

דרך קצרה

Brief summaries of cRc Kashrus Policies

NON-KASHERED UTENSILS

If someone has a non-kosher utensil which has not been *kashered*, they may not use it with any food even if the food is cold. Although cold food will not draw out any of the non-kosher *ta'am*, there is a concern that if they use it for cold they might forget and use it with hot food. In *Yoreh Deah*, *Rema* adds that this Rabbinic prohibition is limited to "regular" use, but one can occasionally use a clean, non-kosher dish for cold kosher use. For example, if someone is in a non-kosher hotel, they can drink cold water out of the hotel's non-kosher glasses; visiting a hotel is considered an "occasional" use, and therefore cold water can be put into the glass even though the cup is not kosher.

Accordingly, kosher caterers may set the tables at a kosher event with the non-kosher drinking glasses from a non-kosher hotel. Those glasses may be non-kosher, but we view a kosher event at the hotel as "occasional", and therefore allow the cups to be used with cold. But the caterer cannot use his own drinking glasses for both meat and dairy. Since those glasses belong to him, their use is considered "regular" and therefore forbidden.

Two reasons have been suggested to not allow caterers to use hotel glasses: Firstly, if the caterer hosts events on a regular basis, the use of hotel glasses should be considered "regular" since the caterer is

doing it all the time (Rav Schachter). Secondly, it can be argued that a caterer cannot claim this use is "occasional" if he planned an event based on this intended use (Rav Fuerst). Despite these points, it is common practice to allow kosher caterers to use non-kosher hotel glasses for cold beverages.

Should the prohibition against using non-kosher utensils on a regular basis apply to companies owned by non-Jews? Can the *hashgachah* allow them to use non-kosher equipment to produce a cold item which will be certified as kosher? *Iggeros Moshe* says that it is repulsive (מכוער הדבר) for a certifying agency to allow a non-Jewish company to do something that would be forbidden if the same thing was done by a *Shomer Shabbos*. That would seemingly be a reason to not allow the non-Jewish company to use their non-kosher equipment for cold products. Nonetheless, although *hashgachos* generally take a strict approach when questions arise regarding the "מכוער הדבר" principle, it appears that as relates to this specific issue most are lenient for companies owned by non-Jews.

CRC POLICIES

13. If someone is at a non-kosher hotel, can he use the non-kosher



glasses to drink water at ambient temperature?

Yes

14. May a kosher caterer use the same glasses for both meat and dairy?

No

15. A kosher event will be held at a non-kosher hotel. May the kosher caterer

set the tables using the hotel's non-kosher glasses?

Yes, if the non-kosher hotel is not used by the kosher caterer on a frequent and regular basis.

16. A company owned by non-Jews has equipment which was used to process hot, non-kosher materials. Can they use that equipment to produce certified kosher products, if the kosher production will not involve any heat?

Yes, but it is preferable to avoid this.

מראה מקומות

שולחן ערוך סימן תנ"א סעיף א'
שולחן ערוך יו"ד סימן קי"ג סעיף ט"ז
רמ"א יו"ד סימן קכ"א סעיף ה'
אגרות משה יו"ד חלק ב' סימן מ"א