

**Director General Circular No. 6/2015 -
"Safety Net" Procedure for International Conferences in Israel**

Main points translated from the official Hebrew Procedure

1. The Purpose of the Procedure

The Israel Ministry of Tourism (hereinafter: the Ministry) is interested in promoting international conferences in Israel. International conference tourism is characterized by long-term planning, and is very sensitive to geopolitical fluctuations, which sometimes result in the cancellation of conferences that have already been planned, and in which considerable time and marketing efforts have been invested. Thus, the Ministry has established a safety net for conference organizers, which will compensate them for their marketing expenses which have been actually carried out, if an international conference that was to be held in Israel is cancelled due to geopolitical events.

2. The Safety Net Procedure

The Safety Net Procedure is in effect from July 1, 2015 for international conferences planned to be held in Israel between 2017 and 2020. The Procedure has been budgeted at 15,000,000 NIS.

3. Definition of "International Conference"

An International Conference, according to the Procedure, is a conference that holds all the following:

- a. It is held for at least three days in Israel.
- b. Has at least 400 participants, who paid the participation fee or for whom that fee was paid.
- c. At least 50% of the participants in the conference, and no less than 250 of the participants, are foreign residents.
- d. Most of the conference is dedicated to lectures and/or professional discussions taking place at a designated conference hall or center.

The Procedure shall not be applicable to International Conferences regularly held in Israel which took place annually in the three consecutive years preceding the Procedure, to religious gatherings and/or gatherings of various sects, or conferences of which at least 20% are funded by the government of Israel, governmental or local authorities, and/or bodies acting on their behalf.

4. The Bodies that can Register for the Safety Net Procedure

The following **Israeli** bodies are eligible to register and participate in the Safety Net Procedure:

- a. An incoming tourism organizer
- b. A professional conference organizer
- c. An academic institution accredited by the Councils for Higher Education.

Please note, only Israeli organizations from the above-mentioned categories that stand up to all the conditions of the Procedure may register.

5. Registration for the Safety Net Procedure

In order to register for the Safety Net Procedure the application must be submitted at least eighteen months before the scheduled date of the conference.

6. Compensation in the Event of Cancellation of the Conference

The compensation amount that shall be paid to the organizer in case of cancellation of an International Conference shall be 75% of the cost of the recognized marketing activities that the organizer actually carried out and paid for, until the date of cancellation.

If the conference is postponed, the compensation is less - 25% or 50% of the cost of the recognized marketing activities that the organizer actually carried out and paid for.

The compensation is in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Procedure.

7. Registration Fee

A Registration Fee equal to 3% of the compensation amount must be paid in order to register, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Procedure.

8. What constitutes a geo-political situation

A geo-political event leading to a reduction in the number of tourist entries into Israel, along with the issuing of travel warnings to Israel, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Procedure.

9. General

The "Safety Net" Procedure for International Conferences in Israel can be found in the Ministry's site : www.tourism.gov.il

Please note that the official Procedure is in Hebrew.

For further information you may check the Ministry's conference website:

www.goisrael-conference-and-incentive.com

Or contact:

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