

דרך קצרה

Brief summaries of cRc Kashrus Policies

הבל הקדירה וריחא

In the previous installment we were introduced to the halacha of "zei'ah", and here we will see two other ways ta'am might transfer through vapors

There is a type of steam vapor known as הבל הקדירה, whose status is stronger than that of *zei'ah*. It occurs when there is a relatively small amount of space between the top of the food and the pot cover. The pot cover reasonably seals the steam inside the pot, such that a "cloud" of vapor forms in that head space. The vapor is given a higher status called הבל הקדירה, which results in us treating the pot cover as if it absorbed as a true *kli rishon*. This contrasts with *zei'ah* which comes into contact with utensils, which is treated as *irui kli rishon*. Accordingly, the pot cover must be *kashered* as a *kli rishon* and not with *irui kli rishon*.

On an industrial level, this applies to a covered kettle. In most cases the kettle is full enough that the buildup of steam above the top of the product qualifies as הבל הקדירה, and therefore the cover of the kettle must be *kashered* as a *kli rishon*.

In addition to הבל הקדירה which causes more *b'liah* than זיעה, there is another type of vapor which creates less *b'liah* than זיעה. That is the vapor which is emitted by a dry product. It is referred to as ריחא and carries so little *ta'am* that if ריחא from a non-kosher food spread to a kosher food, the kosher food *b'dieved* remains permitted to eat. At the same time, ריחא does carry some *ta'am* and therefore *l'chatchilah* one may not bake (dry) non-kosher and kosher items simultaneously. How this applies to *chametz* will be discussed in the coming installment.

מראה מקומות

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