



KEEPING YOU KURRENT

STAR-K KOSHER CERTIFICATION

March 2011

Consumer Alerts

Halutz brand canned olives, bearing Rabbanut of Israel kosher certification stating “*Heter Mechira*” on the label, should NOT be purchased. This product is being sold in Giant and Shoppers.

Weight Watchers® Cappuccino Cream Melts bears an unauthorized Star-K symbol and is presently not certified. Weight Watchers is currently working to rectify this, and proper packaging is pending. Weight Watchers Blackberry, Cherry and Strawberry Fruities are kosher *pareve* and certified by the Star-K when bearing the Star-K symbol.

Sardine Update

The **Volover Rav**'s response to inquiries regarding *insect infestation in the stomach* (not flesh) of the various *Gefen sardines* is as follows:

- A. Whole sardines from Portugal, whether in oil or water, must first be opened and the inside cleaned out thoroughly. If one is not sure how to clean it, do not eat them.
- B. Skinless & Boneless sardines are okay.
- C. Bristing sardines from Scotland, whether in water or oil, cannot be cleaned and may not be eaten.
- D. Kippered snacks from Canada are okay.

The **Vaad of Flatbush** has been researching anisakis infestation in the stomach of sardines, and has been testing sardines from several countries. The following position is the result of their findings and reflects their opinion: Sardines from Portugal and Scotland should not be used. It is important to note that the majority of sardines on the kosher market are from Morocco. Extensive research on sardines from Morocco has shown them to be clean of infestation. The above research was only performed on canned sardines available in the USA, and not on fresh sardines. The country of origin is printed on each package of sardines.

Yoshon Update

Harav Hagaon Elyashiv shlita retracts psak on bran: On December 21, 2010, it was announced that a *psak* was received from Harav Elyashiv that stated that wheat bran and oat bran have no problem of *Chodosh*, even if they come from *Chodosh* grain. It turns out that the *psak* was based on the incorrect assumption that such bran today is produced for animal food. When it was explained to Harav Elyashiv that such bran is commonly used for human food, he stated that bran coming from *Chodosh* grain should be treated as *Chodosh*. Therefore, where oat bran is listed as an ingredient, the usual packing cutoff date of July 26 should be used, and for wheat bran August 9, as has been assumed thus far in the *Yoshon* Guide.

Suntree Hickory Smoked Almonds - This OU certified product contains dairy ingredients as listed on the ingredient panel, however, the OU-D dairy designation has been inadvertently omitted. Future packaging will be revised.

Richfood White Cranberry Strawberry Juice Cocktail, UPC: 1116607461, Supervalu Inc. - This label mistakenly bears an unauthorized OU and is not kosher. The product is being withdrawn from the market.

Tootsie Roll Industries, Inc. - The following products are newly OU certified as kosher: **Junior Mints, Blow Pops, Tootsie Roll Pops, Caramel Apple Pops, Charms, Sugar Daddy and Sugar Babies**. These products must bear the OU symbol to be kosher, and new packaging bearing the “OU” symbol will be distributed nationwide within in the next few months. Tootsie Rolls, Tootsie Fruit Rolls, and Frooties are kosher DAIRY, even without the OU-D symbol. Dots are kosher *pareve*, even without the OU symbol.

Purim Tip

Baking for Mishloach Manos? Please note the following *Hafrashas Challah halacha*: If an individual kneads a large batch of dough (e.g. using 5 lbs. of flour) with the intention of distributing the baked goods (e.g. rolls for *Mishloach Manos*) to others, one does not recite a *bracha* when being *mafrish challah*. To recite a *bracha*, there must be a *shiur* obligated in *challah* used for one family. For example, if one baked using 10 lbs. of flour, and 5 lbs. are for one family and the other 5 lbs. are for distribution, one would recite a *bracha* since the 5 lbs. for the one family is enough to obligate one in *hafrashas challah*.

Community News

Shatnez Notice: Over the years, Star-K has stored various forgotten articles of clothing that had been brought for *shatnez* checking. Any items that remain unclaimed will be donated to *tzedakah* after *Pesach*.

122 Slade Avenue • Suite 300
Baltimore • Maryland • 21208
Tel: 410-484-4110
Fax: 410-653-9294
www.star-k.org

A NON-PROFIT AGENCY
REPRESENTING THE KOSHER
CONSUMER IN PROMOTING
KASHRUS THROUGH EDUCATION,
RESEARCH AND SUPERVISION

Mincha at the STAR-K is
Mon. - Thurs. at 1:50 p.m.