

TRUCKING [Part 3 – Kosher Trucking]

There are two ways in which a tanker can be certified as kosher; it is either dedicated to kosher service or it is *kashered* before it hauls a kosher product, and the following is a brief overview of how those are accomplished.

Dedicated tankers

A dedicated tanker is one which only carries kosher products. This requires the hashgachah to approve all loads and check logs to confirm compliance. The term "backhaul" refers to loads that a tanker might carry on the return trip from servicing one of their regular clients to avoid going back empty ("deadheading"). There tends to be more fluctuation as to which items are backhauled, and the hashgachah will pay particular attention to those loads.

The inside of a tanker is washed with hot water between loads, and this washing must occur in a facility which will not ruin the tanker's kosher status. In most cases this means that the wash facility cannot recycle the wash water from one tanker to the next, and they also cannot circulate hot water between the tanker and heat exchanger during the wash procedure. If they were to do either of those, it would mean that *b'lios* from a non-kosher tanker may spread into a subsequent kosher tanker which would void its status. Thus, in addition to monitoring which items are carried in a dedicated kosher tanker, the

hashqachah must approve the facilities used to wash the tankers, and monitor that those are the only ones being used.

Kashering tankers

The type of wash which is approved for use with a dedicated kosher tanker is referred to as a "kosher maintenance wash" which is to say that it maintains the status of an already-kosher tanker. In contrast, if a tanker is not in dedicated kosher service and will now be carrying a kosher load it must undergo kashering. A wash procedure which qualifies as a *kashering* is referred to as an "upgrade kosher wash" since it upgrades the tanker's kosher status.

The way tankers are washed is that a spray nozzle which is attached to a pipe is lowered into the tanker's manhole cover. Water sprays through the nozzle in many different directions, and it is constructed in a way that water hits every surface in the tanker in a few minutes. The goal of kashering is to spray hot water onto all surfaces of the tanker, and in order to ensure that the water was hot enough on all surfaces its temperature is measured as it exits the tanker (the "effluent").

As with every *kashering*, the tanker must be aino ben yomo before the kashering begins, but some will begin the "kashering" with a hot pegimah to avoid this requirement. In most



cases, the *kashering* must be performed in the presence of a *Mashgiach* (or through live video hookup) who verifies that all the parameters were met, but some washes are advanced enough that verifications can be made electronically without the need for a *Mashgiach*.

<u>מראה מקומות</u>

שולחן ערוך סימן תנ"א סעיף י'