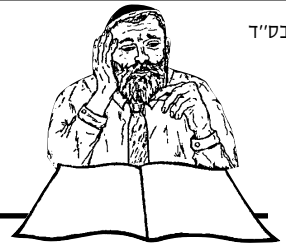


# THE Daf HaKASHRUS



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE  RABBINIC FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

## COUGH MEDICINES, VITAMINS AND OTHER OVER-THE-COUNTER PHARMACEUTICALS (PART TWO)

Highlights of a Presentation Given by Rav Yisroel Belsky Shlita at the ASK  - Hakhel Seminar "The Kashrus of Medications" March 9, 2003

TRANSCRIBED BY RABBI YOSEF GROSSMAN



### MOUTHWASHES

- There are many popular mouthwashes which contain large amounts of glycerin which are certainly not "botul" in the product. These mouthwashes are swished around the mouth several times and then ejected. The company makes no pretense that the glycerin which is used is Kosher. The first Taz in Hilchos Taruvos in Siman צ"ח, as well as all Poskim, prohibit איסור to be swished around in one's mouth. Nevertheless, people, who are usually very careful with matters of Kashruth, are lenient here without Halachic basis to use these uncertified mouthwashes.
- Some users of non-certified mouthwashes maintain that they are permitted because they are not considered a food. They are נפסל מאכילה. When asked why they do not use a mouthwash which contains no glycerin or flavours or one under a reliable Hechsher they respond because they have a need to "feel more refreshed". This response clearly indicates that the non-certified mouthwash is certainly considered a tasty food product which is definitely not מאכילה. The fact that

"everyone" uses non-certified mouthwashes is also not a reason to consume a product with a high Tarfus probability.

### VITAMINS

- Vitamins are very often sold in gelatin capsules which are usually made from non Kosher sources. The soft gel caps are all porcine gelatin made from pigs. They are made from edible parts of the animal. Even if the gel cap is considered נפסל מאכילה the רש"א tells us in פרק כל שעה - פסחים that there is a concept of אחשביה whereby the item has its food status restored as a result of being swallowed and consumed. Rav אהרן זצ"ל and Rav Henkin זצ"ל were of the opinion that this applies to medicine as well. Rav משה זצ"ל was of the opinion that אחשביה does not apply to medicines since the patient would, if necessary, swallow bitter medicine as well. All opinions agree that the אחשביה concept applies to vitamins which are food supplements of required nutrients and do not serve in the capacity of curing an illness (unless used as vitamin therapy to cure a sickness). The swallowing of the vitamin is considered an act of eating as

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## שאלות ותשובות

**DAF NOTES:** In the following Teshuva written by Rav Herschel Schachter Shlita, Rav Schachter takes a different approach than Rav Belsky Shlita concerning the Kashrus of Vitamins and Mouthwash under certain circumstances. Both Poskim agree, however, that it is certainly praiseworthy to obtain all vitamins and mouthwash with a reliable Hechsher. Please refer to the last paragraph of Rav Schachter's Teshuva.

משקה, שיקח מעט מי שטיפת הפה. דהנהו חשיבי כנפסלים מאכילת אדם ושריין.

וכן היי נראה לי לגבי הגלולות של ויטאמיניים הנעשות מגילטין, שכעת הגילטין הזה איננו ראוי לאכילה בכלל, ועל פי פשוטו הדעת נוטה לדעת הגרמיי, שכל שהוא בולע לרפואה, אין בו משום אחשביה. ועיין חזון איש להלכות פסח סימן קט"ז סוף אות ח', שאפילו נחמיר כדעת האחרונים לומר אחשביי באכילת מאכלות אסורות הפגומים במתכוון לבולעם, היינו דוקא כשיש איסור בעקטייוו אינגרידיענייט (active ingredient), אבל בדרך כלל הסמים מותרים המה, וכל בעיית המאכלות אסורות היא על שאר הדברים המעורבים בה.

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נראה לי שליסטעריין (Listerine) ואפילו סקויפ (Scope) אינם ראויים לאכילת אדם, וכן במשחת-שיניים, אלא דלדינא קיייל כדעת הראי"ש בפסחים (פרק ב' הלכה א' ופרק ג' הלכה ד') שאסור מדרבנן לאכול דברים אלו מטעם אחשביי (ודלא כדעת הראי"ה שהתיר לגמרי). אכן נראה דהיינו דוקא במתכוון לבולעו, שהרי גילה בדעתו דלדידי לא נפסל בכלל לאכילה. אך במשתמש בהם כדרך, אשר ברור שאין כונתו לבולע, אלא דפסיקרישיי הוא שמקצת מהם ייבלע, על פי פשוטו אינו נראה שהראי"ש יאסור ככה"ג, וכעין זה כתב הגרצפיי בהר צבי (חלק יו"ד סימן צ"ה). וכמדומה לי ששמעתי בשם הרי"ש שזואב ז"ל ובשם עוד רבנים מורי הוראה, שחולה שצריך ליקח גלולות (באופן המותר מצד איי רפואה בשוייט) וצריך לבולעם עם קצת

והנה בחולה שאין בו סכנה מבואר בגמ' ובשו"ע (יו"ד סימן קנ"ה סעיף ג') דמותר לאכול מאכלות אסורות שלא כדרך אכילה ובהנהו גלולות פשיטא דהוי שלא כדרך אכילה, ואם הוא חולה שאין בו סכנה פשיטא דיהי' מותר לבלוע הגלולות הללו וכמשי"כ הגאון חכם עובדיה יוסף בתשובותיו יחזה דעת חלק ב' ס"י ס', ואשר עפ"י חולק על הגרמ"פ שהתיר גלולות הללו אפילו לבריא עם מיחוש בעלמא אשר אין היתר זה נהג אצלו. אכן עפ"י פשוטו נראה בדעת הגרמ"פ דמהי"ט הוא שהתיר, דנוסף על מה שיש כאן היתרא שלכדי"א, ישנו גם להיתרא דנפסל מאכילת אדם, שרק אסור מדרבנן (לפי מאי דקיי"ל בשו"ע כדעת הרא"ש) מטעם אחשביה, ובבולע לשם רפואה ס"ל דלא שייך לומר אחשביה.

ועפ"י פשוטו הי' נראה בקשר לאלו הגלולות של ויטמינים ושל רפואות, דלא שנא בולעם לרפואה חד-פעמית, ולא שנא בולעם בכל יום ויום בתורת ( food supplement ) תשלום מזונו, שהרי סוכי"ס אין מברכים על גלולות אלו, כי אינם ראויים לאכילה, ולא שייכא בזה סברת אחשביה, כי איננו אוכל מזה חתיכה גדולה בכמות, כדרך שאוכלים מאכלים רגילים נורמליים, אלא רק בולע גלולה קטנטנה מפני תועלתה, ואין לו בזה לא מעין הנאת גרונו ולא מעין הנאת מעיו. ובשם מר' הגרמ"פ שמעתי דבכה"ג הי' מסתבר לו לנקוט כדעת הגדולים (וביניהם הגר"א העניקין ז"ל) שהיו סבורים לומר דאף בכל הגלולות (אפ"י באלו הנלקחין חד-פעמי) י"ל דאחשביה. ואצ"ל קשה מאוד לתפוס החילוק בזה, ובפשוטו הי' נראה להקל אף בכה"ג. ועיי' משי"כ בזה בסי' מפני הרב עמוד קפ"ב.

אכן אם אפשר להשיג משחת שיניים ומי שטיפת הפה הכשרים וכן הגלולות של גילטין הכשרים, פשיטא דטפי עדיף, דלא גרע ממשי"כ רש"י מהמדרש (והובא לדינא ברמ"א ליו"ד סימן פ"א סעיף ז') שפה שעתיד לדבר עם השכינה אינו נכון שיינק מהנכרית שחלבה נתהווה מאכילת מאכלות אסורות, דאף באופן של היתר יש לחוש לקצת טמטום הלב, ופשיטא דמהיות טוב וכו'. וכעת נתברר לי שהקפסול של הג'לטין איננו נפסל לאכילה בכלל (כמו גלולות מרות) כי אין מערבין עמו אלא מים ועוד מאכלים, ואם יניחו הקפסול בכוס של מים ימחה כולו ויהיה הכל ראוי לאכילה, אלא שבשעה שאוכלים אותו כקפסול הרי זה שלא כדרך אכילתו ואת זה אין להתיר אלא לחולה שאין בו סכנה ודוקא בדליכא מאכל כשר להתרפא בו, כדין "דחוייה" דכל התורה כולה.

צבי שכטר עשי"ק פ' תבוא, תשס"ג

Excerpts from Shabbos Greetings

The following are excerpts from the Orthodox Union's Executive Vice President, Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb's, weekly newsletter "Shabbos Greetings" for the week of September 12/03. Rabbi Weinreb discusses two important developments concerning Kashrus. His comments are reprinted with permission.

CAMPBELL'S VEGETARIAN VEGETABLE SOUP

This past week was an exceptionally busy one for me, especially in terms of travel. Yesterday, Thursday, September 11th, a group of us traveled to Camden, New Jersey to the world headquarters of Campbell's Soup. There we formally announced the news that Campbell's Vegetarian Vegetable Soup will henceforth carry the © label. It is important for the consumer to note that it is only Vegetarian Vegetable that carries the © label, along with special ingredients, which go into this particular soup. This is a first step in what promises to be an expanding and growing relationship between the Campbell's Company and our Kashrus organization. Attending the meeting were Rabbis Genack, Elephant, Safran, and Neuberger, along with David Olivestone and myself. We met and had a soup and sandwich lunch with the top executives of Campbell's. Many thanks to all who were involved in this important achievement of our expanding service to the Kashrus observant community.



(Daf Notes: Please note that consumers should only purchase Campbell's Vegetarian Vegetable Soup and not Campbell's Vegetable Soup which is in fact not Kosher. Also Campbell's Vegetarian Vegetable Soup can only be purchased in the retail 10 1/2 oz. size bearing the © and not the larger Food Service size. OU employees were treated to a delicious Pizza and © Kosher Campbell's Vegetarian Vegetable Soup lunch on Thursday, September 18th. See also press release entitled "Campbell's Vegetarian Vegetable Soup Receives © Certification" in this issue of The Daf HaKashrus.)

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we find concerning the Mitzvah of eating Matzoh בלע מצה יצא מצה of אכילה מצה constitutes fulfillment of the מצה מצה. Thus taking a vitamin in a porcine gel cap through מצה is considered eating an edible piece of Chazir!

- Besides for the issue of gelatin in the gel cap, the vitamin itself may contain non-kosher ingredients. Vitamins are generally taken to increase health. There is no פיקוח נפש element involved which would permit consuming Tarfus. There are many Kosher vitamins on the market. With some research an alternate Kosher high quality vitamin can and should be found.
- Vitamins often contain a combination of required nutrients which can easily be found certified Kosher as individual food supplements. The separate Kosher certified vitamins should be purchased although this will entail extra costs on the part of


the consumer. Kashruth should not be compromised due to some additional costs.


In conclusion, it is imperative for the Kosher consumer to request from his pharmacist and pharmaceutical company Kosher cough syrups, Kosher mouthwashes, Kosher lozenges and Kosher vitamins etc. Upon demand, the druggist will make certain to have these items in supply. Business men will invest capital to manufacture these products in a Kosher form providing they see a demand for such products. Hopefully in the future, based on demand by the Kosher consumer, a full range of alternative Kosher non-prescription pharmaceuticals will be available. However, whether an alternative is available or not there are rules as to when the Isur of Tarfus is permitted to be transgressed. In non בשר בשדה פיקוח נפש situations we must be vigilant in fulfilling בשר לא תאכלו טריפה לא תאכלו


# CAMPBELL'S VEGETARIAN VEGETABLE SOUP RECEIVES CERTIFICATION

BY STEPHEN STEINER


Director of Public Relations

In a major development in the ever-expanding universe of kosher food, the Orthodox Union and the Campbell Soup Company jointly announced today that Campbell's condensed Vegetarian Vegetable Soup is now certified kosher by the , the world's best-known kosher trademark.


"With its many brands and great success, the Campbell's name has an iconic quality in the marketplace," declared Rabbi Menachem Genack, the head of the OU Kashrut Division. "For some time, other Campbell's products, including many Pepperidge Farm cookies and Godiva chocolates, have been  certified. We have always looked forward to the day when soup, the flagship product of the company, would also be available to kosher consumers. That time has now come. We regard Campbell's Vegetarian Vegetable Soup as one of the most significant additions to the list of 275,000 products already certified by the OU."

Rabbi Genack added that in the two decades since he joined the OU Kashrut division, there has been a sea change in the products that are certified as kosher. "The kosher marketplace has expanded to such a degree that manufacturers welcome the opportunity to receive  certification, and are willing to make the investment necessary to meet the OU's demanding standards."

The Campbell's decision reflects this changing marketplace.

"Offering a kosher soup is another important step toward meeting the rising expectations of our consumers," said Jeremy J. Fingerman, President of Campbell's U.S. Soup division. "As a company, we are trying many new things to appeal to a broader base of consumers." Mr. Fingerman added, "The coveted  symbol is one of the best-known trademarks in the world. It is a sign of quality as well as kosher certification. With it, we are appealing to an even greater number of consumers and offering them real satisfaction, real fast - with a choice that they never had before, a kosher soup with the Campbell's name."

To produce its first kosher soup, Campbell's worked closely with experts at the Orthodox Union — led by Rabbi Eliyahu Safran, Senior Rabbinic Coordinator at the Orthodox Union and Rabbi Nossan Neuberger who coordinated the on-site project — to kosherize an entire soup line in its Maxton, North Carolina production facilities. This ambitious undertaking required a production line to be completely shut down so that all equipment and utensils could be specially cleaned, purged and certified under the watchful eyes of the OU officials.

The first cans of Vegetarian Vegetable soup bearing the  symbol rolled off the production line at the end of August. They will begin to appear on store shelves in the Northeastern part of the United States by mid-September with national distribution expected in December.

Campbell's will advertise the new kosher certification in trade and consumer publications regionally and nationally, participate in kosher trade shows and enact a direct marketing/sampling campaign later this year. The OU will also spread the news.



Officials of the OU and Campbell's Soup raise a toast at Campbell's headquarters in Camden, NJ following the signing of the contract between the two organizations. From Campbell's, left to right, front row: Larry McWilliams, President, North America Soup; David McNair, Senior Vice President, Global Research and Development/Quality Assurance; Jeremy J. Fingerman, President, Campbell's U.S. Soup Division. Rear, from the OU: Rabbi Nossan Neuberger, who coordinated the on-site project at the Campbell's plant in North Carolina; Rabbi Moshe Elefant, Executive Rabbinic Coordinator, OU Kashrut Division; Rabbi Menachem Genack, Rabbinic Administrator, OU Kashrut Division; Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinreb, OU Executive Vice President, and Rabbi Eliyahu Safran, Senior Rabbinic Coordinator, OU Kashrut Division.

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### “Ⓢ – THE WORLD’S BEST KNOWN KOSHER TRADEMARK”

This week saw the release of a beautiful booklet entitled “Ⓢ – *The World’s Best Known Kosher Trademark*”. This is a booklet prepared especially for Kashrus companies and was specifically designed for the New Companies Department of the Kashrus Division. It is a colorful, attractive, and informative booklet and many thanks go to David Olivestone for producing this brochure.



## KASHRUTH alert!

**SUPERIOR TX-10 IODIZED SALT** (Industrial Item) produced by US Salt LLC, Watkins Glen, NY mistakenly bears an Ⓢ and is not certified as Kosher for Passover. It is certified for year round use only. Corrective action is being taken.

Some individual packets of **RALPH’S DUTCH HOT COCOA MIX** produced by The Kroger Co., Cincinnati, OH have been found to contain non-Kosher Marshmallows. Consumers should check the contents before adding hot water.

**MAGGI SEASONING - 27 OZ.** produced by Nestle USA Inc., Glandale, CA bears an unauthorized Ⓢ symbol. For the past eight months, this product was no longer certified by the Orthodox Union and was produced in a non kosher facility. Affected product is being withdrawn from the marketplace.

**IDAHO SUPREME** (Bi-Lingual Package) Cheddar Cheese Au Gratin Potatoes / Papas Gratinada Con Queso Cheddar & Scalloped Potatoes with Seasoned Sauce Mix / Rebandas De Papas Con Salsa Sazonada produced by Idaho Supreme Potatoes, Firth, ID is certified as Ⓢ but the dairy designation was inadvertently omitted. Future packaging will not bear the Ⓢ symbol. Corrective action is being taken.

Various flavors of **NOW AND LATER CANDY** produced by Farley’s & Sathers Candy Company Round Lake, MN stating “Product of Mexico”, bear an unauthorized Ⓢ symbol and are not certified as Kosher. Corrective action is being taken.

**SYSCO CLASSIC RICH & CREAMY TAPIOCA PUDDING** produced by Sysco Corporation, Houston, TX is certified as Ⓢ but the dairy designation has been inadvertently omitted. Packaging is being revised.

**UKROP’S SOUR CREAM & ONION FLAVORED POTATO CHIPS** produced by Ukrop’s Supermarkets, Inc. Richmond, VA is certified as Ⓢ, but the dairy designation was inadvertently omitted. Future packaging will be revised.

**HERR’S VARIETY PAK** (42 count) produced by Herr Foods Inc., Nottingham, PA bears an Ⓢ / Ⓢ on the outside. Some paks mistakenly contain bags of Herr’s Cheddar & Sour Cream Potato Chips, which is non-Kosher. The product is being recalled.

## A RECOMMENDATION

**TYPICAL SCENARIO** An RFR visits a plant and has a meeting with his contacts. A question comes up about a new situation, and appropriately, the RFR wishes to discuss the issue with the RC. Not wishing to be rude to the plant personnel, the RFR suggests that the RC should be contacted on the speakerphone so that a three-way conference call can immediately be initiated. Though not as common, a reverse case may also arise. While on the phone with the company, the RC requires the input of the RFR, and proceeds to make a conference call. In the company of all relevant parties, the issue is discussed and a decision is made.

**THE PROBLEM** While the sensitivity is admirable, a “surprise” conference call with the plant personnel is not always the most prudent course of action. Oftentimes there are sensitive issues, which cannot be discussed openly by the RFR and RC in the conference call format. For example, there may be a concern about the halachic *neemonut* of an *aino yehudi*, or a kashrus violation by the company. Furthermore, it is imperative that the RC and RFR maintain a unified position. This can only be established after they have discussed the situation together in confidence.

**BETTER COURSE OF ACTION** In the first scenario, the RFR should inform the company that he needs to confer with the RC and ask if they can provide a private area where he can make a phone call. This is a standard business practice. In the second situation, the RC should say he needs time to speak with the RFR. After the RC and RFR discuss the matter, it would then be appropriate to make a three-way conference call, so that the plant personnel will feel included in the decision making process.

## MAZAL TOV TO ...

In the past, due to the constraints of space, The Daf HaKashrus has not published Mazal Tavs concerning the birth of grandchildren of any OU Kashruth personnel. We are making an exception in wishing a hearty Mazal Tov to **RAV AND REB. YISROEL BELSKY** on the birth KAY”H of quadruplets to their children in Eretz Yisroel. Mazal Tov on the births and the accompanying three Brisim. May Klal Yisroel merit to only share Simchas in the future.

our devoted Group Leader and RC **RABBI YOEL SCHONFELD, HIS WIFE AND FAMILY** on the engagement of their son Ari to Esti Gross of NYC, NY.

our dedicated RFR in Brooklyn, NY **RABBI GERSHON TEPPER AND HIS WIFE** on the engagement of their son Yisroel Meir to Rivka Ackerman of Far Rockaway, NY.

our devoted RC **RABBI GAVRIEL PRICE AND HIS WIFE** on the birth and Bris of their son, Avrohom.

## CONDOLENCES TO...

our devoted RFR in Calgary, Alberta, Canada **RABBI PHILIP WOLF** and family on the recent loss of his father Mr. Chaim Avrohom (Fred) Wolf of Calgary, Canada.

our devoted secretary **CIVIE BIRNBAUM** on the sudden passing of her father Mr. Yosef Shlomo Rosner of Bklyn, NY.

◆ המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים ◆