of development, wishing to contribute to the harmonious development and expansion of world trade;

Wishing to establish bilateral free trade between the two nations through the removal of trade barriers;

Wishing to promote cooperation in areas which are of mutual interest;

Have decided to conclude this Agreement:

ARTICLE 1

[ESTABLISHMENT OF A FREE TRADE AREA]

The governments of Israel and the United States of America (the Parties), consistent with Article XXIV (8) (b) of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), establish hereby between them a Free Trade Area and will in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement eliminate the duties and other restrictive regulations of commerce on trade between the two nations in products originating therein.

ARTICLE 2

1. Products of Israel shall, when imported into the customs territory of the United States, be governed by the provisions of Annex 1.
2. Products of the United States shall, when imported into Israel, be governed by the provisions of Annex 2.
3. The rules of origin applicable to this Agreement are set forth in Annex 3.
4. The commitment with respect to export subsidies is contained in Annex 4.
5. The Annexes to this Agreement constitute an integral part thereof.

ARTICLE 3

[RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGREEMENTS]

The Parties affirm their respective rights and obligations with respect to each other under existing bilateral and multilateral agreements, including the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between the United States and Israel and the GATT. In the event of an inconsistency between provisions of this Agreement and such existing agreements, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail.

ARTICLE 4

[NEW RESTRICTIONS ON TRADE]

New customs duties on imports or exports or any charge having equivalent effect and new quantitative restrictions on imports or exports or any measure having equivalent effect may be introduced in the trade between the Parties only if permitted by this Agreement or by the GATT as in effect on the date of entry into force of this Agreement and as interpreted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the GATT and in so far as not inconsistent with this Agreement.

ARTICLE 5

[RELIEF FROM INJURY CAUSED BY IMPORT COMPETITION]

1. When a product is being imported in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury or the threat thereof to domestic producers of like or directly competitive products, the importing Party shall consult with the other Party in accordance with Article 18 before taking any action affecting the trade of the other Party.

2. Neither Party shall take an action which provides solely for a suspension of the reduction or elimination of any duty provided for by this Agreement unless the serious injury or threat thereof which is substantially caused by imports to the domestic producers of like or directly competitive products results from the reduction or elimination of a duty provided for by this Agreement.

3. When, in the view of the importing Party, the importation of a product from the other Party is not a substantial cause of the serious injury or threat thereof referred to in paragraph 1, the importing Party may except the product of the other Party from any import relief that may be imposed with respect to imports of that product from third countries, taking into account the objective of achieving bilateral free trade as embodied in this Agreement, the domestic laws and international obligations of the Parties.

ARTICLE 6

[IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON AGRICULTURE]

Import restrictions, other than customs duties, including, but not limited to, quantitative restrictions and fees, based on agricultural policy considerations may be maintained by the Parties.

ARTICLE 7

[GENERAL AND SECURITY EXCEPTIONS]

Article XX and XXI of the GATT are hereby incorporated into and made a part of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 8

[SPECIAL EXCEPTION FOR KASHRUTH]

This Agreement shall not preclude the adoption or enforcement by either Party of measures relating to prohibitions on religious or ritual grounds provided that they are applied in accordance with the principle of national treatment.

ARTICLE 9

[HEALTH]

1. The Parties shall review their current and future rules on veterinary and plant health matters to insure that these rules are applied in a non-discriminatory manner, and that these rules do not have the effect of unduly obstructing trade.

2. With reference to the matters in paragraph 1, the Parties shall consult on any difficulties that may arise in their trade in agricultural products and shall seek to provide solutions which will allow trade in agricultural products insofar as they do not endanger animal and plant health.

3. To insure harmonious development of trade in agricultural products, the Joint Committee shall establish a working group, in accordance with subparagraph 3 (b) of Article 17, which shall convene at the request of either Party to consider matters relating to paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article.

ARTICLE 10

[INFANT INDUSTRY]

1. Insofar as its industrialization and development make protective measures necessary Israel may through December 31, 1990, after consultation within the Joint Committee, and after that date, upon agreement within the Joint Committee, introduce, increase or re-introduce ad valorem customs duties not exceeding 20 percentage points above the level that would otherwise be in effect. The total value of the products for which these measures can be applied may not exceed 10% of the total value of Israel's imports from the United States in 1984.