

Code of Ethics of The Central Bureau of Statistics

May 2004

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1. Introduction

This code is based on the understanding that the function of the Central Bureau of Statistics (hereinafter – the CBS) is to collect, analyze and publish statistical information on the population, the society, the economy and other aspects of Israel, and that the CBS acts under the authority of the Statistics Ordinance [New Version], 5732-1972.

The CBS carries out its activities in a scientific manner, transparent and fair, guided by the principle of making the results of its statistical activities available to the public.

This code establishes basic norms according to which the CBS carries out its professional activities, including obligations and behavioral norms based on legal sources.

The primary purpose of this code is to describe the appropriate relationship between the CBS and those with whom it comes into contact in the course of carrying out research, surveys, censuses or other statistical work (hereinafter – statistical activity) and in disseminating the results.

This code concentrates, in particular, on the obligations of the CBS towards society, the participant in the statistical activity, the customer who orders the statistical activity and professional colleagues.

2. General obligations

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| 2.1 | Professional Level | The CBS will maintain a proper professional level and will carry out its activities honestly and without prejudice, based on scientific principles. |
| 2.2 | Public trust | The CBS shall be aware that it is dependant on the trust of the public and that its work may invade privacy. Therefore, it shall act in a manner that will receive and promote the public trust in the profession. |
| 2.3 | The contribution of statistics | The CBS shall endeavor to bring to the attention of the general public the contribution of statistical activity and its findings. |
| 2.4 | Citing statistical sources | The CBS shall report fully and accurately regarding all previous statistical activity that served it in its work. This includes sources of information, data, concepts and methods. |

¹ This document is based on “The Code of Ethics for Statisticians”, which was adopted by the Public Council for Statistics and by the Israel Statistical Association. The principle changes made in this document are related to the statutory status of the CBS under the Statistics Ordinance.

3. Obligations towards society

- 3.1 Distorted and misleading results
- a. The CBS will not use, and will not assist in using, methods that could bring about misleading or false results, or that could distort results by emphasizing them or by ignoring them.
 - b. The CBS will not give out distorted and/or misleading information regarding statistical activity.
 - c. The CBS shall act against giving a distorted and/or misleading interpretation of its findings by anyone else.
- 3.2 Publication of results
- The CBS shall bring its finding to the attention of the public in a widespread and trustworthy manner.
- 3.3 Information for the public
- The provision of statistical findings to the public shall be accompanied by the explanations necessary for the public to properly assess the findings. In research based on a sample, the CBS shall describe the sample population, the sample methodology, the size of the sample, the degree of non-compliance, the method of interview and any other matter that could affect the trustworthiness of the findings. In addition, the CBS shall bring to the attention of the public if the findings are direct, and interpretation of findings, or forecasts based on them.

4. Obligations toward the “participant” (the respondent and/or anyone else about whom the information is collected)

- 4.1 Privacy
- a. The CBS shall collect only that information that is relevant to the purposes of the statistical activity that it is carrying out.
 - b. In cases in which the statistical activity could possibly invade privacy, the CBS shall act in order that this invasion of privacy does not exceed the minimum necessary.
- 4.2 Information for the respondent
- The CBS shall provide the respondent, at his or her request, information about the purpose of the statistical activity, the methods of preserving the confidentiality of the information gathered, and additional information regarding the statistical activity.
- 4.3 Agreement to participate
- a. In the event that the respondent is obligated under law to respond, the CBS shall explain to the respondent this obligation.
 - b. The CBS shall not create the impression that a legal obligation to participate exists when it does not.
- 4.4 Preservation of confidentiality
- The CBS must preserve, in accordance with the law, the confidentiality of information it receives under the Statistics Ordinance.

5. Obligations towards the customer (such as the source of financing or the initiator)

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| 5.1 | Definition of functions | The CBS must define explicitly and ahead of time with the customer the rights and obligations of the parties. |
| 5.2 | Limitations regarding publication | The CBS shall establish with the customer, ahead of time, the manner of publication of the findings of the statistical activity. |
| 5.3 | Prohibition against pre-determined results | The CBS will not undertake any statistical activity whose results, in whole or in part, are dictated ahead of time, or that may contain an element of intentional distortion or deception. |
| 5.4 | Choice between methods | The CBS shall clarify for the customer the methods that it is willing to use to carry out the statistical activity and the implications arising from the various options. |
| 5.5 | Full disclosure | The CBS will provide the customer with information regarding itself that is relevant to the carrying out of the statistical activity, including limitations regarding its own knowledge, experience or capabilities. |

6. Obligations toward professional colleagues

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| 6.1 | Disclosure before a colleague | The CBS shall enable, for the sake of professional critique, examination of the information regarding its methods of work, to the extent necessary and subject to the preservation of confidentiality, in order to enable an assessment of how it arrived at its findings. |
| 6.2 | Secondary use | The CBS shall enable, in accordance with conditions it shall set, the use of material in its possession, as long as this does not prejudice the rights of the “participants” and of the customer, and subject to the preservation of confidentiality. |
| 6.3 | General application of principles | <p>a. The CBS shall act in order that those working in its name, with it or for it in carrying out statistical activity, shall act in accordance with this code.</p> <p>b. The CBS shall take into consideration the ethical codes of other professionals working with it on the same statistical activity.</p> |