

REGISTERING A COMPANY IN ISRAEL

An Israeli company is incorporated by registration with the Companies' Registrar either as a new entity or by registering an existing company incorporated outside Israel as a foreign company.

A New Israeli Company

To form a private company in Israel a single shareholder (who may be a private individual or a company) is required together with at least one director. The shareholder and director may be the same person and need not be Israeli citizens or residents. The company will require an address in Israel for its registered office.

A name in Hebrew must be chosen for the company and the English translation may also be registered. The name will not be accepted if previously used by an existing company or it is so similar to an existing name as to be misleading. We will carry out a preliminary check of the open register to see if there is any obvious problem with the name but not all companies appear on the open register and it is recommended that you provide several alternative names which can be used if required.

After preparation of the forms for registration, both the director and shareholder need to sign these in front of a lawyer. The actual registration is then carried out "on the spot" at the Companies' Registry in Jerusalem and a number for the company is issued.

Registration of an Existing Foreign Company in Israel

A company incorporated in another jurisdiction may be registered as a foreign company in Israel and **must** be registered if it has a place of business in Israel.

To register a foreign company you will need to provide the following documents:

1. Copies of the certificate of incorporation, memorandum and articles of the company, certified with an Apostille stamp. Officially these should also be translated into Hebrew and certified, but unless there are Hebrew copies available, the English versions should be sufficient.
2. A power of attorney to a person ordinarily resident in Israel who has complete authority to act on behalf of the company in Israel. If this power of attorney is executed outside Israel it also needs to be certified with an Apostille stamp.
3. A list of the company's directors.
4. A name and address for the service of court papers and official notices in Israel (which does not necessarily have to be the same person nominated in point 2).

We can provide assistance and an explanation on the Apostille process, if required.

As with registration of a new company, we will also need to ascertain that the company does not have a name which is the same as or similar to an existing Israeli company.

In both of the above cases, the incorporation fee charged by the Companies' Registry is currently NIS 2,244 plus, in the case of a new company, a small charge (approx. NIS 25) for certified copies of the incorporation documents.

This fact sheet is presented as a general information service to our clients and does not constitute legal advice. You should obtain specific legal advice before taking (or deciding not to take) any action. Please contact us for further information.

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