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## *IV. CUSTOMS AND OTHER REGULATORY INFORMATION*

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### **Calls to Tender**

Israeli government regulations require that all government purchases beyond a specified amount be publicized by tender. Municipalities have their own regulations in this regard.

### **Government Procurement**

For government-awarded contracts, preference is given to those bids with a low price and high local content. Foreign suppliers may be required to reciprocate purchases in an amount equal to 25 per cent of all transactions in excess of \$250 000. This reciprocal arrangement is calculated after deducting the local supply included in the contract. The Industrial Co-operation Authority, the agency responsible for overseeing this arrangement, has indicated a preference for counterpurchase of manufactured goods, particularly output of the metals and electronic sectors.

### **Patents and Trademarks**

Israel subscribes to the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property. Patents are valid for 20 years on condition that they be used within a certain period of time. Trademarks are valid for seven years and are renewable.

These laws are subject to change, so it is advisable to enquire about current regulations.

### **Duties and Taxes**

Israel is a signatory to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and within this framework has entered into various agreements, the most extensive being a Free Trade Agreement with the United States and a treaty with the European Community.

With regard to the EC agreement, industrial products, raw materials, other than agriculture products, and semi-processed goods are imported into Israel duty-free. Israel