

# דרך קצרה

Brief summaries of cRc Kashrus Policies

## CARBON DIOXIDE FROM CHAMETZ

One source of carbon dioxide is as a byproduct of alcohol production; if that production was from beer or whisky, is the carbon dioxide forbidden on *Pesach*? The earliest *teshuvos* on this topic are dated from when this industry was in its infancy, and assumed the carbon dioxide is forbidden, while it is reported that Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach stated that it is clearly permitted.

The discussion begins with the ruling of *Rishonim* that alcohol/brandy distilled from *stam yayin* is forbidden, even though in the middle of the distillation process the wine is an invisible vapor. Depending on exactly how one understands the reason for that halacha, may play a role in how it potentially applies to carbon dioxide. For distillation of wine is not the same as the production of carbon dioxide in that distillation is a hot process, while carbon dioxide is produced at ambient temperatures. On the other hand, but both processes result in a steady stream of condensation being created. At the same time, the industry has changed in recent decades to the point that the carbon dioxide retains no traces of the flavor of the original beer or whisky it was produced from, and this may play a role in its halachic status.

A poll of *kashrus* agencies found that many chose to take a strict approach and not allow carbon dioxide from *chametz* or even

*kitnios*, but others were lenient. Within the stricter camp, the *hashgachos* took varying approaches to verifying the source of the carbon dioxide). In this context it is notable that (a) beer companies typically collect the carbon dioxide vapors escaping from their fermenters, but reuse it in their own products and rarely sell it to others, and (b) most ethanol produced in the United States is *kitnios* not *chametz*.

## cRc POLICIES

104. If whisky is produced from *stam yayin*, is it kosher?  
No
105. Carbon dioxide was recovered from a *chametz* fermentation:
- May we allow its inclusion in an item certified for *Pesach*?  
No
  - May one consume it a beverage which is not certified for *Pesach*?  
No



107. Carbon dioxide was recovered from a *kitnios* fermentation:

a. May we allow its inclusion in an item certified for *Pesach*?

No

b. May one consume it a beverage which is not certified for *Pesach*?

Yes

108. What type of verification is required to determine that carbon dioxide is free of *chametz* and *kitnios*? [Full certification? Letter from company? Something else?]

A written confirmation from the manufacturer that its carbon dioxide was not derived from beer, whisky, or any of the five grains, or a positive statement that it is derived from something innocuous.

**מראה מקומות**

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