



BANK OF ISRAEL
Banking Supervision Department

June 6, 2010
10LM0731
HQBc068.doc

To: The Banking Corporations

Attn.: CEO

Policy for opening branches during emergencies – central branches

Ref: Supervisor of Banks letter number HQBc043.doc of April 8, 2010

Further to the referenced letter and to discussions that have been held with the banking system on the matter, the following is a list of guidelines for the policy for opening branches.

1. Banks must constantly act to improve the protection of branches, with the aim of properly protecting them according to Homefront Command guidelines.
2. The policy for opening branches during emergencies shall be to open all branches under direction of the Banking Supervision Department and subject to guidelines from the security forces, including the Homefront Command.
3. Among bank branches with proper protection, the banking corporation shall define at least 25 percent of its total number of branches as “central” branches, while ensuring proper geographic dispersion of the central branches.
4. In this regard, a “central” branch is a branch that is prepared ahead of time for an emergency in all aspects, and for which it has been decided in advance that it will be open during emergencies.
5. The banking corporation must prepare to operate all branches defined as central branches immediately at the start of an emergency situation.
6. Banks will be prepared to provide basic banking services during emergencies, at locations where it is not possible to provide such services to the population at the regular bank branches. This preparedness may include prior understandings with the Homefront Command to operate branches that have protection that is equal to standard protection, operation of mobile branches, provision of services at another branch, and so forth.

You are asked to operate immediately to implement these guidelines. Please confirm, within 21 days of the date of this letter that you are acting pursuant to its contents.

Sincerely,

(signed)
Roni Hizkiyahu,
Supervisor of Banks

CC: Management member responsible for emergencies.