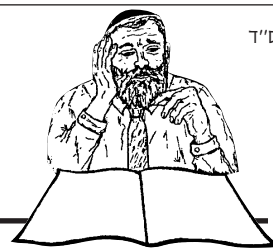




THE Daf HaKASHRUS



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE  RABBINIC FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

DAF NOTES: The following article by Rabbi Goldberg was written to assist the  consumer. We are presenting it in The Daf for the benefit of RFR's who often are called upon to share this information with  consumers.










THE EDUCATED CONSUMER


BY RABBI CHAIM GOLDBERG

RC - Sea Food Industry

EIGHT POINTS TO REMEMBER WHEN LOOKING FOR THE SYMBOL



In order to assist you, our customer, benefit from the OU kosher certification, the OU would like to present eight points to remember when purchasing the products we certify.



1. **You must always check to verify that the  kosher symbol is on the package.** Before purchasing any  certified product, you must check the label to confirm the product in fact has an  on it. This is your guarantee that the product is under  certification. There are various reasons why a product which previously had the  endorsement may no longer be  certified. For example, a certified company may choose to discontinue its  certification. The OU occasionally requires that a product have its  symbol obliterated for non-compliance with the OU kosher program. Another common situation where the OU would require its symbol to be removed from a product is when a company inserts a non-kosher sample of a spice blend inside of a product bearing the . The fact that a product was certified in the past does not guarantee that its current absence was a mere printer's mistake in the packaging design.

During the Passover season, consumers should also be sure to check for the P symbol on Passover certified items. Just because the ingredients of the item (whether it is dry spices, canned tomatoes, or anything else) appear to be Passover compatible does not mean the product is acceptable for

Passover use. Keep in mind as well that even some Matzos are actually *chometz*!


The OU kosher designations are as follows:

 or  PAREVE both mean that a product is certified and contains no meat or dairy component.




D or  DAIRY means that a product contains dairy or is made on dairy equipment. Product which is designated as "*Cholov Yisroel*" uses exclusively "*cholov yisroel*" components. Products which do not specify "*cholov yisroel*" use regular kosher milk.


P means that a product is certified for Passover (this can never be used to imply Pareve).

 Meat means that a product contains meat or meat ingredients

 Fish means a product contains a significant amount of a fish additive or ingredient which makes it not recommended for consumption with meat.

Remember the simple rule: always check for the  symbol.

2. **Not every product under a brand name is  certified.** It is very common for the OU to certify only some products bearing a particular brand name. The consumer must be vigilant and remember that not all "Uncle Joe's French fries are kosher. If "Uncle Joe's Spicy Curly Fries" are certified, that does not mean "Uncle Joe's Cajun Curly Fries" are, as well. The one exception to this principle is that the OU will not certify a product that has an exact duplicate that is non-kosher, i.e.,  certified Uncle Joe's Spicy Curly Fries and non- certified Uncle Joe's Spicy Curly Fries. Nevertheless, if the non-certified products are not exact duplicates, the OU would not object to them being manufactured without supervision.

3. **Consumers must check for the  kosher symbol on all products, even those purchased in "kosher" supermarkets.**

continued on next page

DAF NOTES: Rabbi Eliyahu Safran recently forwarded the following two emails to the Kashruth staff.

TRANS FAT FREE SHORTENINGS.

1) Rabbi Rockove just brought to my attention:

As of January 1, 2006 there are companies that will be changing to Trans Fat free shortenings. (Animal fats are trans fat free!) There are sales people contacting companies encouraging them to make the switch.

RFRs and RCs should be vigilant to assure that if any changes are made in shortening sources, that they are approved and that they are listed on Schedules A.

Thanks
Rabbi Eliyahu Safran

2) Rabbi Stone brought to my attention an additional issue. All companies must have trans fat Information on their labels by January 1, 2006. See *Requesting an Extension to Use Existing Label Stock after the Trans Fat Labeling Effective Date of January 1, 2006* <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/transgu2.html>

That means all of our companies have changed or will be changing their labels. We should therefore be looking more diligently at labels to see if Kashrus related mistakes were made during the reprinting process.

Dovid Rockove

CONSUMER

continued from page 11



Supermarkets that cater to the kosher consumer do their best to stock their shelves with what they believe to be kosher. Nevertheless, the fact that a store is "kosher", that the owner is *Shomer Shabbos*, or that the clientele are mainly Orthodox Jews does not guarantee that every product they sell has reliable certification. This applies as well to products found in the "Passover isle" of your local supermarket. Keep in mind that the person stocking the shelves is not necessarily someone who should be relied upon for the Passover suitability of your foodstuffs. He could easily mistake, for example, the Passover gefilte fish jars with the year-round (chometz) product, whose packaging is often the exact same as the chometz product. Your diligence in these matters is critical.

4. **Companies are required to print the ® directly on the packaging.** If you see a product with an ® applied as a sticker (i.e., nothing but the ® symbol on a sticker), handwritten on the label, or repackaged (i.e. a supermarket whose open bin of "Sweet Steve's Sourballs" has a hand-written sign that says the product is ® certified, even though no ® is printed on the wrapper) please do not assume the product is certified, and kindly contact our office.

One should keep in mind that ® certified companies sometimes create retail establishments centered around their certified products (like candy stores and ice cream parlors). Those establishments are themselves not necessarily ® certified, and certainly require supervision. For example, "Sweet Steve's" Snack Shops (selling ® certified "Sweet Steve's" Select Savory Snacks) are not necessarily ® certified just because the "Sweet Steve's" line of products is ® certified. One must check the stores' Letter of Certification from the OU and confirm that it covers the establishment and not certain products. Once a non-certified store opens the factory sealed package, the Orthodox Union does not certify that the product is kosher.

"Is it kosher?"

Ask the

Ask us your kosher questions.
You've got *shailos*; we've got answers.

Kosher Hotline:

212.613.8241

Webbe Rebbe:

kosherq@ou.org

Online product search:

www.oukosher.org/products

5. **It is a good idea to check the ingredient panel for dairy ingredients, even if the product does not have the ®D designation.** Mistakes do happen, and products containing dairy can be accidentally marked with a plain ®.

Some examples of dairy ingredients are: milk powder, butter (though some "natural butter flavors" are actually parve), casein, whey and cream. If you do notice an ingredient that seems like it might be dairy on a product labeled with a plain "OU", please contact our office for clarification.

6. **If there are no dairy ingredients in the product label, and a product is marked ®D, do not assume the reason for the dairy designation is equipment related (which other organizations might mark "DE").** The ® does not certify products with a "dairy equipment" (or "DE") designation. Consumers are sometimes under the impression that if there is no dairy ingredient on the label, the product is intrinsically parve and merely produced on dairy equipment. One must bear in mind that there are often issues of residual product from the previous run that may remain on the equipment, and often this residual amount could be significant enough to render a product "truly" dairy. The OU may require a company to place the ®D symbol on an otherwise parve product (even if it is run on cold equipment) because the company does not properly clean its manufacturing equipment before running parve product.

In addition, dairy components of other ingredients may not necessarily be listed on the ingredient panel. Labeling laws allow listing general categories of ingredients without itemizing the sub-units that are contained within them. For example: "natural flavors" and "artificial flavors" can include dairy components, and hydrolyzed vegetable protein may contain casein, which is a dairy derivative.

Similarly, with regard to Passover certified products, one cannot rely on the ingredient panel to prove the absence of *chometz* or *kitniyos* in any product that is not ® certified for Passover. Sufferers of celiac disease (and others with strong allergies to grain products) should not rely on a product's ®P or "non-gebrokts" certification being a guarantee that the product is free of airborne grain particles (which do not affect its kosher for Passover status). Many non-gebrokts Passover products are made in Passover certified facilities that also produce "gebrokts" products.

7. **The Orthodox Union takes responsibility for all aspects of the kashrus of a product.** If a product requires the taking of "*challa*", "*bishul yisroel*", "*bdikas toyloyim*", "*mchiras chometz*", sensitivity to "*shvi'is and shmitta*" or any other special requirement to maintain its kosher status, the OU takes responsibility to maintain that as well. Our Rabbinic Coordinators, responsible for maintaining the kosher program at a certified company, discuss these various considerations with our *Halachic* Consultants to make sure a product is kosher in every way.
8. **Consumers are asked to call the OU kashrus hotline (212-613-8241) or e-mail the Orthodox Union (kosherq@ou.org) with any questions they have about ® certified products.** Does a product bear an oddly shaped ®? Do you see something which appears to be a parallel product, one ® certified and one not? Does the "*parve* pepperoni" on that new pizza taste a little too authentic? By all means, share your concern with us. Your phone call might help one of our certified companies to correct an honest mistake (like leaving the "D" off of a yogurt product), or alert our Trademark Compliance Department to an illegitimate use of the ® symbol.

KASHRUTH *alert!*

WINN-DIXIE READY TO BAKE YEAST ROLLS produced by Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc., Jacksonville, FL bears an unauthorized © symbol and is not certified as kosher by the Orthodox Union. This product is being withdrawn from the marketplace.

VENTURA FOODS RED WINE VINEGAR (1 Gallon) produced by Ventura Foods, Brea, CA bears an unauthorized © symbol and is not certified as kosher by the Orthodox Union. The product is being withdrawn from the marketplace.

365 ORGANIC 5 GRAIN CEREAL WITH SOY produced by Whole Foods Market, Austin, TX 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.

FRANK'S RED HOT BUFFALO SANDWICH SAUCE (food service-1 gallon size) produced by Reckitt Benckiser Inc., Parsippany, NJ is certified as ©, but the dairy designation has been inadvertently omitted. Corrective action is being taken.

SPICE RACK 1. BEEF FLAVORED BOUILLON CUBES 2. CHICKEN FLAVORED BOUILLON CUBES produced by Wagner Gourmet Foods, Lenexa, KS are authorized to bear the © symbol. A limited amount of product inadvertently contains non kosher ingredients. The non kosher product can be identified by a red or yellow wrap on the individual cubes. (The kosher product is wrapped in silver or gold.) Corrective action is being taken.

WILTON HANUKKAH CANDY MAKING KIT produced by Wilton Industries, Woodridge, IL is a certified © product which contains dairy ingredients as listed on the ingredient panel, but the dairy designation has been inadvertently omitted. Corrective action is being taken.

FLEISCHMANN'S ORIGINAL MARGARINE produced by ConAgra Foods, Omaha, NE is an © certified product which contains dairy ingredients as listed on the ingredient panel. The product mistakenly bears an © Pareve statement on the outer carton. The individually wrapped margarine sticks correctly bear the © symbol. Corrective action is being taken. While this Kashrut Alert is being brought to the attention of the © consumer nationwide, it should be noted that this issue has surfaced mainly in Western U.S.A. Please note as well that Fleischmann's Margarine which is designated © Pareve on both the outer carton as well as the individually wrapped margarine sticks are correctly designated as © Pareve.

O ORGANICS 1. ORGANIC FOUR CHEESE RAVIOLI (10 oz) 2. ORGANIC WILD MUSHROOM AND CHEESE RAVIOLI (10 oz) produced by OMNIBRANDS, Pleasanton, CA bear an unauthorized © symbol and are not certified kosher by the Orthodox Union. The products are being withdrawn from the marketplace.

A limited amount of **CAPITOL CHOCOLATES** (individually wrapped in a clear plastic gift box) produced by International Golden Foods, Chicago, IL was distributed while bearing an unauthorized © sticker. This product has been withdrawn from the marketplace. Consumers spotting this product are requested to contact the Orthodox Union at 212-613-8148 or via email at kshalerts@ou.org.

SUITE SYSTEMS CONDIMENT PACKET produced by S&D Coffee, in Concord, NC contains an © Non-Dairy Creamer as well as other certified items. The outer wrap of the condiment packet bears an © symbol though the nondairy creamer is actually certified ©. Packaging has been revised.

PROMISE BUTTERY SPREAD produced by Unilever, Englewood Cliffs, NJ is certified ©. A limited amount of non kosher Promise Light Spread in tubs was distributed in sleeves intended for Promise Buttery Spread. The individual tubs are clearly labeled as Promise Light Spread and do not bear the © symbol. Corrective action is being taken.

ASK © MESORAH CONFERENCE PROGRAM

SWORDFISH, KINGKLIP AND RAVA'S SHABBOS FISH – THE TALE OF THE THREE FISH THAT (ALMOST) GOT AWAY

Rabbi Dr. Ari Zivotofsky

AN ANALYSIS OF "KASKESES" – PAST & PRESENT

Rabbi Chaim Goldberg

MATZOH MESOROT AROUND THE WORLD

Dr. Ari Greenspan

THE KOSHER STATUS OF GELATIN

Rabbi Menachem Genack

THE ESROG WARS – THE HALACHIC HISTORY, BOTANY AND ECONOMICS OF THE ESROG

Dr. Ari Greenspan and Rabbi Dr. Ari Zivotofsky

SHIURIM (MEASUREMENTS) IN HALACHAH

Rabbi Yisroel Belsky

THE MITZVAH OF TECHELES IN OUR TIMES

Rabbi Herschel Schachter

THE FIVE TYPES OF GRAIN – DO THEY INCLUDE OATS?

Rabbi Dr. Seth Mandel

THE TZARAAS ILLUSION – COLOR AND DEPTH PERCEPTION IN HALACHAH

Dr. Shalom Kelman

SHOFAR SHAPE – STRAIGHT OR CURVED?

Rabbi Ami Cohen

MAZAL TOV TO ...

our devoted RC **RABBI AVROHOM GORDIMER AND HIS WIFE** on the birth of their daughter Rivka.

our devoted RFR in Fresno, CA **RABBI LEVY ZIRKIND AND HIS WIFE** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Menachem Mendel.

our dedicated RFR in Baltimore, MD **RABBI YISROEL LAZEAR** on his engagement to Bernice Knaster of Brooklyn, NY.

Reserve the Date for

ASK®

MESORAH CONFERENCE

(Part Two)

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A Halachic and Historical Perspective of Fish, Plants and Color



Which of these Esrogim is Kosher?

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See previous page for conference program.