One of the profound aspects of our Torah Hakadosha is the ability for anyone, regardless of age or wisdom, to appreciate the Torah on his or her own level. For example, Chumash and Rashi are studied by the greatest Torah scholars, as well as elementary school children. This concept is also applicable to Hilchos Brochos.

To a first grader studying for a Birchas Hamazon, this category of brochos is a profound concept. A daily and extremely relevant application of this principle lies in the area of brochos on breakfast cereals. What makes determining the correct brochos for these products so complicated? Technological advances in food manufacturing have had a great impact on Hilchos Brochos. A slight difference in production, or even in the manufacturer’s intention of the use of ingredients, can change the brocha. As will be explained, cereals such as corn flakes produced by different companies may look the same to the consumer; however, they may be manufactured differently, thereby changing the brocha recited. Often, this background information is not available to the consumer; hence, the confusion and intrigue in discovering what goes on “behind the scenes” and its impact on Hilchos Brochos.

To ensure the highest kashrus standards, Star-K Kosher Certification inspects many food plants throughout the world. In doing so, the Star-K has the opportunity to either see or discuss manufacturing procedures that have a direct impact on the brochos of various food items. The following information is what has been obtained by kashrus professionals or heard from company personnel, and then presented to the Star-K Rabbinic Administrator, Rabbi Moshe Heimann, shlita, for his halachic insights and psak halacha.

1. **Chameishes Minei Dagan Cereals**

Special halachic status has been given to products coming from chameishes minei dagan, the five special grains: wheat, spelt, barley, oats, and rye.\(^1\) When these grains are ground up, mixed with water, and baked into cake, cookies, crackers and other pas haba’ah b’kisnin products, the brocha is Mezonos and the brocha achrona is Al Hamichya. If one is koveya seudah (eats enough to constitute a meal), the brocha is Hamotzi and one must recite Birchas Hamazon.\(^2\) One of the definitions of pas haba’ah b’kisnin is that the dough is baked into a hardened crispy product. Products such as pretzels and Post Grape Nuts cereal\(^3\) are included in this category of pas haba’ah b’kisnin, and their brocha is Mezonos. The brocha on Cheerios, Wheaties, and Shredded Wheat cereals is also Mezonos, and the brocha achrona is Al Hamichya.

In the above cases, the chameishes minei dagan is broken down. However, if the grains remain whole and are simply roasted, they are no different from any other variety of produce which grows from the ground (e.g., corn), and the

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\(^1\) Oats and wheat are the most commonly used chameishes minei dagan grains in cereals.

\(^2\) For a full discussion and understanding of pas haba’ah b’kisnin, see Kosher Kurrents: Spring 2005.

\(^3\) Although this hardened product has an intermediate doughy stage, it never obtains the full characteristics of bread. Therefore, it is pas haba’ah b’kisnin and the brocha is mezonos.
brocha is Hoadama. What this means is as follows: The brocha on unprocessed and slightly processed (e.g., toasted whole) wheat or oats is Hoadama. The brocha on fully processed wheat and oats (e.g., flour and water that is baked) is Mezozos. The question the poskim address is — At what point are the wheat and oats considered processed enough to recite a Mezozos? 10

To understand this, it is important to know the following: Wheat has four parts—the endosperm, bran, germ, and husk. Endosperm makes up the majority of the kernel and is the primary source of flour, bread and cake. The husk, wheat’s outer shell, comes off easily by threshing. The remaining kernel (with endosperm, germ, and bran) is called “whole wheat.”

If the whole wheat is puffed, the brocha remains Houkdam. An example of this is Kashi 7 Whole Grain Puffs. 7 This is a unique cereal which includes chameishes minei dagan with all the bran remaining on the kernels. Similarly, Go Lean (original) is made up of Kashi puffed grains; hence, the brocha is Houkdam. 8

The process for most other puffed wheat is to first remove bran from the kernel through a process known as pearling. In this process, some endosperm may also incidentally be removed. The kernel is then placed into a pressurized heated chamber and steamed. The moisture rushes out of the kernel, thereby “popping” it.

There are different opinions as to which brocha is recited. Some opinions say this is processed enough to become Mezozos. This psak is based on the Mishnah Brura which says one can recite a Mezozos on pearl barley, a product that is similar in certain ways to puffed wheat. 9 Others are of the opinion that regular puffed wheat is not processed enough, and the brocha is Houkdam. In order to be Mezozos, the product must be a “maaseh kedura,” similar to a bowl of oatmeal in which the grains stick together. In puffed wheat this does not occur; hence, the brocha would be Houkdam. 10

L’halachah, puffed wheat should ideally be eaten in the middle of a bread meal. Otherwise, Rav Moshe Feinstein, zt”l, 11 says one can recite either a Mezozos or Houkdam. Rav Moshe also says the brocha achrona on puffed wheat is Borei Nefashos. 12 This halachah applies also to Kellogg’s Honey Smacks and Post Golden Crisp. 13 The brocha on wheat cakes is Mezozos and Al Hamichya, due to the process which makes it a maaseh kedura. 14

In regard to shifer and safek issues with such cereals, see Footnote 25. Golam Crisp and Golam Crunch are Mezozos because the chameishes minei dagan is processed enough. 15

8. See Shelach Amich OC 208:2. The Shelach Amich says such products should ideally be eaten during a bread meal, since there is a safek (doubt) as to which brocha achrona is recited. Even though, if one eats the grain, the brocha achrona is Borei Nefashos.

9. See Shelach Amich and Mishnah Brura OC 208:2 and 208:4 for a full explanation of this issue.

10. This is a cereal manufactured by Kashi Co. and should not be confused with “kasha” (buckwheat). The brocha on kasha is Houkdam because it is not from the chameishes minei dagan.

11. In regard to shifer and safek issues with such cereals, see Footnote 25. Golam Crisp and Golam Crunch are Mezozos because the chameishes minei dagan is processed enough.

12. Ideally, they should only be eaten during a meal (see above Footnote 4).

13. See Shelach Amich and Mishnah Brura OC 208:2.35

14. Based on the Sefer Mikra HaBayos 34. Additionally, Rav Henhamann explains the following source: This product is now a “maaseh kedura” because it has been processed into a form that is normally eaten. According to this source, the brocha revoah on Mezozos and the brocha achrona is Al Hamichya. Dayan Krasnow, author of Miller Hadarcho, told this author the same source.

15. See Sefer Ve’Yossef Hashavos Chap. 12 as further explained in his Broser Hashavos Siman 27:6 in the name of Rav Zvi Shimao Zalman Auerbach, zt”l. Since these grains are simply popped and do not stick together, the brocha is Houkdam. The brocha achrona is a safek and, therefore, the product should be treated as being eaten during a bread meal. If it is not eaten during a bread meal, the brocha achrona is Borei Nefashos.

The corn flake on the left is shehakol because it is made from flour that is reshaped into uniform pellets. Note the smooth edges. The corn flake on the right is hoadama as it is made from corn grits. Note the jagged edges—especially on the upper-right hand side. Also, note the bumpier surface.

16. This is a cereal manufactured by Kashi Co. and should not be confused with “kasha” (buckwheat). The brocha on kasha is Houkdam because it is not from the chameishes minei dagan.

17. Therefore, the brocha on Kellogg’s All Bran cereal is Shehakol, and the brocha achrona is Borei Nefashos.

II. NON-CHAMEISHES MINEI DAGAN CEREALS

The brocha on produce that grows from the ground is Borei Pri Hoadama. For example, the brocha on corn and potatoes is Hoadama. However, if the produce is ground into flour (i.e. it is no longer recognizable), and is not from the five special types of grain, the brocha becomes Shehakol. Therefore, the brocha on corn chips (made from corn flour) and cake made from potato starch is Shehakol. 20 The brocha achrona on all non-chameishes minei dagan products is Borei Nefashos.

Rav Moshe Feinstein, zt”l, explains 21 if the grain has not been ground down to flour, but only popped (e.g., popcorn, or the grit is rolled into corn flakes), it retains its Hoadama status. Kellogg’s Corn Flakes and Frosted Flakes cereal are made from recognizable corn pieces (called grits) that are not ground into flour, so the brocha is Hoadama. However, Kemach Brand Corn Flakes is made from corn flour; therefore, its brocha is Shehakol. 22

If a corn flake cereal is not on the brochos list, how can one tell if the brocha is Houkdam or Shehakol? If the cereal lists corn flour, the corn has been ground and reformed into pellets so the brocha is Shehakol (if wheat

Continued on Page 3
and oat flour are not present). If the cereal lists corn or milled corn, it may be a whole grain product and the brocha is Hoadama, or it may be ground and the brocha is Shehakol. To determine the brocha, one must look carefully at various flakes. If they have jagged edges, and the surface of the flake is bumpy, it comes from a grit22 and the brocha is Hoadama. If the corn flakes are relatively smooth (very small bumps), and the edges are smoother, the corn flakes are from a more uniform pellet (made from corn flour) and the brocha is Shehakol.

Kellogg’s Corn Pops is manufactured differently in various facilities worldwide. In the United States, the corn is not ground into flour, and corn pieces are used; therefore, the brocha is Hoadama.

Rice is unique, as its brocha is Mezónos and its brocha achrona is Borei Nefashos.23 This includes processed rice products, such as Kellogg’s Rice Krispies and Post Fruity Pebbles. It also includes products manufactured from rice flour.

### III. IKKUR V’TOFEL—MIXTURES OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY INGREDIENTS

In general, when there is a mixture of foods with different brochos, one determines the main purpose for eating this food and recites the brocha of that ingredient. This ingredient is known as the ikkur. For example, if one eats a fruit salad with 70% apples and 30% watermelon mixed together, only a Hómctal is recited. The watermelon is tafel (secondary) to the apples (the ikkur) and, therefore, Hoadama is not recited.

Similarly, if the main ingredient of a cereal is oat or wheat flour the brocha is Mezónos, and the other ingredients are tafel. Furthermore, chameishes minei dagan have a special status: Even if a non-chameishes minei dagan ingredient (e.g., corn flour) is the first ingredient24 and chameishes minei dagan (e.g., oat flour) is a “secondary” ingredient, under certain conditions, the chameishes minei dagan is still considered the ikkur and the brocha is Mezónos. This is true, even though the chameishes minei dagan is not the ingredient with the highest percentage.

The guidelines are as follows: If the chameishes minei dagan Mezónos ingredient is added Táam, as an integral part of the cereal or for its own flavor, even though it is second or third in ingredient amount, the brocha is Mezónos.25 Examples of this include Kellogg’s Apple Jacks and Froot Loops. Similarly, the brocha on Raisin Bran cereal is Mezónos, as the endosperm in the flakes is the ikkur ingredient.

However, if the chameishes minei dagan is only l’dávek—a binding agent for texture or consistency, or a flavoring component to enhance the primary corn ingredient, the brocha is Shehakol. An example of this is Quaker Cap’n Crunch cereal. In this corn cereal, the oat flour is only added as a binding agent. The brocha on Cheerios, where the oats are the primary ingredient (e.g. Original, Frosted & Honey Nut) is Mezónos. However, the brocha on Fruity Cheerios and Chocolate Cheerios is Shehakol, because the oat flour is not added for taste and is, therefore, secondary to the corn flour and sugar.

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22. The shape of the natural grit is not as uniform or smooth as a manufactured pellet, hence, the rougher edges and bumps.

23. Shachar Arukh OC 208:1. It should be noted that this is true, even if brown rice is used. The brocha on rice cakes in also Mezónos and Borei Nefashos.

24. Ingredients on food products are listed in order of percentage. The ingredient with the highest percentage is listed first.

25. See Foyer Pocket Halakhot Halachos Borei Brit 7:1:2 and Footnote 32 states that according to the Mogen Avraham 208:7, chameishes minei dagan which is Hoadama (e.g., that was pulled without removing the bran) is also considered an ikkur even if it is not the first ingredient listed (as long as it is added Táam). This is relevant to kosher-lean (Original) and Good Friends cereals upon which a Hoadama is recited. For a discussion of this topic, see the entire footnote in Foyer Pocket Halakhot.

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This halacha is very relevant to various cereals, as several list corn flour as a first ingredient and chameishes minei dagan, such as oat flour and wheat flour, as a second or third ingredient. Unfortunately, there is no way to tell from the label if the oat or wheat flour is added Táam or l’dávek.26 When there is doubt as to whether the oat flour listed as a secondary ingredient is Hámáam or l’dávek, and there is no way of determining which one it is, then one should recite a Shehakol and Borei Nefashos.27

Kellogg’s Crispix is half rice and half corn. Since it has no ikkur or tafel and no chameishes minei dagan component, two brochos are required. When eating this cereal, one Crispix should be split. A Mezónos is recited, and then one eats from the darker rice side; then a Hoadama is recited on the lighter corn half and is eaten.28

Under normal circumstances, when eating cereal with milk, the cereal is the ikkur and the milk is the tafel; therefore, only one brocha is recited. This is true even if one finishes the cereal and there is a little leftover milk eaten alone – no brocha is recited on the milk.29 The same halacha applies when one eats cereal with raisins, bananas or strawberries. Under normal circumstances, a brocha is recited only on the cereal, not the fruit pieces, since they are tafel.

### IV. BROCHA ACHRONA

If a Shehakol or Hoadama should be recited on a cereal, the brocha achrona is Borei Nefashos. If a Mezónos should be recited, the brocha achrona is Al Hamíchya (except for rice cereals, where the brocha achrona is Borei Nefashos).30 To recite any brocha achrona, one must eat a k’zayis (1.27 fl. oz, 38ml, the approximate volume of a golf ball) of cereal in the amount of time known as k’déi achar las pras – ideally within two minutes.31 Under certain circumstances, one may calculate the entire amount of cereal eaten in deciding the brocha achrona. If one eats a k’zayis of a chameishes minei dagan Mezónos cereal, the brocha achrona is Al Hamíchya, even though the actual wheat or oat content consumed may be less than a k’zayis.32 This is true if the non-chamaishes minei dagan ingredients (e.g. sugar or corn flour) are added to enhance the flavor of the oat and/or wheat flour (i.e. they are tavlin/enhancers) and they are combined into one entity.

However, in the following cases, the “other” ingredients are not counted as part of the k’zayis and one would need a k’zayis of chamaishes minei dagan to recite an Al Hamíchya.33 1) If one consumes a chameishes minei dagan cereal that contains pieces upon which a Mezónos is recited and pieces upon which a different brocha is recited (when eaten without the chameishes minei dagan), continued on page 8.
## STAR-K LIST OF POPULAR CEREALS AND THEIR BRACHOS

### 2012

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Cereal Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Brocha</th>
<th>Brocha Akrona</th>
<th>Kashi (continued) when bearing OU</th>
<th>General Mills when bearing OU</th>
<th>Cascadian Farms when bearing OU</th>
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### Kellogg’s when bearing K

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<td>Al Hamichya</td>
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*One Crispix should be split. Recite Mezonos and eat the darker half (rice) first. Then recite Hoadama and eat the lighter half (corn).

**As indicated in Igros Moshe OC 4:45 one may recite either a Mezonos or a Hoadama. See Kashrus Kurrents article for the explanation.

**NOTE:**
1. Check packaging for kosher symbols. Due to possible future changes in formulations, this list should only be used through 2012. Check with Star-K www.star-k.org for future updates. Also note, some cereals with Kosher certification were omitted from this list, as we were unable to obtain enough information to determine the correct Brocha.
2. We recommend reading the “Brochos for Breakfast” article in this edition of Kashrus Kurrents for the following important information:
   a) Understanding Hilchos Brachos and cereal production.
   b) How much and how quickly one must eat to recite a bracha achrona. See Section IV
   c) In which cases a borai nefashos is recited on “al hamichya” cereals. See Section IV – second paragraph

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## NEW UNDER STAR-K KOSHER CERTIFICATION

**CONSUMER PRODUCTS**

(only when bearing Star-K symbol)

- **ALBERT USTER IMPORTS INC**
  - Gaienhoven, MD
  - CHOCOLATE PRODUCTS
- **ALDI**
  - Batavia, IL
  - CANNED VEGETABLES
- **ALPHA PRIME INC**
  - Menasha, WI
  - PAN LINERS
- **ATE NUTRITIONALS INC**
  - Brooklyn, NY
  - BAKING MIXES

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**MADERA NATURALS LLC**
- Madena, CA
  - FRESH PACKAGED FRUIT; FROZEN FRUIT

**MARK DAVID CATERING**
- New York, NY
  - CATERING

**MAYAB HAPPY TACOS INC**
- Perrh Amboy, NJ
  - TORTILLAS/TACOS

**MINI MILTS USA**
- Norwich, CT
  - ICE CREAM & NOVELTIES

**NIAGARA NATURAL FRUIT SNACKS**
- Canada
  - CANDY & CONFECTIONERY ITEMS

**NFC MARKETING**
- Williamsville, NY
  - CANNED VEGETABLES

**OCEAN BLUE PRODUCTS**
- Los Angeles, CA
  - FROZEN VEGETABLES

**OLAI FOODS**
- Norwalk, CT
  - CEREAL PRODUCTS

**ONE WORLD ENTERPRISES**
- Los Angeles, CA
  - CANNED PRODUCTS

**QINGDAO UNICORNIS DISTILLERIES**
- China
  - ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

**RESTAURANT DEPT ENTERPRISES**
- College Park, MD
  - PAN LINERS

**SUBWAY**
- Englewood Cliffs, NJ
  - OLIVES

**TOPCO ASSOCIATES**
- Shakopee, MN
  - BEANS; TORTILLAS/TACOS

**TROPIC FOODS**
- Canada
  - DRIED FRUIT

**VIA VENETO IMPORTS**
- Kearny, NJ
  - NUTS & SEEDS

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**INAGROFA SCC**
- Ecuador
  - FLOUR & GRAIN PRODUCTS

**ISGARD NUMBER ONE LTD**
- United Kingdom
  - VITAMINS, NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS

**J & KIRCH CORP**
- Teaneck, NJ
  - CANNED VEGETABLES

**J O SPICE COMPANY**
- Baltimore, MD
  - SPICES & SEASONSING

**KESEM FOODS**
- Paterson, NJ
  - FROZEN DOUGH (PASTRY, BREADS, BAGELS)

**LITTLE BIG FARM FOODS**
- Portsmout, NJ
  - BAKING MIXES

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**BRANDYWINE INGREDIENT TECH**
- Wilmington, DE
  - ENZYMES

**BROOKLYN ROASTING COMPANY**
- Brooklyn, NY
  - COFFEE BEANS

**BULK LIQUID SOLUTIONS**
- India
  - PLASTIC PRODUCTS

**CANN INC**
- Landale, PA
  - DETERGENTS & CLEANSERS

**D&S INNOVATIVE LLC**
- Bound Brook, NJ
  - FLAVORS & EXTRACTS

**DASKAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**
- Turkey
  - DRIED FRUIT

**DEEPAK NOVOCHEM TECHNOLOGIES**
- India
  - INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS

**DIAMOND ONIONS**
- Dallas, TX
  - FRESH VEGETABLES

**DONGANCAN GIDA TARIM URUN TURKU**
- Turkey
  - DRIED FRUIT

**DRINK UNLIMITED**
- Norwalk, CT
  - BEVERAGES & DRINK MIXES

**EL CLARIN SPICES**
- Spain
  - SPICES & SEASONSING

**EMEISHEN LONGTEG BIOTECHNOLOGY**
- China
  - AMINO ACIDS

**EUN I CTL HERB MFG**
- La Verne, CA
  - HERBAL EXTRACTS

**FLAVOR & FRAGRANCE ESSENTIALS**
- New York, NY
  - FLAVORS & EXTRACTS

**FRESH DIRECTIONS DOMINICA**
- Dominica
  - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

**FRUITS OF LIFE**
- Philippines
  - COCONUT PRODUCTS

**FUJIAN HUAMAO IMPORT & EXPORT**
- China
  - HERBAL EXTRACTS

**GRAYLING INDUSTRIES**
- Hemarat, GA
  - PAN LINERS

**GUMSER ENTERPRISES INC**
- Mountain, WI
  - INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS

**HERBA BANGKOK**
- Thailand
  - RICE

**HUANGGAN HUAYANG PHARMACEUTICAL**
- China
  - AMINO ACIDS

**INAGROFA SCC**
- Ecuador
  - FLOUR & GRAIN PRODUCTS

**INNOVATIVE CANDY CONCEPTS**
- Atlanta, GA
  - FLAVORS & EXTRACTS

**JIANGSU HONGBANG CHEMICAL**
- China
  - CHEMICALS

**JNI OLEOCHEMICALS**
- Philippines
  - CHEMICALS

**JO SPICE COMPANY**
- Baltimore, MD
  - SPICES & SEASONSING

**KERRY INGREDIENTS & FLAVOURS**
- THE NETHERLANDS
  - SOY PRODUCTS

**KOTESPOULOS STAVROS**
- Greece
  - OLIVES; PICKLED PRODUCTS

**KYBELLE FINE FOODS**
- Turkey
  - FRESH & FROZEN VEGETABLES

**LA MAASSERA BRAHIM ZNIKER**
- Morocco
  - ORS

**LIANYUNGANG TONGYUAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY**
- China
  - INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS

**LIFE SPICE INGREDIENTS**
- Palm Beach, FL
  - SPICES & SEASONSING

**LINY RUILIN FOODS**
- China
  - FRESH VEGETABLES

**LION FOODS**
- India
  - FRUIT BLEND/PUREES; JUICE & JUICE CONCENTRATES

**LUZENAC AMERICA**
- Houston, TX
  - INDUSTRIAL FILTERS

**MACRIE BROTHERS BLUEBERRY FARMS**
- Hammonton, Nj
  - FROZEN FRUIT

**MADERA NATURALS LLC**
- Madera, CA
  - FRESH PACKAGED FRUIT; FROZEN FRUIT

**NAVARTECK INC**
- West Covina, CA
  - FRESH PACKAGED FRUIT; FROZEN FRUIT

**NATURE’S BLESSINGS INC**
- West Covina, CA
  - COCONUT PRODUCTS

**NUNATIONALS INC**
- Eugene, OR
  - SWEETENERS

**PAKIM HUACHENG PHARMACEUTICAL**
- China
  - HERBAL EXTRACTS

**PT DOMUS JAYA**
- Indonesia
  - ORS

**PYRE BRANDS**
- Naples, FL
  - SWEETENERS

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**QINGDAO FREEWORLD FOODS**
- China
  - DRIED FRUIT

**SELM ULUDAG TARIM ISLETMELESI GIDA**
- Turkey
  - SPICES & SEASONSING

**SHANGHAI SUNJU CHEMICALS**
- China
  - AMINO ACIDS

**SIGNATURE FLAVORS**
- Jackson, NJ
  - FLAVORS & EXTRACTS

**SINOCHEN QINGDAO CHINA**
- China
  - VITAMIN COMPONENTS

**SRI KUMARAN STARCH INDUSTRIES**
- India
  - STARCH & STARCH PRODUCTS

**SUNGOLD TROPIC FRUIT PRODUCTS**
- India
  - FRUIT BLEND/PUREES

**SUQILIAN MODERN BIOLOGY TECH**
- China
  - PHOSPHATES

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**TEGAFERM HOLDINGS GMBH**
- Austria
  - ENZYMES

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**WEISHAN CIWAY FOOD CO**
- China
  - CANNED FRUIT, CANNED VEGETABLES

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**ESTABLISHMENTS**

(see letter of certification)

- **BUBBIES BISTRO**
  - 5204 Ventnor Avenue
  - Ventnor, NJ 08406
  - RESTAURANT/TAKE-OUT

- **LA PIZZERIA**
  - 144 Middle Neck Road
  - Great Neck, NY 11021
  - PIZZA SHOP

- **MARK DAVID CATERING**
  - 200 Amsterdam Avenue
  - New York, NY 10023
  - CATERING

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**NEW UNDER STAR-D**

(only when bearing Star-D symbol)

The Star-D is a kosher symbol of the National Council of Young Israel (NCYI). The Star-D signifies the relationship with the NCYI, adherences to the kashrut of the Star-D. All Star-D products are dairy/Cholov Yisroel items.

**ALBERT USTER IMPORTS INC**
- Gaienhoven, MD
  - CHOCOLATE PRODUCTS

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The Star-K sign (STAR-K) has been removed. This store has been sold to a new entity and will become a regular non-Kosher Subway store.
GETTING A HANDLE ON YOUR FAUCET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Nevertheless, this handle poses a Shabbos challenge since one always has to remember to first push the handle lever towards the far right before turning on the faucet. This is not how it is normally done, as usually someone who wants cold water turns on the faucet with the handle facing the middle and then pushes it over to the right. Force of habit might cause one to do this on Shabbos. Also, a guest or child may not realize that this is an issue at all, and may unwittingly transpose the actions.3 An additional concern is that some one-handled faucets do not have a way of turning “all the way to the right.” They turn 360° around and around. A person can easily misjudge where to turn the handle.

There are some one-handled faucets which have another problem, since by design they never shut off the hot water completely. This means that even when the handle is turned completely towards the right, some hot water still comes out. This can be tested by turning the cold water shutoff valve underneath the sink, then turning on the faucet with the handle positioned towards the right. If water continues to trickle through, then the hot water is still coming out. Therefore, even if one is careful to position the handle all the way towards the right before turning on the faucet, one may still be using some hot water.

Practical Recommendations:

1. Turn the hot water shutoff valve underneath the sink to the “off” position every Shabbos.4 This could also be done on Shabbos, as there is no melacha involved.

2. Install a two-handled faucet to avoid the problem.

3. This is a shogeg, not melacha. Rav Yosef Rudik, Shulchan Hakdoshi, page 55.
4. It is possible that the cold water shutoff valve is faulty, and the water coming out is from the cold water supply. A further test can be done by leaving the cold water shutoff in the off position, and the handle in the far right position, then closing the hot water shutoff; if the water stops flowing, it shows it was the hot water leaking. Modern tankless water heaters generally ignite as soon as the hot water is turned on.

Turning the water heater ignition to the ‘pilot’ position does not solve the problem. Even though the heater will not turn on, the water entering the tank will still be heated upon mixing with the hot water in the tank.

If you are at another person’s home on Shabbos, can you use the one-handled faucet? Are you required to ask the host what he has done to resolve the problem? Rav Moshe Heinemann, shlit”a, ruled that this is considered a shas hadchak, a pressing need, since a guest may be uncomfortable asking about handles. Based on halachic principles referenced in the footnote, one may open the faucet with the handle positioned towards the right.5 However, in one’s own home, this must be rectified before using the faucet.

What should you do if you turned on the faucet with the handle positioned towards the middle and realized you made a mistake? Can you turn it off? In a typical case, where you realized it right away, you may turn it off. The water that has already come into the tank is already hot, and you are merely preventing more cold water from being heated.6

On Yom Tov, cooking is permitted and one-handled faucets may be used. You may also use hot water for permitted uses, such as washing your hands. This assumption is that you are using a conventional hot water heater, which incorporates a tank. Tankless systems cannot be used on Yom Tov, and certainly not on Shabbos.7

Modern conveniences, such as flowing water, have added immeasurably to our enjoyment and oneg Shabbos. With some forethought and care, we can ensure the acceptable use of these amenities.

HIGH TECH AND HALACHA MEET AT STAR-K’S FIRST-EVER INTERACTIVE ERUV-INAR

ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, AT 8 P.M. EST, STAR-K MADE HISTORY BY HOSTING THE WORLD’S FIRST ERUV-INAR. THE INAUGURAL LONG DISTANCE INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION ALLOWED PARTICIPANTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE TO EXPERIENCE A LIVE WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTING ERUV SHAYLOS THROUGH THE USE OF PICTURES OF ERUV. STAR-K’S RABBINIC ADMINISTRATOR, RABBI MOSHE HEINEMANN, SHLIT”A, HAS ALREADY BEEN ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF THE JUXTAPOSITION OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND HALACHA; THE ERUV-INAR FEATURED RAV HEINEMANN DISCUSSING HILCHOS EREUV.

The Eruv-inar enabled seventy-five eruv creators and rabbinim hamachshirim from Providence, Rhode Island to Mercer Island, Washington, and from Alpharetta, Georgia to Ottawa, Canada, to review Hilchos Eruv and pose their eruv shaylos, gratis, with no strings attached! Rabbi Yitzchok Feldman, the Rav of Congregation Emek Beracha, in Palo Alto, California, planned his community’s eruv with Rav Heinemann’s help, checks it, and fixes it when it is broken.

“STAR-K’s Eruv-inar was a good use of the medium to convey pertinent halachic information,” feels Rabbi Feldman, who participated in the Eruv-inar. “The pictures made it very hands-on. One of the special things about Rav Heinemann is that he is so deft at applying the constructs of halacha to real life situations. This gave so many the chance to see this in real time.”

Rabbi Eliezer Eliditz is the Rav Hamachshir of the San Fernando Valley eruv, servicing over 100,000 Yidden. A few months ago, his community flew in Rav Heinemann to go over a few issues and in general to look again at it. “I had all of our eruv checkers, and myself, watch the Eruv-inar,” says Rabbi Eliditz. “It was very detailed and clear. It also provided a great source for discussion of many of the halachos that we encounter here with fences, Tzaras Hapesach, and sound walls along the many freeways that we use. Everyone who participated is eagerly waiting for more.”

Just one of Rabbi Eliditz’s San Fernando Valley eruv checkers, who participated in the Eruv-inar, is Yitzchak Feiglin, an avreich in Kollel in Jeruslayim who still helps out with the eruv when he visits Los Angeles.

“I found the Eruv-inar very informative, and gained much practical knowledge from the shaylos that Rav Heinemann, shlita, discussed,” says Mr. Feiglin. “It made me aware of concepts and issues that I had not previously seen. In fact, the Valley eruv I have been involved in seemed incredibly simple compared to some of the intricate shaylos that were answered during the session. The only drawback for me was that I had to get up at 3 a.m. Israel time to participate in the shiur! Regardless of that, I would be eager to participate in future sessions on eruvin and other topics in which the Rav, shlita, would be willing to hold shiurim.”

The Eruv-inar was just one in a series of webinars that STAR-K has been presenting monthly since 2006, on a wide-range of topics such as: Binyan Kosher Foods at Non-Kosher Stores; Schach Mats; Kosher Travel; Pesach; Women in the Kosher Kitchen; Raisins; Vegetable Checking; Liquor; Shechita; Fish Worms; Laws of Kiddush; Laws of Shaimim; Candy; Coffee; Shmitah; Pruzbaf, and Sabbath Mode appliances. Currently, our library has 50 webinars. Replays and signup info are available at www.kosherclasses.org.

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

6. It is a davar shino miskaven and a 156a polk reshua.
8. Modern tankless water heaters generally ignite as soon as the hot water is turned on.
one must eat a k’zayis of the Mezonos pieces to recite an Al Hamichya. The other pieces do not count towards an Al Hamichya. 46 This is true, even though the other pieces are tazel to the chameishes minei dagan and only a Mezonos is recited. 2) Corn flour that is added for its own nutritional value, not as a “tavlin” to flavor the oat flour, is not counted as part of the k’zayis for brocha achrona purposes.37

V. RESEARCH

It is obvious that for many cereals it is impossible to know the correct brocha, without first determining more information than is available on the box. In developing the Star-K Brochos List, we had to obtain answers to numerous detailed questions regarding the formulation and process of the ingredients and products. Follow up questions and on-site reviews were sometimes necessary. In a few cases, we discovered formula revisions or additional information that caused changes in the brocha of particular cereals.38 Undoubtedly, as companies continue to re-formulate cereals for better taste and more nutrition, one should not be surprised to find out that the brocha on one’s favorite cereal has changed.

In the ‘zechus of beginning the day with reciting the correct brochos, may Klal Yisroel be zechor to an abundance of much brocha v’hatzlacha bestowed upon us from Shamayim.

36. For example, if one ate exactly a k’zayis of Post Cranberry Almond Crunch, one recites a Mezonos but can not recite an Al Hamichya afterwards. Since the Mezonos pieces do not add up to a k’zayis, and the cranberries and almonds are not nutriment to the wheat flakes, a Borei Nefashos is recited (see Moshbah Bruce 210:1). If one ate exactly a k’zayis of Raisin Bran (i.e. chameishes minei dagan flakes and chameish hamimim raisins), there is a question amongst the poskim whether a Borei Nefashos or meayar shalich is recited. For an explanation of this halacha, see Pedot Teshuvos 212:6. Of course, if one ate a k’zayis of Mezonos pieces of Post Cranberry Almond Crunch or Raisin Bran, an Al Hamichya is recited.

37. See Shulhan Aruch 209:4

38. Please note the following cereals fall into this category, and the listed brochos have changed over the years: Corn Chex, Honey Nut Chex, Honeycomb, French Toast Crunch, Crunchy Corn Bran, Honey Smacks, Golden Crisp and Kellogg’s Lowfat Granola. Also, the brocha achrona on Special K (Original) has changed. Please see the current Star-K list for the correct brochos.

Brochos for Breakfast CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

HIGH TECH AND HALACHA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

“STAR-K has always invested a tremendous amount of its energy and resources into education, both in kashrus and other Torah areas,” says STAR-K Kashrus Administrator and educational program director, Rabbi Zvi Goldberg. “This series of Eruv-inars is yet another area where we can benefit the Torah community, using modern technology to our advantage. On a personal level, it is a great zechus and pleasure for me to work directly with Rav Heinemann, whose breadth of halachic knowledge on these and other topics is well-known.”

A recording of the Eruv-inar is available at www.star-k.com under Programs in the sidebar of the home page. To be notified of our regular monthly STAR-K webinars or receive other STAR-K information, sign up for STAR-K alerts at www.star-k.com.

Eruv checkers and rabbinon hamachshirim – The next Eruv-inar is scheduled for Wednesday May 2, 2012 at 8 pm ET. To register, email eruv@star-k.org with your name, the capacity in which you serve your eruv, and the location. If you have a shayla regarding your eruv, please forward pictures of it (along with a note detailing the question) to the same address.

NEW!! Mikvah Webinar—Rav Heinemann will interactively address questions regarding mikvah construction and maintenance. Rabbinon and Mikvah overseers: Register at mikvah@star-k.org, stating your name, location of the mikvah, and the capacity in which you serve it. The webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at 8 pm ET. If you have a shayla regarding your mikvah, please forward pictures of it.

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(The Star-K Passover Book, not included in this subscription, is available for purchase in Jewish bookstores during the Passover season.)

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