

בית דין צדק דק"ק יוהנסבורג והמדינה
BETH-DIN OF JOHANNESBURG
(JEWISH ECCLESIASTICAL COURT)

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בס"ד

27th Iyar 5774
27th May 2014

Notice to the community

The Beth Din of Johannesburg has established the Vaad Mishmeret Stam Johannesburg (VMSJ), an industry standards body that was formed in order to ensure that the community is supplied with quality kosher Torah Scrolls, Tefilin and Mezuzot, these items are referred to by the acronym STAM. The level of compliance displayed by all parties involved has been encouraging.

As one of its duties the VMSJ has been auditing the local Sofrim (qualified writers of STAM), Magihim (qualified checkers of STAM) and Mochrim (sellers of STAM).


We are in the process of auditing all members trading in STAM, thus far we have found that a number of Mezuzot submitted by Rabbi Hylton Herring for testing or sold by him were found to be of poor halachic standard and some were even found to be Possul (invalid).

When this was brought to Rabbi Herring's attention, he responded with the below, which we bring to the community's attention.

The community should also be aware that there is a general obligation to check Mezuzot twice every seven years, if the Mezuzot were purchased for a private home. However, due to the number of Possul merchandise sold by Rabbi Herring, anyone who has bought from him, has an obligation to have their merchandise checked as soon as possible.

We assure the community that we continue to halachically audit all of the Vaad members and will similarly inform the public of any problems should the need arise.

For and on behalf of the Beth Din


Rabbi Anton Klein
DIRECTOR
BETH DIN OF JOHANNESBURG



RABBI HYLTON HERRING

To whom it may concern

27 May 2014

I write this letter with great humility having been a Socher (seller) of mezuzot and tefilin.

These items have always been sourced from a supplier in Israel who claimed that his products were Kosher Le Hatchila. However, it has recently been brought to my attention by the Beth Din that unfortunately a number of them are posul.

Upon being informed of this I was most distressed and have subsequently stopped selling mezuzot and tefilin. I have contacted my supplier in Israel demanding an explanation.

This matter is currently being investigated, but irrespective of this, I have consulted with the Beth Din and they have advised me on how to best rectify the situation.

With this in mind and having the best interests of my loyal customers at heart, I have listed below Sofrim, who have been approved by the Beth Din, and who can check to ascertain whether or not any of the mezuzot and tefilin purchased from me requires replacement.

I will cover the reasonable cost of the checking and replacement of those found to be unacceptable due to defective script only. I will procure for replacement of unacceptable product, new product approved by the sofrim set out hereunder. Mezuzot and and Tefilin must be submitted for checking within three months of publication of this letter by the Beth Din in order to qualify.

I sincerely apologise for this unintentional occurrence and for any inconvenience that it may cause.

Yours sincerely,


Rabbi Hylton Herring

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| Approved Sofrim - Number |
|--|
| Rabbi Yisroel Drutman – 0823478744 or 011-640-1834 |
| Rabbi Chaim Klein – 011-485-4059 |
| Rabbi Gary Braude – 0799785243 |
| Rabbi Dov Kazilsky – 0719356005 |
| Rabbi Simcha Frenkel - 0726557715 |