

# Sefer Torah Purchaser's Guide

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A helpful guide to ensure your future Sefer Torah will be Kosher

## Purchaser's Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Sofer/Socher's (Seller) Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Recommended מגייה's (A 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Proofreader) Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

There are **5 requirements** to receive certification and ensure the Kashrut of your Sefer Torah: We recommend to first approve the handwriting by a Rabbi recognized as an expert in Sta"m.

- 1) Properly answer the 7 questions by the Sofer or Socher
- 2) Take it to a recommended 3<sup>rd</sup> Party to check the entire Torah by hand
- 3) A Final Computer Check by a recommended 3<sup>rd</sup> Party
- 4) Computer Check the Last page after the Hachnassa
- 5) Send in the completed form to receive certification

**Explanation of the requirements:** The proper way to buy a Sefer Torah is to first verify the writing is up to par by a qualified Sofer. This helps detect if there are serious Halachic issues with the writing. Once approved, properly answer the following 7 questions from the Sofer before purchasing. All Soferim make mistakes, and all new Sifre Torah must be checked and repaired after writing. Being that it is extremely rare for one person to catch all the issues in a 245-column, 304,805 letter Sefer Torah, many Poskim consider it essential to check the Torah at least 2 times by 2 different people. Each person focuses on and picks up different issues, thereby increasing the chances of fixing all issues. At least the Second Hand Check, should be by one who is Certified, recommended to be reliable, and non-biased to the sale. He will first assess the writing, then hand check it, and at last guarantee its Kashrut. A Final (2<sup>nd</sup>) Computer Check by a non-biased and reliable Magiah must then be done to ensure no issues were overlooked. Although the Torah was previously computer checked, we must recheck it to confirm all was corrected properly. The reliability of the computer check is dependent on who is administering it, as the computer just points out the questionable letters and a certified Magiah must decide if it is halachically acceptable. Lastly, after the Hachnassa, the last page of the Sefer must be taken to a Sofer, or at least a picture sent to a Sofer to be computer checked. This ensures that the Torah was completed properly.

## 7 Questions for the Sofer or the Socher (It is best to find this out before purchasing)

1) Does the Sofer have a non-expired up to date תעודה and from whom? (This is a certificate - or license - confirming that he can write properly and is familiar with the relevant Halachot.)

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Note: This is a requirement by the Poskim (including the Kaf Hachayim) to ensure the Sofer knows his Halachot and writes with all required intentions. It must be renewed every 1-3 years to ensure the Sofer constantly reviews the many Halachot, as without review people are bound to forget. An expired certificate may still be accepted if we can verify the Sofer reviews the Halachot.

2) To Which Rabbi\Posek does the Sofer ask his questions to?

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Note: Questions inevitably arise, and having a Rabbi\Posek to ask is extremely important and helpful in verifying the reliability of the Sofer and ultimately the Sefer Torah.

3) What is the הכשר (kosher certification) on the קלף (parchment)?

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**A properly investigated Torah can be certified, labeled, and entered into our database** by emailing the form to [bethastam@gmail.com](mailto:bethastam@gmail.com), [sofershaul@gmail.com](mailto:sofershaul@gmail.com), or [sankarysofer@gmail.com](mailto:sankarysofer@gmail.com); **at no charge** once the form has been completed, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party had checked the Torah.

Kislev 5786 This Guide is available online at [www.LaniadoSafrutCenter.com/TorahGuide](http://www.LaniadoSafrutCenter.com/TorahGuide)

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4) What is the הכשר (kosher certification) on the גידים (thread used to sew the parchments)?

Note: Badatz Edah Hacharedit is currently the most reliable Hechsher for Klaf and Giddim.

5) What is the מתייג's (Person who adds the crowns to the letters) background to Sta"m and does he have a תעודה (certificate)?

Note: Due to the large amount of Tagim (around 250,000) in a Torah and meager pay, a Metayeg without proper training, knowledge of the Halachot, and Yirat Shamayim, is likely to work very fast, without the attention to detail required on these small and delicate crowns, and can sometimes even invalidate the entire Sefer Torah. This is not uncommon and at times; it is not practical to fix.

6) Does the מגיה (proofreader) have a non-expired up to date תעודה and from whom?

Note: This is a requirement by the Poskim (including the Kaf Hachayim) to ensure the Magiah knows the relevant Halachot, and fixes in the way Halacha dictates. It must be renewed every 1-3 years to ensure the Magiah consistently reviews the many Halachot, as without review people are bound to forget. An expired certificate may still be accepted if we can verify the Magiah reviews the Halachot.

7) To Which Rabbi\Posek does the Magiah ask his questions to?

**What is the Recommended מגיה's (3<sup>rd</sup> Party Proofreader) opinion on the level of the Torah and its quality (מהודר/לכתחילה/בדיעבד)**

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

## Final Questions

1) Was the Torah given a final computer-check by a recommended, reliable, and non-biased 3<sup>rd</sup> party, **after** all repairs were completed, including the 2 hand checks and initial computer checks? (This can be done in Israel or America.)

Note: There are 2 main purposes for this: 1) Many times, things are marked to be fixed and accidentally skipped over, or improperly fixed. A final computer check can help catch any remaining issues. 2) A proper computer check will also indicate to us whether the Torah was properly checked by hand.

2) Was the last page checked after the Hachnassat Sefer Torah by computer or at least a picture sent to a Sofer to be checked?

Note: Many times, even beautiful otherwise-Kosher Sifre torah are invalidated by the Hachnassa itself.

## Recommended Certified מגיהים (Proofreaders) in Israel:

Recommended options for a 2<sup>nd</sup> הגהה, Final computer check, and referrals (This list is not exclusive):

1. Moshe Eliyahu Katz - 050-413-1397 - From בית וגן - mekhakohen@gmail.com
2. Ari Kabariti - 052-763-0232 - From בית וגן - 6427874@gmail.com
3. Moshe Dovid Batramovitz - 052-768-6622 - works near the Mir - mdb613@gmail.com
4. Yehoshua Avrik - 052-716-8757- works near the Mir - a0527168757@gmail.com

## Recommended Computer Check Options in America:

Recommended options for a Final Computer Check and referrals (This list is not exclusive):

Boro Park: Bais Hastam - 718-436-0927  
Deal: Laniado Safrut Center - 347-383-9216  
Lakewood: Rabbi Sion Sankary - 917-733-6242

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