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Hebrew version of the procedure

Experimental Procedure for Entry Visa and Residence Permit application process for Foreign Entrepreneurs (Innovation)

English translation – in case of discrepancies, the Hebrew version will be binding

A. The aim of the Procedure:

The aim of this Procedure is to regulate the application process for an entry visa, residence permit in Israel and the extension of validity for foreign entrepreneurs who were approved by the authorized entities in the Israel Innovation Authority (hereinafter: “Innovation Authority”) as eligible to be included in the incentive program “Innovation Visas for Foreign Entrepreneurs (Pilot)” (hereinafter: “The Program”). The program provides support to foreign entrepreneurs that wish to implement their entrepreneurial project in Israel in accordance with the principles set forth by the Innovation Authority.


B. Background:

In order to support the strength and diversity of the hi-tech industry in Israel, the Innovation Authority, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Population and Immigration Authority (hereinafter: “PIBA”), agreed to start and implement an experimental project of support to foreign entrepreneurs (hereinafter: "Entrepreneur" or "Applicant") who have an innovative technological project in Israel that will contribute, directly or indirectly, to the positioning of Israel at the forefront of technological innovation and who aspire to set up and develop their projects in Israel and in that to strengthen Israel as a global center of innovation.

In order to implement the experimental project, PIBA, together with the Innovation Authority and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs establish this Procedure that specifies the stages of the application process for a residence permit for an entrepreneur who was approved as a technological foreign entrepreneur by the Innovation Authority.

The Project will be an experimental project in which the foreign entrepreneurs that are interested in establishing and developing technological projects in Israel may submit applications to the Innovation Authority for the approval of a foreign entrepreneurs status, and afterwards the applications will be examined by the authorized entities in accordance with the criteria and prerequisite that were set by the Innovation Authority. At the end of the review process, and as long as the applicant is approved by the



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Innovation Authority as a foreign entrepreneur, the provisions set forth in this Procedure will apply to the said applicant.

C. General principles:

C.1. This Procedure shall apply solely to an applicant , approved by the authorized entities in the Innovation Authority as foreign entrepreneur, whether said Entrepreneur comes from a country whose citizens are exempt from the need to hold an entry visa in advance or from a country whose citizens are obligated to hold an entry visa upon their arrival in Israel.

C.2. After approving the Entrepreneur's application as mentioned above, the authorized entity in the Innovation Authority will deliver written notice about the approval to PIBA and PIBA shall be responsible to continue, handle and examine his application for issuance of a "B/2 Innovation" residence permit (hereinafter: "Innovation Permit") in accordance with the provisions set forth in this Procedure.


C.3. Handling the issuance of the Innovation Permit or the extension of its effect is under the exclusive authority of PIBA. The Innovation Authority or anyone acting on its behalf, lack any authority to approve any entity (including the Entrepreneur) and an Innovation Permit. The recommendation that will be delivered by the Program Director shall not affect the discretion vested to the PIBA in issuance of an Innovation Permit or extension thereof.

C.4. The Innovation Permit constitutes a visitor's residence permit and does not constitute a work permit. Therefore, an Entrepreneur who stays in Israel under this permit is not entitled to receive wages from any person or company in Israel and no employer-employee relationship shall be maintained between that Entrepreneur or any person or company in Israel. The said Entrepreneur will develop the project for which he was approved by the Innovation Authority as a foreign entrepreneur. Accordingly, staying in Israel under the permit is not conditional on a requirement for an employment permit.

C.5. The regional PIBA office in Bnei Brak alone will be responsible to coordinate on PIBA’s behalf according to this Procedure, and all applications will be transferred and gathered there, and handled by it.

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- C.6. As long as the application for Innovation Permit was approved by PIBA, an Entrepreneur from a country whose citizens are obligated to hold an entry visa in advance, shall be issued a permit in an Israeli mission overseas, and in circumstances in which the Entrepreneur is a national from a country whose citizens are exempt from holding an entry visa , a computerized approval will be uploaded (a computerized registration sheet in Aviv and a comment in Rotem) by the regional PIBA office in Bnei Brak and the Entrepreneur shall be entitled to enter Israel under visitor's permit of residence B/2 valid for 30 days. Within 30 days from the time of his entry to Israel, the Entrepreneur is required to approach the regional PIBA office in Bnei Brak to obtain the designated permit for the approved period. The permit shall be issued in the office on the same day.
- C.7. A multiple – entry visa may also be approved to an Entrepreneur, allowing entry and exit from Israel during the permit period.
- C.8. The Term of an Innovation Permit shall be in accordance with the period recommended by the Innovation Authority and shall not exceed 24 months cumulatively, as of the date it was first issued. For that purpose, the Entrepreneur shall submit in the regional PIBA office in Bnei Brak an application for extension of the permit, three months prior to its expiration and comply with the provisions set forth in this Procedure.
- C.9. After a period of stay of two years under an innovation permit type B/2 or earlier and to the extent that the Entrepreneur desires to extend his stay in Israel for the purpose of advancing the project that was approved by the authorized entity in the Innovation Authority and work for wage in a company, including a new company in Israel of which the Applicant is a shareholder, the Entrepreneur will deliver an application for approval of his employment as a "manager" or as an "expertwages" expert by the company requesting his employment and in accordance with the procedure for handling applications for approval of employment, residence and work permit for foreign experts in Israel (procedure no. 5.3.0041, published in the PIBA website, (hereinafter: “Experts Procedure”).
- C.10. If the application to obtain the employment permit as a manager or as an expert is submitted, as long as the Innovation Permit of the Applicant is valid, then the Applicant shall be entitled to submit the application by his employing company even during his stay in Israel by the valid Innovation Permit in his possession and the Applicant will not be required to leave Israel. The application by Experts Procedure will be submitted at least three months prior to the expiration of the B/2 Innovation Permit.



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C.11. The application for a work permit by Experts Procedure shall be processed by the Administration of Employers and Foreign Workers in PIBA. The application will be subject to obtaining recommendation from the Innovation Authority(issued according to the program directives of the Innovation Authority's program) . If the application of the Entrepreneur for his employment as a manager or an expert is approved, according to the provisions of the Experts Procedure, the Entrepreneur should apply for a permit residence of the type B/1 – Visa and Work Licenses(hereinafter: “Expert Visa”)., and later, apply for its extension up to an additional cumulative maximum period of 63 months (up to one year in each extension), all according to the provisions of the Experts Procedure.

C.12. Pursuant to the above, given the unique features of the foreign entrepreneurs arriving to Israel in the course of the program, the following unique provisions shall apply to applications for regulating their employment in Israel by the Experts Procedure:


C.12.a If an Entrepreneur that stays in Israel with an Innovation Permit wishes to continue developing his project in Israel, he may submit an application for receiving a work permit by the Experts Procedure while staying in Israel.

C.12.b When the application for employment of the Entrepreneur by the Experts Procedure is submitted by a new local company, that company would not be required to furnish the following documents: copy of form 102 submitted to the National Insurance Institute for Israeli employees during the past three months; confirmation from the company’s external auditor that the company is active, and no going concern warning was recorded for the tax year preceding the application submission date. At the same time, in case of application for extending the permit for an additional period, the company would be required to present these confirmations, according to the provisions of the Experts Procedure.

C.12.c The recommendation of the Innovation Authority, issued according to the program directives is required for the review of the application. Since the medical certificate and certificate of good standing were already provided in the Innovation Permit application, these documents will not be required in the Experts Procedure application. However, before granting Expert permit B/1 and prior to its extension, PIBA’s office would need to send a query to Matar.

C.13. In case first-degree relatives (spouse, children below the age of 18) of the Entrepreneur would like to arrive, from a country in which citizens need to acquire visa in in prior to entry, with the Entrepreneur to Israel an appropriate application should be submitted for them according to Procedure 5.4.0001 - Tourist Invitation in the Israeli mission abroad; in case they are citizens of a country for which there is no need for such visa, the family members may enter Israel with a visit permit B/2. Within 30 days from the time



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of their entry to Israel, the first-degree relatives are required to approach the regional PIBA office in Bnei Brak to extend the permit. The permit will be extended according to the period approved for the Entrepreneur.

- C.14. PIBA or the Israeli consul are entitled to revoke the permit that is issued in accordance with this Procedure subject to a hearing, in case it was found that the Entrepreneur does not comply with the provisions of the law and/or the regulations and/or the procedures and/or in case it was found that not all the required information was provided or that false information was provided by the recipient of the permit and/or in case a reasoned recommendation to revoke the permit was received from a public authority, including the Innovation Authority.
- C.15. The provisions set forth in this Procedure shall add to the provisions set forth in the law and regulations promulgated thereunder and the relevant Government Resolutions.
- C.16. This experimental procedure will be valid for a period of up to three years from its publication. At the end of two years, the Innovation Authority and PIBA will decide how and whether to continue operating the procedure.

D. Conditions and requirements for the submission of an Innovation Permit application:

- D. 1. Recommendation of the Innovation Authority’s Committee, as defined in the program directives. (Appendix J.3)
- D. 2. Attendance in person: in case the Entrepreneur is a national of a country who citizens are obligated to hold an entry visa – he will appear in the Israeli consulate in an Israeli mission overseas.
- In case the Entrepreneur is a national of a country whose citizens are exempt from an entry visa, he will appear in the regional PIBA office of Bnei Brak within 30 days from the time of his arrival to Israel.
- D. 3. Filling an application form VIS/1 (Appendix J.1).
- D. 4. The passport will be in effect for at least 18 months from the time of the application submission.
- D. 5. An original Certificate of Good Standing – it is required that the Certificate of Good Standing will be delivered during the stage of submission of the initial application to the Innovation Authority.
- D. 6. Medical certificate from the Ministry of Labor or Health in the origin country of medical examinations conducted in a hospital or acknowledged medical institute, during the three months preceding the application submission, determining that the Applicant is healthy, and specifically, does not suffer or



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carry one of the following diseases: tuberculosis, hepatitis, syphilis, gonorrhea or AIDS. The medical certificate will be delivered upon the submission of the initial application to the Innovation Authority.

D. 7. A full-face view passport photo of the Applicant and family members, if accompanying the Applicant.

D. 8. Service fees – the service requires payment of fees as specified in the fees table.

E. Treatment procedure:

Application for receiving residence permit type “B/2 Innovation” for the first time:

E. 1. Recommendation of the Innovation Authority Committee to issue the Entrepreneur an innovation visa (Appendix J.3) will be sent to the relevant person in charge in the visa department of the regional PIBA office in Bnei Brak, and to the email address nehalim@piba.gov.il. The certificate will include all the details of the Entrepreneur and the details of accompanying family members, if any. In addition, an application for VIS/1, a photocopy of the foreign passport of the Entrepreneur and his family members, a Certificate of Good Standing, and a medical certificate will be delivered.

E. 2. An office employee will examine the application details vis-à-vis the Aviv System including details of entry and exit, the "visas" folder in the Aviv System, the relevant documents and their authenticity and will update the application and its details in the "registration sheet."


E. 3. It is necessary to assure that the Applicant holds a passport valid for a period of at least 18 months beyond the permit period requested by the Applicant.

E. 4. It is necessary to assure that there are no restrictions imposed on the provision of the service. In case such a restriction exists it is required to take action in accordance with the "Procedure for provision of services requiring preliminary inspection" no. 1.2.0001.

E. 5. In case the application meets the conditions and requirements set forth above, it shall be approved within 14 days from the time it was received in full. The Visas Folder in the Aviv System will be updated; the approval of the application and the duration of the approved period of stay will be updated in the registration sheet and applications file, if required.

E. 6. In case the Entrepreneur arrives from a country whose citizens are obligated to hold an entry visa prior to entry, an employee of the Bnei Brak office will telegram the consulate about it and a notice will be delivered to the Innovation Authority regarding approval of the application and notice that the Entrepreneur is required to arrive to the Israeli mission overseas to receive the visa and the permit. Upon



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the arrival of the Entrepreneur to Israel, the B/2 Innovation Permit will be issued to the Entrepreneur in the border crossing according to the period that was approved by the office and up to a maximum period of one year.

- E. 7. In case the Entrepreneur arrives from a country whose citizens are exempt from holding an entry visa, a note will be uploaded in the Rotem System stating that the Entrepreneur should be referred to PIBA's office in Bnei Brak to arrange his permit within 30 days as of the date of his entry. Once the Entrepreneur arrives to PIBA's office, a B/2 Innovation Permit sticker will be issued for him according to the updated approval granted by the office as updated in the file. The permit will be issued at the time the Entrepreneur arrives to the Bnei Brak office.
- E. 8. In case the Entrepreneur requested a multiple-entry visa, the Entrepreneur will arrive to the regional PIBA office in Bnei Brak after his arrival to Israel. The application for a multiple – entry visa can be approved for the entire period the permit is in effect.
- E. 9. In case the employee at the office found that there was a preclusion preventing the approval of the application (for example: it was found that the Entrepreneur was expelled from Israel in the past, or that his entry to Israel was denied, or that he entered to Israel unlawfully, or that he stays/stayed in Israel unlawfully, or that he was granted status in Israel in the past by virtue of marriage or cohabitation and his status was revoked due to the fictitiousness of his marriage or cohabitation, or that his application for status was refused by virtue of another procedure and he was requested to leave Israel, or that there are other relevant circumstances in his past), the application will be forwarded to the Office Director who shall be authorized to decide, according to the relevant circumstances and in consultation with the Headquarters if required, whether or not to approve the application. In case the Office Director decides to decline the application, he will deliver a reasoned letter of decline to the Innovation Authority. The refusal of the application will be updated in the Aviv System under "restrictions", the manner of delivery of the refusal and content thereof will be indicated in the computerized registration sheet and the application will be closed.


F. Extension of the permit validity:

F.1. Conditions and requirements:

F.1.a The personal attendance at the regional PIBA office in Bnei Brak is mandatory.

F.1.b Confirmation by the Innovation Authority to extend the permit for an additional period, according to the program directives.



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F.1.c Submitting a Stay and work license Application form (VIS/3), (Appendix J.2).

F.1.d A full-face view passport photo of the Applicant and family members, if accompanying the Applicant.

F.1.e A foreign passport of the Applicant valid for a period of at least eighteen months after the requested permit period.

F.1.f Service fees – the service requires payment of fees as specified in the fees table.


F.2. An employee of PIBA's office in Bnei Brak, who receives the application form will identify the Applicant with his passport and the photo, inspect the application details vis-à-vis the Aviv System, including details of entry and exit, the "Visas" folder of a foreign case in the Aviv System (denials and approvals vis-à-vis the overseas consulate) whether the Entrepreneur submitted in the past additional applications to receive a permit of residence and what the status of their processing is and will ensure that the application complies with the conditions and the requirements and that all required documents were furnished. In addition, the employee will update in the computerized registration sheet that an application for extension of a permit was submitted and will examine whether there are restrictions imposed on the Applicant. In case a restriction was found the employee is required to act in accordance with the provisions set forth in the "Procedure for Provision of Services requiring preliminary inspection" no. 1.2.2001.

F.3. It is required to assure that the Applicant holds a foreign passport valid for a period of 18 months after the requested permit period.

F.4. An employee of PIBA's office in Bnei Brak, will deliver a query to the police regarding the criminal or intelligence history and, if necessary, to the security authorities. In case it is found that there is preclusion in terms of security and/or criminal history the application should be forwarded to the relevant desk in PIBA's headquarters for its decision.

F.5. If the Head of Visas Branch in the office was convinced that there is no preclusion preventing the approval of the application in accordance with the provisions set forth in this Procedure, the extension of the effect of the permit will be approved and the decision will be updated in the registration sheet accordingly. The residence permit will be granted for a period of one year only in each instance of extension subject to the compliance with the conditions set forth in this Procedure and up to a maximum period of 24 months. A multiple – entry visa (inter-visa) can be approved for the permit period.




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- F.6. In case the Head of the Visas Branch did not see fit to approve the application, he will forward the application for the examination of the Visas Center in the office.
- F.7. In case the Visas Center decided to approve the application, continuation of processing of the application will be in accordance with section F.5. above. In case the Visas Center found that the Applicant failed to meet the necessary conditions and/or the Applicant is under restrictions (Kerem, Rotem/Borders Control Registration etc.) or that he entered Israel unlawfully, or that he stays/stayed in Israel unlawfully, or that his application for status was declined by virtue of another procedure and he was required to leave Israel, or that there are other relevant circumstances in his past, the application will be forwarded for the decision of the head of the office that is authorized to decide not to grant the permit, according to the relevant circumstances, and demand the departure of the Applicant from Israel in 14 days. The decision of the head of the office will be delivered with a reasoned letter to the Applicant and to the Innovation Authority, the computerized registration sheet will be updated and a copy of the letter of decline will be forwarded to the Enforcement and Foreign Workers Administration.
- G. In case it was found that the Entrepreneur failed to comply with the procedures and/or in the event it was found that the Entrepreneur failed to deliver full and comprehensive information or in case of delivery of false information about him or by him and/or in case a reasoned recommendation to revoke the permit by a public authority, including the Innovation Authority, was received, the case will be forwarded to the Director of the Office that is authorized to revoke the permit of residence that was issued to the Entrepreneur. For that purpose, the Entrepreneur will be invited to a hearing in the PIBA office after which a decision in his case will be made. After making a decision on the revocation of the permit, the Entrepreneur will be invited to PIBA's office and will receive a reasoned notice on revocation of his permit. In case the Entrepreneur failed to arrive to the office to receive notice and to revoke his permit, the said notice will be delivered to him in registered mail and its content will be updated in the registration sheet while indicating the number of the registered mail item. A copy of the notice will be delivered to the Innovation Authority.
- H. To the extent that the family members of the Entrepreneur who stay in Israel under B/2 Tourist Permit desire to continue and stay with the Entrepreneur in Israel, they are required to file an application for extension of the validity of their permits in accordance with the provisions set forth in Procedure 5.4.0007; however, a condition for processing their applications will be the approval of the application of the Entrepreneur to extend the validity of his permit and that the validity of the permit that may be granted for them shall not exceed the period of extension of the permit that was approved for the Entrepreneur.



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I. The law and its sections

Entry to Israel Law 57121952

- J.1. Appendices Visa and entry license application form VIS/1
- J.2. Stay and work license Application form VIS/3
- J.3. Recommendation of Innovation Visa of the Innovation Authority (Supplement 6, Regulations of Innovation Visas program for Foreign Entrepreneurs)

