



The Government Companies Authority (GCA) was established under The Government Companies Law (1975). The GCA is a professional unit of the Ministry of Finance, which carries out the role of the government as a shareholder in all government companies, which includes privatizations and managing structural changes.

The GCA is responsible for the activity of approximately 100 companies, which include commercial and non-commercial companies, government subsidiaries and mixed companies.

Among these companies are some of the biggest and most complicated companies in the Israeli economy: The Israel Electric Corporation, Israel Aircraft Industries, Israel Military Industries, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, Mekorot Water Company, the Ports companies, The Railways Company, Oil Infrastructures, The National Road Company, the Housing Companies and more.

The Authority's functions and general authorities are defined in the Law, Section 54 of which describes its functions as follows :

“The Authority shall–

- (1) advise the government via the Minister of Finance and will advise the ministers on matters concerning the government companies;
- (2) deal with matters common to all government companies or categories of government companies in accordance with the government's directives;
- (3) monitor the implementation of the State Comptroller's recommendations concerning government companies and will assist in implementing them;
- (4) advise and assist the government companies in the management of their business activities;
- (5) consistently monitor the activity of every SOE (State Owned Enterprise), the realization of its objectives, its course of business, its financial position and its salary policy, and will inform the ministers of its findings;
- (6) examine the reports submitted to it by a SOE and the material on which they are based, and will make its comments on them to the SOE and to the ministers;
- (7) deal with and assist in the process of liquidation, merger, compromise, arrangement, renewal, organization and sale of government companies' shares;
- 7) a) advise the Ministerial Privatization Committee and will deal with the implementation of privatization resolutions;
- (8) perform with respect to a government company any function which the government or the ministers impose on it;
- (9) perform any other function designated for it in accordance with this Law.”

These authorities are general authorities with respect to all government companies regardless of their areas of activity. As described above and in accordance with the Government Companies Law, the authority has a series of case-specific authorities.

The director of the GCA is Mr.Doron Cohen. The GCA has approximately 50 employees:

Economists, Accountants, Lawyers and administration employees. The GCA work focus on three main fields, under four different units. The head of each unit acts as the GCA deputy director. In each unit there are referents (economists and accountants) that act as the GCA representatives at the different government companies, and participate, in accordance with the law, in the government company directorate meetings (without a voting privilege).

The privatization units – under the GCA operate two units responsible for privatization. Following the "Ministers Committee for Privatization Issues" decision that a certain government company will be privatized, that relevant unit is responsible for planning and preparing the privatization process, and its actual execution.

Mr. Meir Shamra is the senior deputy director general of the GCA and head of the Privatization Unit. He is responsible for the Defense companies, the Ports companies, the Postal Company, Agrexco and more.

The Monopolies, Structural changes and Government Company Dissolution Unit – responsible for supervision upon government companies which are state Monopolies; to plan and prepare structural changes in those companies; Transforming government units or authorities into government companies and Dissolution of Government Companies. The head of the unit is Mr. Aharon Goldman, deputy director general of the GCA.

Government Companies Supervision Unit – performs supervision and control for the administration of the companies, and advice to ministers and to the government in issues relevant to their activities. The head role isn't manned.

Additional units in the GCA:

- **Legal Department** – the head of the department is Ms. Avigail Zerbib (L.L.B)
- **Government Companies Accounting, taxation & evaluation Section** – the head of the department is Mr. Haim Fisher.
- **Government Companies Salary and Personnel Commissioner** – the head of the department is Ms. Nava Kremer.

Under The GCA operate several Committees, among them:

- The Committee for Examining Appointments at Government Companies
- The Committee for the Appointment of External Auditors at Government Companies and the Determination of their Remuneration
- The Committee for the Appointment of Legal Counsel at Government Companies and the Determination of their Remuneration