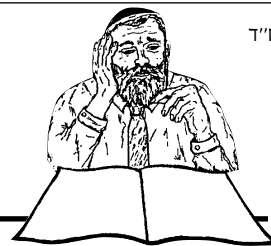


THE Daf HaKASHRUS



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE  RABBINIC FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

USING GRAPHS

BY RABBI AVROHOM Y. STONE
RFR - NJ AND PA

Taylor charts and other production monitoring systems provide the RFR with powerful tools to monitor a company's compliance with its kosher program. As with all tools, if not used correctly, they can quickly become an exercise in futility and frustration. Rabbi Gershon Segal's excellent article on the subject (*Daf HaKashrus* vol. כ"ו, p.7-9) introduced the basics of how these charts work, what information they provide and what the lines indicate. The following are some points based on the foundations he laid that attempt to make them more user friendly.

- The first thing an RFR must do when reading a Taylor wheel – although it might seem rather obvious – is determine whether the wheel is showing all the information he needs to know. For example, does it show both the pasteurizer temps and the filler temps? It is quite common for a system to have separate graphs for both the pasteurizer and the filler. The RFR must be certain that he has seen the relevant information for all parts of the line.
- Once it is determined that the graphs are monitoring the necessary information, the RFR needs to identify which part of the chart reflects which part of the production. In many cases, this is easier said than done. There are frequently numerous lines on a chart and they can run over, under and through each other. The pasteurizer chart will often show the hot water set, product out of heater temp, end of hold loop temp and trim temp. The filler chart will often show the flow temp, supply (surge/balance) tank temp and filler temp. Sometimes, pasteurizer and filler temps will be on the same chart. Each line must be identified for the information it presents. If one line reaches the proper temperature it doesn't mean the others do. Each line must be traced and isolated from the others. Generally, if there is a temperature that must be reached, all lines must indicate having reached that temperature.
- In addition, many production systems have more than one chart for the entire line and have different aspects of the production under this minute-to-minute monitoring. Thus, a company can provide an RFR with 1, 2, 3 or possibly more charts for a given line. It is important to make certain that the graph the RFR reviews shows all the relevant data he is seeking.

- Each different point monitored on the graph will be indicated by different colors on each graph. Since each part of the line will run at a temperature very close to the parts before and after it, these multi-colored lines will frequently overlap. It is often helpful to begin following the path of any given colored line from a point before the lines overlap in order to follow the progress of that part of the system.
- Reviewing Taylor charts is much easier to do when looking at the original wheel. There are cases where the company must fax the RFR copies of the wheels for each day's production. In such cases, the faxed lines come across in black and white, and it is impossible to tell which line is which. It is a good idea to ask the company to write and put arrows on the wheel before faxing which indicate the color of each line.
- Another way to make the review of Taylor wheels easier is to have the line operator, who is almost always within reach of the chart recorder, circle or indicate with arrows exactly where on the chart the kosherization is reflected, along with the CIP. The more specific the information (e.g. add acid, add caustic, sterilization, rinse), the clearer it is what occurred at the time in question. Similarly, it is quite helpful to have the company indicate each product change on the graph itself, by writing the name or formula number of the item at the point where it begins running. When monitoring graphs via fax, the information should be confirmed on the next visit by reviewing the actual wheel.
- Oftentimes, the quality of the faxed copy is somewhat inferior and it can be difficult to make out the actual information. In such a case, receiving the fax via a computer fax, as opposed to a stand-alone fax, can be a great benefit. In a computer fax receiving program, it is often possible to increase the size of object by double. Such a magnification makes it much easier to make out notes, comments and other points on the wheel.
- It is important to have the company provide a copy of the actual production schedule and record to cross-check and validate the information on the chart. Always remember that the information seen on the Taylor wheel must correspond with what the company says actually happened in their production records.

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KASHRUS QUESTIONS FROM KUWAIT

BY RABBI YOSEF GROSSMAN

I was recently contacted by Rabbi David Goldstrom, an Army Chaplain presently stationed in Kuwait, to answer a number of Kashruth questions

he had concerning various products he has found there, none of which bore a hechsher. Rabbi Goldstrom is an Orthodox rabbi

who received semicha from Yeshiva Ohr Somayach in Monsey, NY. His questions covered a broad range of products from milk in cardboard containers produced in Kuwait to frozen cod fillets from the US, from Kellogg's cereals produced in Germany to Snapple with Arabic labels produced in the US and from Lays potato chips produced and packaged in the Middle East to Baskin Robbins Ice Cream made in Canada.

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USING GRAPHS

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• Chart recorders are sometimes placed next to each other in one location. This can be deceptive. The pieces of equipment being monitored might actually be hundreds of feet from each other, or on

different floors of the plant. Water that reached 212° F and was used for kosherizing the pasteurizer might have cooled by the time it reaches the filling equipment. The filler graph should be checked to verify that the water which kosherized equipment at the end of the line also reached the required temperature.

- Material that goes through a pasteurizer does not always go directly to the filler. If the line is on divert, as it will be until material reaches temperature, the product will loop back to the pasteurizer instead. The graph for the pasteurizer will therefore show a rise in temperature while the filler graph will not. Once material is released to the filler, the graph for the filler should show that rise in temperature. This temperature change should correspond with that of the pasteurizer. The graphs should be compared to each other to see that the temperature change of the filler mimics that of the pasteurizer.
- A proper system of monitoring production enables a company to reconstruct each moment of the production. By combining the information on the Taylor wheels with production records, the RFR should be able to envision how the production took place. He should consider the information he is given incomplete if he is unable to use the other production information he has and show where and how it is reflected on the chart.

KUWAIT

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Rabbi Goldstrom expressed his appreciation to the OU for answering his questions by saying "I have always appreciated how much expertise you and others in the Kashrus industry must have in order to deal with modern food production methods, but now as I wrestle with being in the gulf under wartime conditions I REALLY appreciate it!" Elsewhere he continues... "Yes, I'm in Kuwait. I'm still looking at how we're going to do Pesach, and that may take me into Iraq. I'm sure that anything I ask you is unclassified and can be shared as you wish. Units on the move eat MRE's (Kosher version available is MY OWN MEALS) but the army tries to serve better food whenever possible. They get their products both from the US, Europe and from local vendors."

Some other interesting remarks he made in his E-mail correspondence include the following: "Passover will be quite difficult for any soldiers trying to keep kosher for Pesach. In order to do Seders for as many soldiers (and Airmen, Sailors, Marines) as possible, the Rabbis in theatre may spread out to cover some large units that don't have Rabbis. For example, the 4th Infantry Division coming from FT Hood (where I am usually posted) doesn't have a Rabbi. I've got a SFC to be the Lay Leader for the division, but he'll need help organizing a Seder. If they're near where I am now, then I'll try to get any Jewish soldiers to come to a Seder here. Travel is difficult due to terrorism, sniper attacks etc... so it may not be possible, but I'll be trying. I think there's now one Rabbi in Iraq, but I'm not sure where. Hope this explanation helps."

"The war seems to be going well, but during this afternoon's scud attack (and patriot missile intercept), I managed to bump into a tent line while diving for my gas mask and the nearest bunker. I think I pulled a muscle, but not a big problem. Life is always interesting." Kol Tov, Dovid Goldstrom, 15 MI BN Chaplain / III Corps Rabbi, Chaplain (Captain) David Goldstrom.

KASHRUTH alert!

BASF (industrial product) **DRY VITAMIN E-ACETATE 50% DC** produced by BASF Health & Nutrition A/S, Denmark with gelatin listed on the ingredient panel, had an unauthorized © symbol stamped on the label subsequent to its manufacture/distribution.

DADDY RAY'S FIG BARS, APPLE BARS & STRAWBERRY BARS produced by Daddy Ray's Moscow Mills, MO with English/Spanish labels mistakenly bear an © symbol. These products are only certified as © Pareve for year-round use and are not Kosher for Passover.

PUBLIX WHITE GRAPEFRUIT JUICE produced by Publix Supermarkets, Lakeland, FL due to a production error, has bottles bearing the exp. Date of 06/Nov/03 which are not Kosher despite the © on the label. Other expiration dates are Kosher and authorized to bear the © symbol. Corrective action is being taken.

BEST YET BUTTER FLAVORED COOKING SPRAY produced by Fleming Companies - Oklahoma City, OK contains butter (as listed on the label/ingredient panel) yet lacks the "D" symbol. New packaging is being implemented.

MEIJER BRAND BLUEBERRY, RASPBERRY, STRAWBERRY, & PEACH, FRUIT ON THE BOTTOM 8 OZ. YOGURT produced by Meijer Inc. - Grand Rapids, MI and distributed in Meijer Supermarkets, bears an unauthorized © symbol. This product is being withdrawn.

WHOLE BEAN COFFEE CANDY CANE and WHOLE BEAN COFFEE GARLAND OF CINNAMON & HAZELNUT produced by The White Coffee Corp., LIC, NY are certified as © but the © designation was inadvertently omitted.

CHARLES CHIPS ONION GARLIC FLAVORED POTATO CHIPS produced by Charles Chips Enterprises, N. Arlington, NJ is certified as ©, but the dairy designation was inadvertently omitted. Corrective action is being taken.

FRESH & GO TOOTHBRUSH WITH TOOTHPASTE produced by Fresh & Go - Wheeling, IL has produced a limited amount of this product which bears an unauthorized ©. Consumers spotting this product should please contact the Orthodox Union at 212-613-8248.

MAZAL TOV TO ...

our dedicated RFR in Los Angeles, CA **RABBI MORDECHAI ULLMAN** on his engagement to Hindy Horowitz of Monsey, NY.

our devoted ingredient project coordinator **SHOSHANA HIRSCH** on her engagement to Shmuel Dovid Drossman of Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

CONDOLENCES TO...

our dedicated RFR in Louisville, KY **RABBI AVROHOM LITVIN AND FAMILY** on the recent loss of his sister Edel Sorah Litvin of Brighton, MA.

◆ המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים ◆