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CLIENT UPDATE

Establishment of a new enforcement branch by the Privacy Protection Authority

03/10/2018

In August, the Israeli Privacy Protection Authority (PPA) announced the establishment of a new enforcement branch which will join the criminal and administrative enforcement branches in the PPA, in order to examine the implementation of the Privacy Protection Law and the Privacy Protection Regulations (Information Security) 2017.

According to the PPA's announcement, by the end of 2018, it is expected that its enforcement branch will conduct inspections of about 150 entities which manage sensitive personal data on a large scale. The PPA noted in its announcement that its supervision resources will be devoted particularly to organizations in the fields of customer memberships, medical institutions and therapy centers, platforms which manage information on minors, institutions of higher education, the hotel industry, entities that provide technological platforms for the use of personal data for election purposes and entities that provide processing and storage services.

As part of the inspection, the audited entities will be required to answer questionnaires and to provide various data so that the PPA will be able to review their compliance with the provisions of the law and regulations with respect to the manner in which they obtained consent to use the personal data, the manner in which data is used and processed, and the security measures taken to protect the data. To the extent such audit indicates noncompliance, the PPA shall consider appropriate enforcement actions and sanctions.

Our Comments

The PPA's recent publications and active enforcement actions indicate the PPA taking a more proactive approach, which began with the entry into force of the Privacy

Protection Regulations (Data Security) 2017 in May 2018. The Data Security Regulations apply to all databases that include personal data, whether or not they are registered databases. The Regulations establish procedures and requirements aimed at making data security part of an organization's management routine. The security required is based on each database's classification (determined according to the type and sensitivity of the data, the number of data subjects in the database and the number of individuals authorized to access the database).

Our firm is currently assisting a number of companies that are being audited by the PPA. We recommend that you examine, insofar as you have not done so already, your company's practices in terms of privacy, including ensuring that the manner in which the company handles personal data (including registration of databases and the manner in which personal data is collected, stored, used and secured) complies with the requirements of the law and its regulations.

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