

דרך קצרה

Brief summaries of cRc Kashrus Policies

WINE BARRELS SEALED WITH CHAMETZ PASTE

A barrel is made of many long staves that are held together by metal rings that wrap around them from the outside. Each stave interlocks with the one adjacent to it, and the rings are so tight that wine will not leak from between the staves. The lids on top and bottom are hammered into place at the "croze", (grooves cut into the wood for this purpose), and although they are secure in place, it is not a watertight seal. The most common way to prevent wine from leaking through the edges of the lids was to fill the area with a simple paste of flour of water. As the paste dries it fills all the cracks and spaces, and that ensures that wine does not leak out. Many cooperages continue to construct barrels in this traditional manner, but in more recent years so have begun substituting beeswax, paraffin, or other sealants in place of flour-based paste.

The *Pesach* implications are clear: if the lid is sealed with *chametz* (i.e., flour and water) does that mean that all the wine stored in the barrel is forbidden on *Pesach*? To this, *Rema* says that if the barrel was constructed at least 60 days before *Pesach*,

the paste has dried out to the point that it cannot affect the *Pesach* status of the wine, and the wine may be consumed on *Pesach*. Despite this leniency, *Rema* concludes that in certain cases it is forbidden for a Jew to own these barrels on *Pesach*, and later *Poskim* consider that it may be a form of *bitul issur l'chatchilah* to put (*Pesach*) wine into this type of barrel. Additionally, if a winery uses this type of barrel, the *hashgachah* will have to monitor that they are never filled until they are two months old, and this presents its own logistical issues. Based on these factors, Rav Schachter recommended that certified wineries should only use barrels sealed with non-*chametz* materials.

CRC POLICIES

139. A barrel was sealed with a flour-based paste more than 60 days ago. May a certified winery store *Pesach* wine in that barrel?

לכתחלה this should not be done.

מראה מקומות

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