No. 474

MINISTRY FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND ANIMAL RIGHTS

Explanatory Notes[1]

1. Introduction

Title of Regulations	Honey (Amendment) Regulations, 2026
Activity to be regulated	The placing on the market, labelling, and quality standards of honey and honey products intended for human consumption.
Responsible entity	Food Safety and Security Authority (FSSA)

2. Summary and background

2.1 Aims & Objectives of the legislation

The aim of the proposed Honey (Amendment) Regulations 2026 is to transpose into Maltese law further amendments carried out to the respective EU legislation. The original EU Honey Directive was transposed into Maltese law in the Honey Regulations S.L. 449.38.

The Honey (Amendment) Regulations, 2026 transpose Directive (EU) 2024/1438 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 amending Council Directive 2001/110/EC relating to honey.

The full title of the Directive being selectively transposed by the Legal Notice which is one of four is:

Directive (EU) 2024/1438 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 amending Council Directives 2001/110/EC relating to honey, 2001/112/EC relating to fruit juices and certain similar products intended for human consumption, 2001/113/EC relating to fruit jams, jellies and marmalades and sweetened chestnut purée intended for human consumption, and 2001/114/EC relating to certain partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk for human consumption

The objectives of the amendments are to enhance transparency for consumers regarding the origin and authenticity of honey, establish stricter labelling requirements, particularly concerning country of origin and blends, introduce updated definitions and labelling rules for baker's honey and the other honey types.

2.2 Overview of the Directive being transposed

Commission Directive (EU) 2024/1438 amends several Council Directives relating to foodstuffs, including those concerning honey, fruit juices, jams and milk products. It introduces updated provisions on composition, labelling and traceability with a view to enhancing transparency for consumers, strengthening authenticity controls and aligning food information requirements across the European Union in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers.

[1]These Explanatory Notes are for the purpose of and in accordance with article 3(2)(c) and Schedule III of Chapter 512 of the Laws of Malta.

3. Overview of the structure of the instrument

1. Regulation 1 - Citation commencement and scope
2. Regulation 2 - Adds a new regulation to the principal regulations
3. Regulation 3 - Adds a new regulation to the principal regulations
4. Regulation 4 - Substitutes regulation 4 of the principal regulations
5. Regulation 5 - Substitutes regulation 4.2 of the principal regulations
6. Regulation 6 – Substitutes regulation 4.4 of the principal regulations
7. Regulation 7 – Substitutes regulation 4.5 of the principal regulations
8. Regulation 8 – Substitutes regulation 4.6 of the principal regulations
9. Regulation 9 – Substitutes regulation 5 of the principal regulations
10. Regulation 10 – Amends the First Schedule to the principal regulations

4. Commentary

Regulations 2 and 3 Updates the implementation provisions and scope of the principal regulations to include Directive 2024/1438/EU, clarifying their application to honey. It introduces transitional provisions allowing products labelled before 14 June 2026 to continue being marketed until stocks are exhausted.

Regulation 4 - Aligns honey labelling with Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on food information to consumers, with added specific conditions.

Regulation 5 - Clarifies use of product names, including "honey", "comb honey", "chunk honey" and "baker's honey", and introduces labelling obligations (e.g. baker's honey labelled as "intended for cooking only").

Regulation 6 – Mandates clear indication of the country or countries of origin of honey on labels, including percentage breakdowns by weight in blends. A tolerance margin of 5% is allowed. Special exemptions apply for small packaging (<30g).

Regulation 7 – Establishes that origin particulars are mandatory under the EU food information law.

Regulation 8 – Requires that baker's honey packaging and sales documents display the full product name.

Regulation 9 – Provides for future implementing acts by the Commission to establish analytical methods to detect adulteration and verify compliance.

Regulation 10 – Updates quality definitions for honey, including provisions on overheating and pollen removal.

5. Concluding Sections

These Regulations shall come into force on the 14th June 2026.

Should more information be required kindly contact the Food Safety and Security Authority (FSSA) within the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights.

N.B. These Explanatory Notes are not intended to be an exhaustive description of the instrument nor a substitute thereof or a legislative supplement to it. These Explanatory Notes do not purport to be an authoritative ruling on the interpretation of the legislation.

26th March, 2026

No. 475

MINISTRY FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND ANIMAL RIGHTS

Explanatory Notes[1]

1. Introduction

Title of Regulations	Fruit Jams and Similar Products (Amendment) Regulations, 2026
Activity to be regulated	The placing on the market, labelling, permitted treatments, and product standards for fruit jams, jellies, marmalades, sweetened chestnut puree and similar products intended for human consumption.
Responsible entity	Food Safety and Security Authority (FSSA)

2. Summary and background

2.1 Aims & Objectives of the legislation

The aim of the proposed Fruit Jams and Similar Products (Amendment) Regulations 2026 is to transpose into Maltese law further amendments to the respective EU legislation. The original EU Jams and Similar Products Directive was transposed into Maltese law in the Fruit Jams and Similar Products Regulations S.L. 449.41.

The Fruit Jams and Similar Products (Amendment) Regulations 2026, transpose Directive (EU) 2024/1438 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 amending Council Directive 2001/113/EC relating to fruit jams, jellies and marmalades and sweetened chestnut purée intended for human consumption.

The full title of the Directive being selectively transposed by the Legal Notice which is one of four is:

Directive (EU) 2024/1438 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 amending Council Directives 2001/110/EC relating to honey, 2001/112/EC relating to fruit juices and certain similar products intended for human consumption, 2001/113/EC relating to fruit jams, jellies and marmalades and sweetened chestnut purée intended for human consumption, and 2001/114/EC relating to certain partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk for human consumption

The objectives of the amendments are to update the labelling rules in order to provide consumers with clearer and more transparent information on product composition and origin, to introduce new product categories together with the relevant definitions, to establish stricter rules governing permitted treatments, sweeteners and additives, and to harmonise certain product designations across the European Union so as to ensure consistency.

2.2 Overview of the Directive being transposed

The Commission Directive (EU) 2024/1438 amends several Council Directives relating to foodstuffs, including those concerning honey, fruit juices, jams and milk products. It introduces updated provisions on composition, labelling and traceability with a view to enhancing transparency for consumers, strengthening authenticity controls and aligning food information requirements across the European Union in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers.

3. Overview of the structure of the instrument

1. Regulation 1 - Citation commencement and scope
2. Regulation 2 - Adds a new regulation to the principal regulations
3. Regulation 3 - Adds a new regulation to the principal regulations

[1]These Explanatory Notes are for the purpose of and in accordance with article 3(2)(c) and Schedule III of Chapter 512 of the Laws of Malta.

4. Regulation 4 - Amends regulation 4 of the principal regulations
5. Regulation 5 - Amends regulation 4.2 of the principal regulations
6. Regulation 6 – Deletion of regulation 4.4 of the principal regulations
7. Regulation 7 – Substitutes regulation 4.5 of the principal regulations
8. Regulation 8 – Deletion of regulation 4.6 of the principal regulations
9. Regulation 9 – Substitutes regulation 5.1 of the principal regulations
10. Regulation 10 – Amends the First Schedule to the principal regulations
11. Regulation 11 - Amends the Second Schedule to the principal regulations
12. Regulation 12 - Amends the Third Schedule to the principal regulations

4. Commentary

Regulation 2 and 3 - Updates the scope of the principal regulations to include Directive 2024/1438/EU and clarifies their application to jam, gelatine, marmalade and chestnut puree products. It also introduces transitional provisions allowing products labelled before 14 June 2026 to continue being marketed until stocks are exhausted.

Regulation 4 - Aligns labelling with Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on food information to consumers, with added specific conditions. It allows for a derogation on the use of the term "marmalade" or "extra marmalade" for certain Member States, in the case of products made from three or more types of citrus fruit.

Regulation 5 - Allows Member States flexibility in the use of the terms "marmalade" and "extra marmalade" for multi-fruit citrus products, depending on national practice in regulation 4.2.1.

Regulation 6 – Deletes provisions 4.4 and 4.4.1 to simplify the regulations.

Regulation 7 – Clarifies that mandatory particulars that must appear in the same visual field as the product name in regulation 4.5.

Regulation 8 – Deletes provisions 4.6 to simplify the regulations by updating the list of permitted ingredients and raw materials, as per Second and Third Schedules.

Regulation 9 – Introduced the requirement of the European Commission to report by 14 June 2027 on the feasibility of origin labelling for fruit used in jams, marmalades, and chestnut purée.

Regulation 10 – Updates product definitions (e.g. "jam," "extra jam," "citrus marmalade"), minimum fruit content, and rules on soluble dry matter in the First Schedule.

Regulation 11 - Updates product definitions (e.g. "jam," "extra jam," "citrus marmalade"), minimum fruit content, and rules on soluble dry matter in the First Schedule.

Regulation 12 - Amends permitted raw materials by deleting specific provisions in the Third Schedule.

5. Concluding Sections

These Regulations shall come into force on the 14th June 2026.

Should more information be required kindly contact the Food Safety and Security Authority (FSSA) within the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights.

N.B. These Explanatory Notes are not intended to be an exhaustive description of the instrument nor a substitute thereof or a legislative supplement to it. These Explanatory Notes do not purport to be an authoritative ruling on the interpretation of the legislation.

26th March, 2026

No. 476

MINISTRY FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND ANIMAL RIGHTS

Explanatory Notes[1]

1. Introduction

Title of Regulations	Preserved Milk (Amendment) Regulations, 2026
Activity to be regulated	The production, composition, and labelling of partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk intended for human consumption.
Responsible entity	Food Safety and Security Authority (FSSA)

2. Summary and background

2.1 Aims & Objectives of the legislation

The aim of the proposed Preserved Milk (Amendment) Regulations, 2026 is to transpose into Maltese law further amendments carried out to the respective EU legislation. The original EU legislation regarding partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk for human consumption was in Council Directive 2001/114/EC relating to partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk for human consumption which was transposed in was transposed into Maltese law in the Preserved Milk Regulations S.L. 449.40.

The Preserved Milk (Amendment) Regulations, 2026 transpose into Maltese law Directive (EU) 2024/1438 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 amending Council Directive 2001/114/EC relating to certain partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk for human consumption.

The full title of the Directive being selectively transposed by the Legal Notice which is one of four is:

Directive (EU) 2024/1438 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 amending Council Directives 2001/110/EC relating to honey, 2001/112/EC relating to fruit juices and certain similar products intended for human consumption, 2001/113/EC relating to fruit jams, jellies and marmalades and sweetened chestnut purée intended for human consumption, and 2001/114/EC relating to certain partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk for human consumption.

The objectives of these regulations are to update the provisions on the labelling and permissible treatments of preserved milk, to provide greater flexibility with regard to lactose reduction and modifications to milk composition, subject to clear indication to consumers, and to introduce new authorisations for the use of food enzymes and additives.

2.2 Overview of the Directive being transposed

Commission Directive (EU) 2024/1438 amends several Council Directives relating to foodstuffs, including those concerning honey, fruit juices, jams and milk products. It introduces updated provisions on composition, labelling and

[1]These Explanatory Notes are for the purpose of and in accordance with article 3(2)(c) and Schedule III of Chapter 512 of the Laws of Malta.

traceability with a view to enhancing transparency for consumers, strengthening authenticity controls and aligning food information requirements across the European Union in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers.

3. Overview of the structure of the instrument

1. Regulation 1 - Citation commencement and scope

2. Regulation 2 - Adds a new regulation to the principal regulations

3. Regulation 3 - Adds a new regulation to the principal regulations

4. Regulation 4 - Amends regulation 4.1 of the principal regulations

5. Regulation 5 – Amends the First Schedule to the principal regulations

6. Regulation 6 - Amends the Second Schedule to the principal regulations

4. Commentary

Regulation 2 and 3 - Updates the scope of the principal regulations to include Directive 2024/1438/EU and clarifies their application relating to certain partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk for human consumption. It also introduces transitional provisions allowing products labelled before 14 June 2026 to continue being marketed until stocks are exhausted.

Regulation 4 - Aligns labelling with Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on food information to consumers, with added specific conditions.

Regulation 5 - Allows for lactose reduction by conversion to glucose and galactose, provided such modifications are clearly labelled on the product as indicated in the First Schedule.

Regulation 6 - Substitutes the definition of the term "evaporated milk" in the Second Schedule to correspond to that set out in the First Schedule.

5. Concluding Sections

These Regulations shall come into force on the 14th June 2026.

Should more information be required kindly contact the Food Safety and Security Authority (FSSA) within the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights.

N.B. These Explanatory Notes are not intended to be an exhaustive description of the instrument nor a substitute thereof or a legislative supplement to it. These Explanatory Notes do not purport to be an authoritative ruling on the interpretation of the legislation.

26th March, 2026

No. 477

MINISTRY FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND ANIMAL RIGHTS

Explanatory Notes[1]

1. Introduction

Title of Regulations	Fruit Juices and Similar Products (Amendment) Regulations, 2026
Activity to be regulated	The placing on the market, labelling, permitted treatments, and product standards for fruit juices, fruit nectars, and similar products intended for human consumption.
Responsible entity	Food Safety and Security Authority (FSSA)

2. Summary and background

2.1 Aims & Objectives of the legislation

The aim of the proposed Fruit Juices and Similar Products (Amendment) Regulations 2026 is to transpose into Maltese law further amendments carried out to the respective EU legislation. The original EU Fruit Juices Council Directive was transposed into Maltese law Fruit Juices and Similar Products Regulations S.L. 449.42 "the principal regulations".

Fruit Juices and Similar Products (Amendment) Regulations 2026 transpose Commission Implementing Directive (EU) 2024/1438 of 14 May 2024, which amends Council Directive 2001/112/EC relating to fruit juices and similar products.

The full title of the Directive selectively being transposed by the draft Legal Notice which is one of four is:

Commission Directive (EU) 2024/1438 of 14 May 2024 amending Council Directives 2001/110/EC relating to honey, 2001/112/EC relating to fruit juices and certain similar products intended for human consumption, 2001/113/EC relating to fruit jams, jellies and marmalades and sweetened chestnut purée intended for human consumption, and 2001/114/EC relating to certain partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk for human consumption.

The objectives are to update the labelling rules in order to provide consumers with clearer and more transparent information on product composition and origin, to introduce new categories of reduced-sugar fruit juices together with the relevant definitions, to establish stricter rules governing permitted treatments, sweeteners and additives, and to harmonise certain product designations across the European Union so as to ensure consistency.

2.2 Overview of the Directive being transposed

Commission Directive (EU) 2024/1438 amends several Council Directives relating to foodstuffs, including those concerning honey, fruit juices, jams and milk products. It introduces updated provisions on composition, labelling and traceability with a view to enhancing transparency for consumers, strengthening authenticity controls and aligning food information requirements across the European Union in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers.

3. Overview of the structure of the instrument

1. Regulation 1 - Citation commencement and scope
2. Regulation 2 - Adds a new regulation to the principal regulations
3. Regulation 3 - Adds new regulation 2.5 to the principal regulations
4. Regulation 4 - Amends regulation 4.1 of the principal regulations
5. Regulation 5 - Amends regulation 5 of the principal regulations

[1]These Explanatory Notes are for the purpose of and in accordance with article 3(2)(c) and Schedule III of Chapter 512 of the Laws of Malta.

6. Regulation 6 - Amends the First Schedule to the principal regulations
7. Regulation 7 - Amends the third Schedule to the principal regulations
8. Regulation 8 - Amends the Fourth Schedule to the principal regulations
9. Regulation 9 - Amends the Fifth Schedule to the principal regulations

4. Commentary

Regulation 1 - updates the implementation and scope of the principal regulations to include Directive 2024/1438/EU.

Regulation 2 - introduces a new provision expressly providing for the transposition of Directive (EU) 2024/1438 into national law.

Regulation 3 - lays down transitional provisions allowing products which were placed on the market or labelled before 14 June 2026 in accordance with Directive 2001/112/EC to continue to be marketed until the exhaustion of existing stocks.

Regulation 4 - aligns the labelling requirements applicable to fruit juices and similar products with Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers. It introduces specific conditions concerning product designations and the languages in which they may be used, as set out in the Third Schedule, while allowing Member States to determine the permitted language use. This regulation also allows the statement "fruit juices contain only naturally occurring sugars" to appear on labels under the prescribed conditions.

Regulation 4 - further requires that fruit juices and fruit nectars obtained wholly or partly from concentrates bear the indication "from concentrate(s)" or "partially from concentrate(s)", as applicable, in close proximity to the product name.

Regulation 5 - restricts permitted manufacturing methods, treatments and substances to those listed in the First and Second Schedules, and introduces compliance requirements applicable to reduced-sugar fruit juices and fruit nectars. Fruit nectars are additionally required to comply with the provisions of the Fourth Schedule.

Regulation 6 - amends the First Schedule by introducing new product categories, including reduced-sugar fruit juice, reduced-sugar fruit juice from concentrate, and concentrated reduced-sugar fruit juice. It clarifies the use of water and other permitted ingredients, updates the list of authorised substances, confirms the applicable rules on food additives, restricts the use of sweeteners to fruit nectars only, and introduces the use of plant proteins for clarification purposes. The regulation also defines the authorised processes for reducing the sugar content of fruit juice.

Regulation 7 - replaces the Third Schedule by revising the list of particular product designations and specifying the languages in which such designations may be used, including designations relating to apple juice, coconut water and fruit nectars.

Regulation 8 - amends the Fourth Schedule by replacing the reference to quinces with the full scientific designation Quinces (Cydonia oblonga L.).

Regulation 9 - amends the Fifth Schedule by adding Coconut (Cocos nucifera L.) to the list of permitted fruits.

5. Concluding Sections

These Regulations shall come into force on the 14th June 2026.

Should more information be required kindly contact the Food Safety and Security Authority (FSSA) within the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights.

N.B. These Explanatory Notes are not intended to be an exhaustive description of the instrument nor a substitute thereof or a legislative supplement to it. These Explanatory Notes do not purport to be an authoritative ruling on the interpretation of the legislation.

26th March, 2026