



## Avoiding Israeli settlement goods

Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt)<sup>1</sup> are illegal. They cause harm and poverty to Palestinians and are an obstacle to peace.

Despite the settlements' illegality, goods produced in or sourced from them are routinely sold in UK shops. Many ECCR members are concerned that this trade is undermining efforts to achieve peace in the region and therefore have chosen to avoid buying goods produced in or sourced from settlements. This guide has been written to assist those who wish to take this course of action to identify settlement products.<sup>2</sup>

### Fruit and vegetables

Fresh fruit and vegetables including dates, herbs, peppers, tomatoes, stone fruit, figs and potatoes make up a high proportion of the settlement goods exported to the UK. Although you can buy these products at any time of year, you are more likely to find them in the winter months when they are out of season in the UK and Europe.

**How to identify settlement goods:** Look for the labels 'West Bank (Israeli settlement)', 'West Bank' and 'Jordan Valley'.

'West Bank (Israeli settlement)' goods definitely come from settlements.<sup>3</sup> 'West Bank' or 'Jordan Valley' labels may come from settlements or from within Israel and you should ask retailers to confirm their exact origin before deciding whether or not to buy them (see note on 'Asking retailers to confirm the origin of products' following the table below). Any goods labelled 'West Bank (Palestinian)' come from Palestinian farms in the West Bank and are not a cause for concern.

**What about goods labelled as product of Israel?** Some campaigners claim that Israeli exporters such as Carmel, Agrexco, Arava, Hadiklaim and Mehadrin-Tnuport Export (MTex)

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<sup>1</sup> The oPt refers to Palestinian territory in the West Bank and Gaza captured by Israel in the 1967 war against Egypt, Syria and Jordan. This briefing also includes information on settlements situated in the Golan Heights, situated in Syria and a small part of Jordan. The Golan Heights were also occupied by Israel in 1967. Settlements are illegal under international law (article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention), which forbids an occupying power from transferring its population onto occupied land. There are over 200 Israeli settlements and settlement outposts in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. They have a combined population of almost half a million people.

<sup>2</sup> ECCR is not advocating the avoidance of Israeli goods. Whereas the settlements are illegal, Israel is a legitimate, internationally recognised state.

<sup>3</sup> In December 2009 the UK government issued guidelines suggesting that fresh produce from settlements (but not manufactured goods) should be labelled in this way. Many supermarkets follow this guidance. However, the guidelines remain voluntary, and some retailers may choose not to follow them. The guidelines do not apply to non-food products.

routinely mix settlement produce with crops from farms situated within the state of Israel and that this results in some settlement goods being incorrectly labelled as being from Israel. The UK government has made clear that it is unlawful for fresh produce from settlements to be labelled as Israeli.

Most supermarket chains claim to have sophisticated tracking systems designed to prevent this from happening. However, if in doubt you could ask retailers to confirm the provenance of goods before deciding whether to buy them.

### **Manufactured/processed goods**

The following table lists settlement products and brands which you might find on sale in the UK. Some companies operating in settlements or sourcing raw materials from the occupied territories also operate within or source raw materials from Israel. Many of these companies appear to label all of these goods as products of Israel, which can make it difficult to differentiate between settlement and Israeli products without asking retailers for further information.

Where there is doubt about a product's origin (denoted by \* in the table), ask retailers or manufacturers to confirm the place of manufacture and/or provenance of raw materials before deciding whether or not to buy the products.

***Please see table on next page***

## Settlement products sold in the UK (manufactured and processed goods)

| Brand/product   | Parent company      | UK retailer thought to stock goods                                  | Settlement information  |
|---|---------------------|---|---|
| Achva<br><br>(tahini, halva, syrups and baked goods)                                    | Achdut              | Achva halva is currently sold by Ocado and some independent grocers | Achdut is reportedly based in the industrial zone of the Barkan settlement in the West Bank. Ocado lists Barkan as the place of manufacture for Achva halva.  |
| Ahava<br><br>(Dead Sea cosmetics and toiletries)  | Ahava               | Ahava stores, Amazon.co.uk  | Products reportedly manufactured in the Mitzpe Shalem settlement in the West Bank.  |
| Barkan wines*   | Barkan              | Selfridges and also currently some independent wine merchants       | Barkan reportedly owns vineyards in, Avnei Eithan, Eliad and Sha'al in the occupied Golan Heights and Dolev in the West Bank. Information given on bottles is often not specific about the provenance of grapes used.   |
| Beigel & Beigel<br><br>(pretzels and other baked goods)                                 | Unilever (owns 51%) | Currently sold in some independent food shops                       | Beigel & Beigel is reportedly based in the industrial zone of the Barkan settlement in the West Bank. In October 2010 Unilever stated its intention to move the Beigel & Beigel plant to within Israel proper, but this does not appear to have occurred yet. |
| Binyamina wine*   | Binyamina           | Currently sold in some independent wine merchants                   | Company website indicates that some vineyards are situated within the occupied Golan Heights and West Bank as well as Israel. Information given on bottles is often not specific about the provenance of grapes used.   |
| Carmel wine*  | Carmel              | Currently sold in some independent wine merchants                   | Carmel reportedly owns vineyards in Sha'al, Tel Fares and Aniam in the occupied Golan Heights. Information given on bottles is often not specific about the provenance of grapes used.  |
| Interstar toys  | Tip Top Toys/ Ram   | Amazon.co.uk, independent toy sellers and educational suppliers     | Interstar toys are reportedly manufactured in the industrial zone of the Barkan settlement.   |
| Keter and Lipski plastic goods*<br><br>(includes furniture, garden sheds, compost bins, | Keter Plastics      | Argos, Homebase, B&Q, Amazon.co.uk, Focus                           | Keter reportedly has factories in the Barkan industrial zone and Oranit settlement as well as within Israel. It does not appear to be possible to distinguish between settlement and Israeli products on product packaging.                                   |

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|---|----------------------|---|--|
| storage systems, tool boxes, kitchen utensils, rubbish bins, bathroom products, toys) |                      |   |  |
| SodaStream*<br><br>(carbonated drinks makers, drinks concentrates)                    | Soda-Club            | Argos, Lakeland, Maplin, John Lewis, Comet, Robert Dyas                           | Soda-Club has a factory in the Ma'aleh Adumim settlement and additional factories within Israel. It does not appear to be possible to distinguish between settlement and Israeli products on product packaging.                |
| Teperberg 1870 wine*  | Teperberg 1870       | Currently sold in some independent wine merchants                                 | The winery reportedly has vineyards in the Mevo Horon settlement, the pre-1967 no man's land area of the Latrun enclave, and the Gush Etzion settlement. Additional vineyards and the winery itself are located within Israel. |
| Tishbi wines*   | Tishbi               | Currently distributed in the UK, likely to be found in independent wine merchants | Tishbi's UK distributor shows winery having vineyards in Gush Etzion, a settlement in the West Bank, and also in Israel.   |
| Yarden, Gamla and Golan wines   | Golan Heights Winery | Currently sold in some independent wine merchants                                 | The Golan winery is situated in the occupied Golan Heights. Its website indicates that it sources grapes from a number of vineyards within the occupied Golan Heights.   |
| Yatir wine*   | Carmel               | Currently sold in some independent wine merchants                                 | Grapes from settlements, including Susya in the West Bank, reported to be used. This is however denied by Yatir management. Yatir's winery itself is situated within Israel.   |

\*Denotes products or brands that could originate from settlements or from within Israel. Take advice from retailers and manufacturers before deciding whether or not to buy these products (see note below).

This list is not an exhaustive. It only specifies settlement products likely to be on sale in the UK and does not list companies operating in settlements but which do not appear to sell settlement products in the UK. The list will be updated as and when new information emerges. If you have new information or corrections please let us know. Contact [settlementproduce@quaker.org.uk](mailto:settlementproduce@quaker.org.uk)

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### **Note: Asking retailers to confirm the origin of products**

This briefing has outlined a number of situations where it may be difficult to determine whether particular goods originate within settlements. Where this is the case we suggest you ask retailers to confirm where goods are grown or manufactured (or the provenance of raw materials) before deciding whether or not to buy these products.

Some Israeli exporters have been accused of mislabelling settlement products as products of Israel either for consumers or for customs purposes. This can make it difficult to establish the origins of some products. However, depending on the size of their business and the product concerned, retailers may still be able to do so in a number of ways.

Because of food labelling requirements it should in theory be easier to trace the origin of fruit and vegetables than manufactured goods. Many supermarket chains have sophisticated tracking systems that should enable them to trace the origin of fruit and vegetables back to the farm that they were grown on. Small, independent retailers are less likely to use tracking systems, but may still be able to identify the location of farms or pack houses from invoices, packing lists or transport documents that they receive along with goods.

Under EU customs regulations all goods exported to the UK from Israel or the occupied Palestinian territories should list the postcode of the place where goods are produced on the customs documentations which accompany shipments into the EU. Retailers may have this information or be able to ascertain it from their supplier. Retailers may be able to obtain advice as to whether locations or postcodes listed fall within Israel or the occupied Palestinian territories by contacting Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs telephone helpline on: 0845 010 9000.<sup>4</sup>

Because of the difficulties in establishing the origin of some products, it is also advisable to ask retailers how they can be sure their traceability systems are robust and what their response is to charges of false labelling by exporters.

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<sup>4</sup> See Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs technical advice on labelling of produce grown in occupied Palestinian territories: <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/food/pdf/labelling-palestine.pdf>; also HMRC tariff preference, importation of goods from Israel: <http://tinyurl.com/67wds4o>