

קול קורא

It is a long-standing tradition in Jewish law (see Beis Hillel, YD 65:5; Darchei Teshuva 119:7) that whenever food is prepared for sale, regardless of the credentials of the producer of the food, there is a requirement for kosher supervision (hashgacha) from an outside source. Even if a person is trustworthy, a more rigorous standard of supervision is required when the person has a business that sells products for profit.

It has come to our attention that there has been a recent proliferation of home businesses selling food for profit to our communities without kosher supervision. This practice is contrary to accepted practice and unfortunately jeopardizes the kashrus standards in our communities.

Therefore, we are signing this letter as a reminder and a reinforcement for all those who either produce such food products or might purchase such food products, that food produced for a profit should not be purchased, unless it either bears a reputable hashgacha, or a respected Rav gives his personal hashgacha on the operation.

We urge any owners of home businesses to obtain certification as a fulfillment of their halachic obligations. In the merit of doing so, we bless them that Hashem should provide them with sustenance and great success b'chol ma'aseh yedeihem.

תקנה קבועה מסורה לנו מכמה דורות (ראה בית הלל י"ד סימן סה ס"ק ה; דרכי תשובה סימן קיט ס"ק ז) שאין לקנות דבר מאכל משום איש ישראל, ואפילו מוחזק לנו בכשרות, אלא אם כן נמצא בידו כתב השגחה מרב מוכר ואפילו אם הוא איש ישר ומהימן, דרושה השגחה ברמה קפדנית יותר כאשר יש לאדם עסק שמוכר מאכלים למטרת רווח.

הובא לידיעתנו כי לאחרונה חלה ריבוי של עסקים ביתיים שמוכרים מאכלים למטרת רווח לקהילות שלנו בלי פיקוח כשרות. ניהוג זה מנוגד להמקובל ולצערנו מסכן רמת הכשרות בקהילותינו.

לפיכך, אנו חותמים על קול קורא זה כתזכורת וחיווק לכל המייצרים ולכל הקונים מוצרי מזון כאלה, שאין לקנות מאכל המיוצר למטרת רווח, אלא אם כן הוא נושא כתב אישור מהשגחה ידועה, או שיש רב מוכר שנותן השגחה אישית על המפעל.

ועל כל בעל עסק ביתי מוטלת האחריות לקבל השגחה כדי לצאת ידי חובת ההלכה. ואנו מברכים אותם שבזכות שיעשו כן, הקב"ה יספק להם פרנסה והצלחה רבה בכל מעשה ידיהם.

הג"ר שמואל פירסט
דיין, אגודת ישראל ד'אילינוי

הג"ר יעקב אפרים הכהן פארכיימער
דומ"ץ בית מדרש גבוה לייקוואוד

הג"ר שלמה אליהו מילר
ראש הכולל כולל אברכים ד'טאראנטא

הג"ר שמואל קמנצקי
ראש הישיבה ישיבת ד'פילאדלפיה

מכתב בענייני כשרות מרבני שיקאגו - Chicago Rabbanim Kashrus Letter

We, the undersigned Rabbis in the Chicago Jewish community, affirm the message of the *Kol Koreh* above issued by leading *poskim* in North America that all home businesses that sell food for profit must have outside kosher supervision from experienced and knowledgeable *hashgichim*, regardless of the level of Torah observance and personal trustworthiness of the owners of such businesses.

We have good reason to feel proud regarding the many advancements that we have made in terms of Torah and *Chesed* in our community over the past number of decades. It is imperative that we remain on that positive trajectory and that we uphold the gold standard of kashrus that has long served as one of our major hallmarks. The requirement of *hashgacha* is not meant to serve as a derogation of our home-based kosher food suppliers, but rather as a demonstration of our collective commitment to the optimal observance of *Torah v'Yiras Shamayim*.

Accordingly, we call upon all sellers of food products and all consumers to comply with this standard, and only to engage in, and purchase food from, food businesses with reputable kosher supervision.

Please note that we have no intention to negatively influence anyone's source of income, we are only interested in raising the kashrus standards of our community. To that end, we will happily meet with owners of home businesses at their request to find appropriate *hashgichim*, who meet with our approval, so that we can ensure streamlined standards of excellence for the entire kosher community here in Chicago. Additionally, if any individual finds it financially challenging to meet the required changes to obtain a *hashgacha*, we are available to assist with the new expenses. Home food businesses seeking a *hashgacha* and guidance on this process, should please email KosherChicago613@gmail.com.

We are already committed as shul rabbonim to not allow any products that are being sold without proper *hashgacha* into our shuls. We also emphasize that the highest standard of kashrus is from a recognized Vaad Hakashrus, and that the allowance of private *hashgachos* is only to address a situation where such Vaad *hashgachos* may not always be feasible. In fact, some Rabbonim have adopted this higher standard for their shuls.

Our community has earned a reputation of being at the forefront of advances in *Torah v'Yiras Shamayim*. It is our hope that this effort will quickly join the list of our community's many achievements.

In the merit of fulfilling our *halachic* obligations, may we merit, together with the rest of *Klal Yisroel*, to greet *Mashiach Tzidkeinu Bimherah v'yameinu*.

- סיון תשפ"ג -

Rabbi Avrohom Mordechai Abramson <i>Congregation Anshe Motele</i>	Rabbi Chaim Agishtein <i>Heritage</i>	Rabbi Eitan M. Allen <i>Park Plaza</i>	Rabbi Yitzchak Brojde <i>Beis Medrash Torah U'tefillah</i>	Rabbi Yitzchak Cohen <i>Ohel Tefillah</i>	Rabbi Zev Cohen <i>Congregation Adas Yeshurun</i>	
Rabbi Eliezer Dimarsky <i>Heritage</i>	Rabbi Pinchus Eichenstein <i>Khal Ohr Yisocher Chodorov</i>	Rabbi Yehoshua H. Eichenstein <i>Congregation Ateres Yehoshua</i>	Rabbi Zalman Leib Eichenstein <i>Chesed L'Avraham</i>	Rabbi Zvi Engel <i>Or Torah</i>	Rabbi Baruch R. Epstein <i>Lubavitch Chabad of Illinois</i>	
Rabbi Yitzchak Falk <i>Ezras Israel</i>	Rabbi Menachem Fine <i>Bais Chaim Dovid East</i>	Rabbi Daniel Fox <i>Congregation Darchei Noam</i>	Rabbi Moshe Francis <i>Chicago Community Kollel</i>	Rabbi Shmuel Fuerst <i>Agudath Israel of Peterson Park</i>	Rabbi Shaanan Gelman <i>Kehilat Chovevei Zion</i>	
Rabbi Yisroel Moshe Gross <i>Shaarei Tzedek Mishkan Yair</i>	Rabbi Joel E. Gutstein <i>Congregation Yehuda Moshe</i>	Rabbi Shaoul Hamaoui <i>Persian Hebrew Congregation</i>	Rabbi Baruch Hertz <i>Congregation Bnei Ruven</i>	Rabbi Netanel Isaacs <i>Kehilat Chovevei Zion</i>	Rabbi Moshe Katz <i>Shaarei Tzedek Mishkan Yair</i>	
Rabbi Moshe Kaufman <i>Congregation Adas Bnei Yisroel</i>	Rabbi Dov Hillel Klein <i>Northwestern</i>	Rabbi Yisroel Langer <i>Congregation Bais Yitzchok</i>	Rabbi Aaron Leibtag <i>Congregation K.I.N.S. North</i>	Rabbi Moshe Markowitz <i>Congregation Bnei Ruven</i>	Rabbi Leonard Matanky <i>Congregation K.I.N.S.</i>	
Rabbi Yehuda Leib Meyers <i>Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation</i>	Rabbi Yosef Shmuel Moscowitz <i>Chabad of Bucktown/Wicker Park</i>	Rabbi Levi Notik <i>Congregation F.R.E.E.</i>	Rabbi Shmuel Oren <i>Skokie Community Kollel</i>	Rabbi Yosef Posner <i>Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie</i>	Rabbi Daniel Raccach <i>Ohel Shalom Torah Center</i>	
Rabbi Aharon Raccach <i>Ohel Shalom Torah Center</i>	Rabbi Yosef Rajchenbach <i>Kollel Zichron Eliyahu</i>	Rabbi Yaakov Eliyahu Rapoport <i>Lubavitch Chabad of Illinois</i>	Rabbi Yonah Reiss <i>CRC</i>	Rabbi Moshe Revah <i>Ohel Tefillah</i>	Rabbi Yaakov Robinson <i>Beis Medrash Mikor Hachaim</i>	Rabbi Gershon Schaffel <i>Young Israel of Skokie</i>
Rabbi Moshe Schecter <i>Beis Medrash Mikor Hachaim</i>	Rabbi Moshe Scheinberg <i>Agudas Yisrael of WRP</i>	Rabbi Aryeh Shulman <i>Kollel Ateres Ami</i>	Rabbi Yitzchak Simcha <i>Kollel Tiferes Yisrael</i>	Rabbi Yoel Steinmetz <i>Kehilas Meor Yisrael</i>	Rabbi Chaim Twerski <i>Bais Chaim Dovid</i>	
Rabbi Ephraim Twerski <i>Khal Chasidim</i>	Rabbi Moshe Yosef Unger <i>Congregation Shearis Yisroel</i>	Rabbi Tzvi Hirsch Unger <i>The Veitzner Kollel</i>	Rabbi Hertzell Hillel Yitzchak <i>Sephardic Congregation</i>	Rabbi Zvi Zimmerman <i>Bais Chaim Dovid</i>	Rabbi Dovid Zucker <i>Chicago Community Kollel</i>	