

דרך קצרה

Brief summaries of cRc Kashrus Policies

KOVUSH GENERAL RULES [Part 1]

Kovush is the term used to describe the transfer of *ta'am* which occurs when a liquid soaks someplace for some amount of time. [Generally, 24 hours is required; more on that in the coming installment]. For example, if chicken soup sits in a container for a day, the container is now "*fleishig*" since it absorbed chicken-taste from the soup. The following are some highlights which are relevant to those involved in *hashgachah*.

For purposes of these halachos the term "liquid" is defined as שהאיסור המונח בתוכו מתנענע ממקום למקום, and therefore honey, cream, oil, and liquified fat are considered liquids, but ice, congealed fat, and very thick honey are not.

Most assume that *kovush* can occur even if the liquid is moving around within the container. For example, if a tanker truck carries liquid animal fat, *ta'am* of that fat is absorbed into the tanker walls even though the liquid sloshes around within the tanker as it travels on the highway. However, that is only true if the same liquid is in the container for long enough to create *kovush* (and just happens to be moving around). But if different liquid is in contact with the container, then there is no *kovush*. That means that if liquid is flowing through a pipe for an extended amount of time, there is no *kovush* since there is no single unit of

liquid which is in contact with the pipe for the required amount of time.

A practical example of where the details noted in the previous paragraph are relevant are the tanks used to store *chalav Yisroel* milk when it is being bottled at a factory that usually produces *chalav stam*. The storage tanks have absorbed *chalav stam* via *kovush*, and it is logistically very difficult to *kasher* those tanks. Sometimes, it is possible to process all of the *chalav Yisroel* within 24 hours and thereby avoid issues of it absorbing *ta'am* from the *chalav stam* tank. But if it must remain in the tank for 24 hours, some will avoid *kovush* by pumping the milk out of the tank within 24 hours, and circulate it right back into the tank.

Rav Schachter viewed this as if the milk circulating back into the tank is "new/different" milk than what was there originally, and therefore *kovush* is prevented; in other words, this is similar to the case of liquid flowing through a pipe noted above. Rav Belsky did not accept this argument and said that instead we should view the tank together with the connected pipes and pumps as one large container, such that this case is akin to the tanker noted above; the same liquid is in the (expanded) "container" for 24 hours,



and there is a concern of *kovush*. [The common practice in the *chalav Yisroel* industry is to be lenient on this matter].

Within the lenient position, Rav Belsky and Rav Schachter agreed that *kovush* is prevented if most of the milk in the tank is "new" (circulated) before 24 hours has elapsed. To calculate how long the milk must be pumped in order to circulate half of the "old" milk use the formula:

$$H = V * .7 / R$$

where **H** is the hours of pumping needed, **V** is the initial volume of the tank (in gallons), and **R** is the flow rate of the pump (in gallons per hour).

In the coming installment we will discuss how long it takes for kovush to occur

CRC POLICIES

87. Which of the following are considered liquids as relates to *kovush*?

a. Fat (congealed)

No

b. Honey

Yes, for standard honey, but not if the honey is particularly viscous

c. Ice

No

d. Oil

Yes

88. Does *kovush* occur if the (same) liquid is moving around within the container during the 24-hour *בישה* period?

Yes

89. Does *kovush* occur if there is liquid in the container for 24 consecutive hours, but it is not the same liquid for that entire time?

No

90. Assuming the answer to the previous question is "no":

a. What if some (i.e., less than 50%) of the liquid was there for the entire 24-hour period, but most of the liquid was not?

No

b. Can *kovush* be avoided by pumping liquid out of the tank (before 24 hours elapsed) and then right back into the same tank?

Yes

מראה מקומות

שולחן ערוך סימן תנ"א סעיף י'
שולחן ערוך יו"ד סימן ק"ה סעיף א'
פרי מגדים יו"ד סימן ק"ה מ"ז ס"ק א'
פתחי תשובה סימן ס"ט ס"ק ל"ג
טוב טעם ודעת חלק ב' סימן ל"ג