

has eliminated all duties on industrial imports from the EC as of January 1, 1989.

The Free Trade Agreement with the United States calls for the elimination of import duties into Israel. At present, only 13 per cent of Israel's imports from the United States face tariffs. All remaining tariffs are to be removed by January 1, 1995.

Canada has no preferential trade agreement with Israel outside of the GATT agreement, although Israel has been granted preferences under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) by Canada for its industrial goods. Many raw manufactured goods imported from Canada are duty-free but most manufactured goods are subject to a variety of tariffs and taxes.

Duties are generally imposed on an ad valorem basis, but other rates based on units such as weight are also used.

Classification of export and import items is based on the Harmonized System.

In addition, Israel imposes a 2 per cent levy or "Peace of Galilee" tax on all imports. A purchase tax is also imposed on both imported and locally made goods, with an additional "importation rate uplift" or "TAMA" tariff applied to imports. The "TAMA" is a uniquely Israeli mechanism used to discourage imports and encourage import substitution.

## Documentation and Labelling

Documentation procedures are in line with international usage and are specified by the Customs and Excise Authority. Documents are accepted in English, French or Hebrew. One original and two copies of commercial invoices are required. Invoices should include country of origin, place and date of invoice, name and address of buyer and seller, description of goods, quantity, number of packages, weight of each package, total weight, price of goods, and terms of supply, shipping and payment. It is not necessary to obtain Chamber of Commerce certification or legalization by the Israeli Embassy.

Certificates of origin are generally not required except for most fruits, plants and seeds. If requested by the importer, a letter of credit with a minimum of three copies is necessary and must be notarized by a recognized Chamber of Commerce.