A DAILY
GUIDE FOR
THE JEWISH
WORKER

Halacha

Chizuk

Hadracha

Daily Halacha

Technology

Introduction

In the upcoming emails we will discuss the topic of technology in *halachah* and *hashkafah*.

Before we begin discussing this broad, wide-ranging subject, it is important to clarify a few points:

1. This topic is a very broad one and it is impossible to cover every detail and specific situation due to the complex halachic *shailos* that pertain to each case, as well as because of the varied practical differences inherent in each situation. Therefore, we will stick to outlining the very relevant **fundamental halachic principles**, as well as **common practical *halachos,*** that are applicable to such a wide audience — our distinguished and diverse readership around the world. In this way, when situations that were not specifically discussed will arise subscribers will have the fundamental knowledge to recognize which circumstances may be problematic, when a *shailah* should be asked to a *Rav*, etc.

2. In this series, we will be discussing technology as it currently exists. As we know, technology is constantly advancing and changing. These changes happen so rapidly that it is very possible that

something written about today will become obsolete and irrelevant tomorrow. For this reason, it is crucial to understand the fundamental *halachos* and *hashkafos*, so that they can be applied to the technology of the future.

3. It is also critical to stress that the *halachos* and *gedarim* regarding the use of technology are established for each community by the community's own *Rabbanim* in particular, and by the *gedolei hador* in general. However, Doeihu is here to provide an in-depth, clear understanding of these topics that are often complicated and thorny. Also, due to its complicated nature, it is easy to not be well-versed and adept in this area, and the lack of clarity can cause one to inadvertently stumble into halachically questionable situations. Our goal is to provide a sense of clarity regarding these topics so that readers will recognize which situations are potentially problematic and when to seek guidance from their own halachic authority. Readers whose community demands a higher standard must comply with that standard.

Before we delve into the actual *halachos* of technology, which can be very technical and detailed, we will begin with a very brief overview of the overarching fundamentals of *halachah* that relate to this topic. Some of these *halachos* have been discussed previously, while others have not. It is important to begin with these general *halachos*, as the various aspects of technology are very complex, and it is sometimes difficult to recognize how they are connected to *halachah* at all. For this reason, it is imperative that we become familiarized with the general *halachos* and that we review the basics, so that we can understand how they pertain to modern-day technology. After briefly reviewing these general *halachos*, we will continue on to practical *halachos* which are directly related to the use of technology, and we will show how the general *halachos* are to be applied to each situation. Through extensive discussions with experts in the field and filter companies, we have dedicated much time and effort in researching and clearly understanding the details of contemporary technology and their practical applications for the everyday user.

Note: It is important to read the following "halachic fundamentals" carefully because they will be very helpful in understanding the practical halachic applications and concepts of technology, which are based on these fundamentals of *halachah*.