Designating Cybersecurity Firms as Emergency Service Providers During the Corona Crisis

ⓘ Info. Update

1. The Israel National Cyber Directorate (INCD) continues to fulfill its mandate of ensuring national cybersecurity, during the Corona crisis.

2. As emergency orders for reducing social contact came into force in Israel, the INCD led the way for exempting cybersecurity firms from its provisions, in order to enable continuity of cybersecurity products and services. These products and services are deemed necessary for the continued secure functioning of the market as well as the government, critical infrastructures and essential services.

3. Pursuant to the INCD's request, the emergency orders stipulated that the limits on numbers of employees in the workplace don't apply to: technical work, communications facilities, data protection and cybersecurity firms as well as IT suppliers. The exemption covers support services, maintenance, database management and development, as long as they cannot be executed remotely, and as long as the number of those present in the workplace has been reduced to the minimum necessary.

4. These provisions were published on the INCD website and social media accounts (Facebook, LinkedIn, twitter). They were transmitted also to the sectoral cyber units, critical infrastructures and to various cyber forums.

FAQ

Q: The emergency orders state that workplaces won't host more than 10 workers or 30% of their staff, according to the higher of the two. Are there any exceptions to this?

A: Yes. Aside from the general provisions limiting the number of workers in the workplace, the orders also specified organizations and functions to which the limits do not apply, due to their special importance in ensuring business continuity in the country. However, even in these exceptional cases, the organizations must reduce the physical presence of workers to the minimum necessary to fulfil their critical function.

Q: Are cybersecurity firms exempted from the limits in the emergency orders?

A: Yes. The orders exempt organizations providing products and services that include technical work, communications facilities, data protection and cybersecurity, IT support and maintenance, database management and development – to the extent that these cannot be conducted by way of remote access.

Q: Can employees continue to work remotely?

A: Yes. In general, any work that can be conducted remotely in a secure fashion, should be done so instead of requiring physical presence, which may endanger other workers.

Q: How can I securely carry out work from home?

A: In order to help you carry out work remotely in a cybersecure manner, please see the following link to the INCD website for recommendations to organizations and businesses regarding secure telecommuting during the Corona crisis.

https://www.gov.il/he/departments/news/telecommuting (Hebrew).

Q: Is there anything I need to do to get an exemption from the workplace limits?

A: No. The emergency orders apply automatically and there is no need to request any permits. At the workplace, all additional guidance provided by the Health Ministry as published continue to apply in addition.

For Hebrew version of the above, see:

https://www.gov.il/he/departments/faq/corona-regulations

For further information:

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