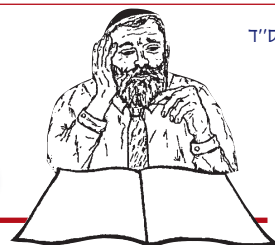


THE Daf HaKASHRUS



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE OU RABBINIC FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

לא באתי אלא לעורר CALCULATING BITUL

BY RABBI ELI GERSTEN

RC - Recorder of OU Psak and Policy

We are often confronted with situations in which we must determine if *issur* is *batel* in *heter*. Sometimes this is very easy to figure out. Under normal circumstances if 10 grams of *issur* is used with

5,000 lbs. of *heter* it will be *batel*¹. Other times it might be more complicated and we must take out our calculator to determine if in fact there was sixty times more *heter* than *issur*. The *Pischei Teshuva* (Yoreh Deah 98:2) says that *bitul* must be calculated by evaluating the *issur* and the *heter* in terms of their volume (e.g. gallons, liters, etc.) and not in terms of their weight (e.g. pounds, kilograms, etc...). Two items can have identical weights but if one is denser than the other the volume that they take up will be very different. Companies will often give their proportions in weight. One must ask for them to convert this information into volume.

If this information is not readily available the attached document (see page 50) may be helpful to convert from weight to volume by using the specific gravity of the item. Items that have a specific gravity greater than 1 are denser than water and pound per pound they will take up less volume than water. For example, the specific gravity of corn syrup (75 brix) is 1.405. This indicates that it will take 42.7 pounds of water to be *mivatel* 1 pound of corn syrup. This is because 1 (pound of corn syrup) divided by 1.405 (specific density) = .711 (volume). We need 60 times that number to be *mivatel* it *b'shishim*. $60 * .711 = 42.7$.

Items that have a specific density less than one are lighter than water and pound per pound will take up more volume than water. For example, the specific gravity of olive oil is .703. This indicates that it will take 85.4 pounds of water to be *mivatel* 1 pound of olive oil. This is because 1 (pound of olive oil) divided by .703 (specific density) = 1.422 (volume). We need 60 times that number to be *mivatel* it *b'shishim*. $60 * 1.422 = 85.4$. (Note that it takes twice as much water to be *mivatel* 1 pound of olive oil as it does to be *mivatel* 1 pound of corn syrup)

If the specific gravity that you are looking for does not appear on this chart it may be available on the internet.

If one cannot figure out how to calculate if they have sufficient volume to be *mivatel* the *issur* then one must be *machmir* to consider the mixture as *issur*. Even if the *issur* is only an *issur dirabbanan*, one cannot be lenient by saying *safek dirabbanan likula*. This is considered a *safek chisaron yidiyah* which is not considered a *safek*.

Sometimes *issur* is present in a concentrated form. Do we need to first calculate its level of potency and then ensure that we have 60 times the *issur* in its reconstituted form? For example, if 3X condensed milk falls into a pot of soup, do we require 60 or 180 times the milk?

Rav Belsky reasoned that foods are *batel b'shishim* because *Chazal* calculated that no food gives flavor when it is so diluted. Thus, just like the Gemara, *Chullin* 97b says that even onions are *batel b'shishim*, so too all foods are *batel b'shishim* even if they are in a

continued on page 49

DAF NOTES: The Daf HaKashrus is pleased to publish, with permission, the following pertinent article by Rabbi Dovid Bistricher, which first appeared in Hamodia.

THE KASHRUTH ISSUES OF TOOTHPASTE

BY RABBI DOVID BISTRICHER

RC - Vegetables, Salad, Dressings, Sauces, Bake, Fish

No household is complete without a basic toiletry, toothpaste. Although the use of modern forms of toothpaste became widespread by the early 20th century, tooth applications in crude forms have existed for hundreds of years. Today, toothpastes have come a long way and its manufacturing process is fairly sophisticated.

Toothpastes, even the simplest kinds, contain numerous substances. Moreover, manufacturing companies nowadays are constantly looking for ways to improve the marketability of their products and try to develop great tasting pastes with new and creative flavors. It is therefore important to examine whether those substances could pose any kashrus concerns.

Toothpastes consist of several components, primarily abrasives,

binders, humectants, fluorides, water, and flavors. **Abrasives** are ingredients present in toothpaste that rid teeth of plaque, **binders** thicken the paste, while **humectants** retain water and prevent the solid and liquid components of toothpaste from separating. Examples of commonly used abrasives include calcium carbonate (chalk), hydrated silica, and sodium bicarbonate (baking soda). A very common binder is carrageen, which is derived from moss. Examples of commonly used humectants include sorbitol and glycerin.

The most kashrus sensitive ingredient often found in toothpaste is glycerin, which is often animal based, and usually makes up one

continued on page 48



YOSHON SYMPOSIUM

Focuses on Yoshon Flour Shortage

RABBI DAVID GORELIK
RC - Yoshon, Dried Fruit, General Mills, Nut

On Monday, June 16, 2008, the Orthodox Union hosted a Yoshon symposium in order to prepare for the upcoming Yoshon season. Rabbi Yoseph Herman, the editor of A Guide to Chodosh, was the moderator of the event. Representatives from Horizon Milling, A. Zerega, Duso, Dependable Foods and Kemach all participated on the panel. Many different mashgichim from various kashruth agencies and vaadim were in attendance as well.

The panel informed the audience that there is a severe shortage of last year's spring wheat crop and consequently there will be a shortage of available Yoshon flour for the coming season. There are several factors for this shortage.

The Chinese are now eating more of a western diet which includes wheat;

There was a poor wheat crop in India and Australia;

There was a poor rice crop so, therefore, more wheat was consumed;

Some of the acreage used for wheat is now being used for corn due to the need for bio fuels;

The dollar is weaker.

Due to these factors the United States depleted its crop of spring wheat.

Presently, General Mills is the only milling company that committed itself to providing Yoshon flour. Another option mentioned is that companies should begin storing flour. However, there is a concern that if the flour is not properly stored then infestation will result. A third option is for bakeries to add vital wheat gluten to winter wheat in order to obtain the same product one would have had with spring wheat. This is a possibility provided the bakeries can adjust and that the vital wheat gluten itself is Yoshon.

OU MESORAH CONFERENCE IV

Harry H. Beren ASK OU Mesorah Conference IV on
Kedushas Ha'aretz and its Mitzvos Draws Crowd of over 300.

They came from Randallstown and Baltimore, MD, Edison and Highland Park, NJ, Monsey and Spring Valley, NY. They came from Lakewood, Teaneck, Elizabeth, Passaic and Jersey City, NJ. They came from Allentown, PA, Plainview and New Rochelle, NY and throughout the metropolitan New York area. Speakers came from Eretz Yisroel via Boston and Stamford. A crowd of over 300 gathered on Sunday, June 15 at Lander College in Kew Gardens Hills for a fascinating eight hour program on Kedushas Ha'Aretz and Its Mitzvos. The audience sat glued to their seats mesmerized by one powerful presentation and dynamic Shiur after the other.

One attendee described his experience by text message:

"Just wanted to let you know – I usually wake up somewhat later but I woke up at 4:35 today after going to sleep at 1:30 last night. Totally worth every single second! Keep up the amazing work and Tizku Limitzvos! I can't get enough of these programs and that (ASK OU) dvd made my week. Or month. Anyway hope to see you at ASK OU9."

Yehuda Gras

ASK OUTREACH REACHES NORTH



Rabbi Seth Mandel recently spoke on "A Behind the Scenes Look at the Kosher Meat Industry" at Cong. Beth El Atereth Israel in Newton, MA with close to 200 participants in attendance. The program was co-sponsored by the Kollel of Greater Boston.

Pictured are center Rabbi Mandel, to his right Rosh Kollel Rabbi Zalman Leff, to Rabbi Mandel's left Rosh Kollel Rabbi Naftaly Bier and other members of the Kollel.



Rabbi Yosef Grossman, lower right-hand corner, coordinator of the program



The two Aris: Rabbi Dr. Zivotofsky and Dr. Greenspan, are highlights at every Mesorah event



Rabbi Noach Isaac Oelbaum, of Kew Gardens Hills, NY

INAUGURAL HARRY H. BEREN **ASK OUTREACH** COMMUNITY KASHRUTH PROGRAM AT RIETS GREAT SUCCESS



The comments coming in from the participants of the three week ASK OUTREACH – RIETS Community Kashruth Program which concluded on June 19th have been very positive.

“The program overall was absolutely phenomenal”, “very well run, very organized and efficient”, “far better than I expected” are some of the comments we have received.

Pictured are the core group of close to 25 participants who took the entire course shown in a group picture. There were individual sessions which attracted over 50 participants. Many thanks go to Rabbi Yosef Grossman, Rabbi Menachem Genack, Rabbi Yaakov Luban and Rabbi Dov Schreier who are seen (l – r) in the picture, for the fascinating shiurim and training sessions they gave during the program and for helping design and coordinate many aspects of the program.

Many other RC’s and RFR’s made this new initiative so successful. They are listed in the order of their presentations. Much appreciation to Rabbi Chaim Goldberg, Rav Herschel Schachter, Rabbi Y. Bendelstein, Rabbi D. Bistricher, Rabbi M. Perlmutter, Rabbi S. Mandel, Rabbi E. Stolzenberg, Rabbi L. Steinberg, and Rabbi E. Gersten for their stimulating shiurim and presentations. And of course much appreciation to Avigail Klein who helps make all ASK OU programs possible.

FROM THE DESK OF THE MAJ. DEPUTY CHIEF RABBI OF THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE

Rav Grossman Shlita,
There’s a saying in Hebrew that “with the food - comes the appetite”. The more I read your newsletters, the more material I want to get...

I’d be grateful if you could send me the above (ASK OU) DVD.

Thanks, Rabbi David Levine,
Maj. Deputy Chief Rabbi Israeli Air Force

Dear Rabbi Levine, Shlita
We at the OU are extremely proud as to “what heights” our materials have reached. We are pleased to send you a complimentary ASK OU DVD. We hope it will assist you in your Avodas HaKodesh.

May the “Shomer Yisroel” protect the airmen and soldiers of Israel in their holy mission of protecting



Eretz Yisroel. Shalom. Shalom.

Rabbi Yosef Grossman
Director of OU Kashruth Education

Rav Grossman, Shlita
It arrived last night. My only problem is where to start first... :-) But wherever I’ll start, there’s plenty to learn. Yasher Koach for the marvelous work. In Israel where one is used only to the local Hecsherim its difficult to appreciate the OU until you have to travel abroad.

Thank you,
David

TOOTHPASTE

continued from page 45

third of the product. Unquestionably, glycerin without a *hechsher* should be assumed non-kosher. Nevertheless, Rav Yackov Kaminetzky zt'l ruled that toothpastes containing glycerin were permissible since the primary ingredient in toothpaste was calcium carbonate, which is inedible. Rav Yackov reasoned that the requirement of requiring 60 times the amount of *heter* in proportion to *issur* (*bitul bishishim*) did not apply to a non-food item. Since calcium carbonate constituted a majority of the paste, the glycerin would be nullified based on the principle of *bitul berov*.¹ Nonetheless, the manufacture of toothpaste has changed since Rav Yackov's psak. Calcium carbonate generally is no longer used, and the most common abrasive today is hydrated silica. Hydrated silica is also inedible, but usually only composes one fifth of toothpaste. Typically, the majority of raw materials in toothpaste are edible. Seemingly, Rav Yackov's *heter* would not apply in most instances.

Rav Tzvi Pesach Frank zt'l wrote a lenient teshuva about this issue.² Rav Frank argued that since toothpaste is not a pleasant tasting substance, any non-kosher derivatives present in toothpaste are no longer considered edible and should be permitted. This is correct even in instances when the taste of the mixture is not exceedingly unpleasant, provided that the majority of ingredients in that mixture are kosher.³ However, if the majority of ingredients are non-kosher, the mixture must have an exceedingly bad taste to be permitted. Otherwise, it is prohibited *miderabbanan*. However, the Pischei Teshuva⁴ quotes the Tzemach Tzedek (Talmid HaTaz), who writes that it is permissible to taste something that is prohibited *miderabbanan*.⁵ Although the Noda BeYehuda limits the Tzemach Tzedek's leniency to instances when the prohibited substance is not pleasant tasting and not swallowed⁶, the Tzemach Tzedek's ruling would still be applicable. This is because unpleasant tasting toothpaste is not swallowed, but is rather spit out after brushing. Though the Rema⁷ and Shach⁸ write that it is prohibited to taste *ma'acholes* assurim even when not swallowed, Rav Frank postulated that there should be a distinction within this halacha between *issurei deoraisa* and *issurei derabbanan*. A line of reasoning similar to Rav Frank was suggested by Rav Yosef Eliyahu Henkin zt'l, who also permitted toothpaste containing non-kosher derivatives⁹.

Fluoride and other common raw materials present in toothpaste generally do not present a kashrus concern. However, nowadays toothpastes can be found in multiple varieties and flavors. The flavor industry in general is highly complicated. Flavors can be derived from just about anything, including different non-kosher sources. There is a general dispute amongst contemporary Rabbonim how to approach the kashrus status of flavors. Some contend that non-kosher components should render a flavor non-kosher, while others contend that most flavors are kosher *bedieved* due to its complex chemistry¹⁰.

Either way, the presence of flavors in toothpaste certainly make the paste more palatable. Despite that fact that excessive intakes of toothpaste will make one nauseous, its taste in small quantities can be quite refreshing. As a result, many rabbonim advise that one should only purchase toothpaste with a proper *hechsher*. However, other rabbonim disagree and contend that the taste of toothpaste, even with the presence of flavors, is still less than tasty and the leniency of Rav Tzvi Pesach Frank still applies. Nevertheless, if glycerin is present in tasty toothpaste, it would certainly seem to be problematic. This may very well be the case with some forms of children's toothpaste.

The discussion about toothpaste, seemingly applies equally to mouthwash as well. Mouthwash can also contain glycerin

and various flavors, which gives the wash a refreshing taste. On this basis, some contend that mouthwash should be viewed as a food item, while others disagree. Fortunately, the presence of glycerin appears to be less common in mouthwash than toothpaste. However, it is becoming increasingly less common to find unflavored mouthwash on the market.

¹Emes LeYackov-Shulchan Aruch p. 307

²Shut Har Tzvi Yoreh Deah 95

³Shulchan Aruch Yoreh Deah 103:2

⁴Shulchan Aruch Yoreh Deah 98:1

⁵Shut Tzemach Tzedek 47

⁶Shut Noda BeYehuda II Yoreh Deah 52



⁷Shulchan Aruch Yoreh Deah 108:5

⁸Shulchan Aruch Yoreh Deah 108:5, Shach 24


⁹Teshuvos Ibra 47. However, Rav Henkin was not willing to extend this leniency to pastes containing glycerin, and limited his position to only other non-kosher ingredients possibly found in toothpaste.


¹⁰Based on zeh v'zeh gorem. Pesachim 26b


KASHRUTH advisory!

OREO COOKIES are certified  kosher. Nabisco is introducing a new variety of Oreo brand cookies, **OREO FUDGE RINGS**, which are currently not certified kosher. Please note that the Oreo Fudge Rings label does not bear the  symbol.


KASHRUTH alert!

ARIZONA FRUIT SMOOTHIE MIX PINEAPPLE COCONUT FLAVOR UPC: 6 13008 724061 produced by Ferolito, Vultaggio & Sons – Lake Success, NY contains dairy ingredients as listed on the ingredient panel but the  dairy designation has been inadvertently omitted. Future packaging will be revised.

PUBLIX ANIMAL CRACKERS (UPC #4141501509) produced by Publix Super Markets – Lakeland, FL is an  certified product which contains dairy ingredients as listed on the ingredient panel but the dairy designation has been inadvertently omitted. Future packaging will be revised.

QUAKER SQUARES TOASTED OATMEAL SQUARES CEREAL imported by M. Prop & Sons – Ramat Gan, Israel bears an incorrect Pareve statement on this product's Hebrew label (as applied by the Israeli importer). This product is certified .

GARDEN VITAMIN D3 GRANULAR produced by Zhejiang Garden Biochemical High-Tech Co., Ltd. – Zhejiang, China CIQ #3300001010122 and distributed by PAT Vitamins, Inc. – Walnut, CA is an industrial product, which contains non-kosher ingredients, and bears an unauthorized  symbol and should not be used in kosher production. Kashruth agencies are encouraged to contact the Orthodox Union at 212-613-8241 for more information.

TURKEY HILL JUNIOR MINTS PREMIUM ICE CREAM (LIMITED EDITION) is not certified as kosher and states that after the ingredient panel. All other Turkey Hill products are  certified.

FREE Computer DVD

91

= ונאמר אמן, אמן בגמטריא

major ASK OU kashruth presentations included.



Did you attend “Shaylos in Treifus and Nikkur”?

sponsored by the ASK OUTREACH Initiative of the Harry H. Beren Foundation of Lakewood on

February 16 - מוצש"ק פר' תצוה - at Khal Zichron Yaakov



**You are entitled to a FREE DVD
with 91 ASK OU Kashruth programs!**

Included are the above program, 25 hours of video, 29 hours of audio –
for a total of 54 hours of in-depth high quality kashrus
shiurim and presentations.

Place your free order at 212-613-8279 or kleina@ou.org.
Receive a free ASK OU DVD by attending any
ASK OU Kashrus program such as ASK OU9...

Harry H. Beren ASK OU9 Summer Programs



ASK OU9 KASHRUTH TRAINING PROGRAM

If you are a Congregational Rabbi,
Semicha student, Chaver Hakollel or member
of a Vaad HaKashruth, reserve the week of

**MONDAY, AUGUST 25
to FRIDAY, AUGUST 29**

BE...on the cutting edge of modern-day Kosher Food
Technology...behind the scenes at the world's largest
Kosher certification agency.

LEARN...how to set up a local Vaad Hakashruth...
basic “Treiberer”...the Kosher issues related to
Bakeries, Butcher stores, Fish stores, Pizza stores,
Restaurants and other Food service establishments...
factory supervision...the basics of ingredients and
biotechnology...practical Kashruth Halachah which
includes “Bedikas Toloim”...how to perform Industrial
and Retail Kashering

VISIT...the kitchen of an OU restaurant ...a meat
processing facility under OU supervision... an OU
certified factory

ASK OU9 KASHRUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

If you are a serious Semicha student or Chaver Hakollel,
you may be eligible to receive up to a \$300 stipend for
completing a special three-week internship program

AUGUST 11 to AUGUST 29

FIELD WORK...visiting plants with an expert Rabbinic Field
Representative

ASSIST...Rabbinic Coordinators at OU headquarters

ATTEND...the ASK OU9 Kashruth Training Program as well as
other Kashruth shiurim and lectures

To apply please contact Rabbi Yosef Grossman at 212-613-8212
or 914-391-9470 grossman@ou.org

Funding for the ASK OU programs has been provided by the
Harry H. Beren Foundation of Lakewood, NJ in memory of Harry H. Beren, Z'l

**ORTHODOX
UNION**
תורה
ומצוות
Enhancing Jewish Life

BITUL

continued from page 45

concentrated form². Only if a food becomes concentrated to the point that it is considered a *milsah d'avidah l'tamah* will it no longer be *batel b'shishim*. One notable exception to this rule is grape juice concentrate that became diluted into a *liquid*. In this situation we require that there be *sheish* (6) times the grape juice in its reconstituted form because we view the liquid that reconstitutes the grape juice as part of the wine.

P.S. Even if the *issur* is *batel* in the product one must make sure that the *issur* is not a *milsa d'avida l'tamah* or a *davar ha'mamid* or by *issurim d'oraissah* that it does not give *chazusah*.

SUMMARY:

One must always calculate *bitul* in terms of volume.

If one does not know how to calculate if there is 60 then the admixture is *assur*.

Concentrated *issur* may be calculated in its present form.

Before calculating *bitul*, one must check if the *issur* is a *milsa d'avida l'tamah* a *davar ha'mamid* or gives *chazusah*.

¹One notable exception is as relates to Pesach. The Mishna Berurah (447:14) is *machmir* that chametz which is an essential ingredient is not *batel b'shishim* even if mixed in before Pesach.

²A similar argument is made by the Beis Ephraim Y.D. 36 (brought by the *Pischei Teshuva* 98:2). He explains that one can be *mivatel* a *kezayis* of congealed fat in 60 *kezaysim* of heter, even though this same amount of fat would take up 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ *k'beytzim* if reconstituted into a liquid form.

Calculating bitul when weight of product (as opposed to volume) is known.

The following is a list (in progress) of specific gravities for a number of common food items.

Acetic acid 100%.....	1.050	Cottonseed oil	0.950	Olive oil.....	0.703
Acetic acid 10%.....	1.010	Egg—Liquid (whole, white or yolk)	1.035	Palmitic acid.....	0.853
Acetone	0.787	Egg—Liquid with 10% salt (whole, white or yolk)	1.100	Peanuts (shelled).....	0.640
Alcohol, ethyl 95%	0.810	Egg—Liquid with 10% sugar (whole, white or yolk)	1.070	Potassium Sorbate.....	1.360
Alcohol, methyl 90%	0.820	Ethyl alcohol 95%.....	0.810	Propylene glycol.....	0.968
Barley.....	0.610	Flour—loose.....	0.4-0.5	Rice (hulled)	0.750
Beans (navy)	0.800	Flour—pressed.....	0.7-0.8	Stearic acid.....	0.841
Beets	0.720	Flour (other opinion).....	0.590	Salt (coarse)	0.77-0.8
Brine, calcium chloride 25%.....	1.230	Glycerin (glycerol) 100%	1.260	Salt (fine)	1.200
Brine, sodium chloride 25%.....	1.190	Lard	0.920	Soybean oil	0.920
Buckwheat	0.660	Linolenic acid	0.902	Sucrose 60% sugar syrup	1.290
Butter	0.870	Linseed oil	0.932	Sucrose 40% sugar syrup	1.180
Caproic acid	0.924	Malt	0.340	Sugar—brown	0.720
Carbolic acid.....	0.959	Methyl alcohol 90%	0.820	Sugar, cane & beet	1.660?
Carbon disulfide	1.265	Milk—liquid	1.035	Sugar—powdered	0.800
Carbon tetrachloride.....	0.860	Milk—powdered	0.450	Sugar—granulated.....	0.850
Chocolate powder	0.640	Oats	0.430	Sugar—raw cane	0.960
Citric acid	1.665	Oats—rolled	0.300	Toluene	0.860
Coconut oil.....	0.927	Oils—see specific oil		Vegetable oil—see specific	0.91-94
Corn syrup (75 brix)	1.405			Whey powder	0.78-82
Corn syrup (86.4 brix)	1.459			Xanthan Gum.....	0.800

INGREDIENTS

BY RABBI GAVRIEL PRICE
RC - IAR Ingredient Research, Flavor Dept.

Recently, a company inquired as to whether goji berry powder is a group one. Goji berries, it seems, are typically sun-dried, and could reasonably be assumed to be kosher. However, goji *extract*

A principal consideration in determining whether a powdered botanical ingredient is acceptable from any source (group one) is whether the powder is the result of spray-drying.

powder is the result of a more complex (and more expensive) process in which juice is first extracted, and then that juice is made into a powder, possibly by spray-drying.

The IAR made the determination that goji powder is a group one. However, mashgichim should be careful to distinguish between standard powders and extract powders. Extracts often are identified as “p.e.” which means “powdered extract”.

דף השנה ט"ז - A YEAR OF THE DAF - תונשלב"ע