

# Kashrus Kurrents

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## electric SHAVERS

RABBI MOSHE HEINEMANN  
STAR-K RABBINIC ADMINISTRATOR

Since the Star-K often receives questions regarding the use of electric shavers, this article will address the halachic concerns of removing one's facial hair. The Torah states "לא תאקט פאת ראשכם ולא תשחית את פאת זקנך" (ויקרא יט"ב), Do not round the corners of one's head, and do not destroy the corner of one's beard. The Torah continues, "ופאת זקנם לא יגלחו" (ויקרא כ"א) and the corner of one's beard they shall not shave.

What are the actions of forbidden facial hair removal? The Mishna in נכות discusses which methods of removing facial hair are forbidden. חקפה, "rounding", refers to the complete removal of hair from the temple area. Whereas the terms גילוח, "shaving", and השחתה, "destroying" refer to forbidden forms of removing one's beard.

The Mishna does not offer a practical explanation of these actions. Do these terms refer to the cutting of hair using different types of shaving implements, or do these actions refer to different degrees of hair removal using the same shaving implement? There is much discussion about these concepts amongst halachic authorities, yet the consensus of opinion is that these forbidden violations of חקפה, גילוח, and השחתה are achieved by using shaving implements that have different cutting abilities to cut one's facial hair.

The shaving implements that are discussed in סו"טן קפ"א are:

**טוספרים** – scissors, a dual edged cutting instrument whose blades work in unison to remove hair growth. Scissors generally do not have the ability to cut the hair close to the skin.

**תער** – the razor sharp straight-edged blade that is an extremely efficient means of hair removal.

**טוספרים כעין תער** – a scissor or scissor-like instrument that delivers a closer cut, which is similar to but not as effective as a תער.

As mentioned earlier, there are varied opinions amongst the Poskim as to which shaving instruments are permitted to be used to cut a particular area of hair growth. Putting the merits of having or keeping long פאות aside, regarding the shaving of the temple area, halachic authorities are generally in agreement that scissors, because they do not give a close cut, would be permissible to be used for the פאות area and would not qualify as a violation of חקפת תראש. Cutting one's פאות with a razor is forbidden. Therefore, taking a razor-cut haircut in the פאות area would constitute a violation of חקפה. חקפת תראש, for example a pair of clippers, is questionable. The Shulchan Aruch says we should take a stringent rather than lenient position with scissor-like instruments. Therefore, scissors would be the only permissible shaving instrument to trim the temple area.

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## THE Secret Ingredient

RABBI TZVI ROSEN  
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One of the trademarks of the Star-K is that it encourages its staff to respond to consumer kashrus inquiries. All too often, after eating a yummy treat, a consumer will notice a seemingly questionable item listed on the wrapper's ingredient panel. They will then call the Star-K hotline in a frantic state because they fear they may have eaten something non-kosher, only to learn that they most likely mistook the ingredient for something else or that the ingredient has a kosher counterpart. The following is a list of commonly questioned ingredients that regularly appear on the labels of popular foods that we eat.

**ACETIC ACID** or **GLACIAL ACETIC ACID** is an acid that can be produced, either chemically from the conversion of alcohol to acetic acid, or synthetically. This ingredient is the sour component of vinegar. Acetic acid is used as a preservative or a flavoring agent in pickles, catsup, mayonnaise and giardinera. Natural acetic acid is called vinegar and requires reliable kosher certification for year-round and Passover use.

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THE

# Secret Ingredient



**RABBI TZVI ROSEN**  
EDITOR, KASHRUS KURRENTS

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**AGAR or AGAR AGAR** is a gum obtained from seaweed. Agar functions as a gel to hold foods together. It is used in icing, fruit desserts and glazes.

**ARTIFICIAL COLORS** - See FD&C Colorants.

**ASCORBIC ACID** or **VITAMIN C** is a vitamin essential to maintaining the body's resistance to infection. It has many food ingredient applications, including use as a supplement in beverages, as an antioxidant to increase shelf life in canned and frozen foods, or as a dough conditioner. Ascorbic acid is typically fermented from grains, such as corn.

**BEET EXTRACT** (not to be confused with beef extract) is a natural red colorant that is used in a concentrated powdered form to color beverages, yogurt and candies.

**CALCIUM STEARATE** - See Stearic Acid.

**CALCIUM STEAROYL LACTYLATE**, a dough conditioner and emulsifier. It is a product of lactic acid and stearic acid which is then neutralized into a calcium salt. Sodium Stearoyl 2 Lactylate is similar to calcium stearoyl lactylate. These ingredients are generally used to increase dough volume and reduce the proofing time dough needs to rise. They are also used as an emulsifier in frozen egg whites. These products **require** reliable kosher certification.

**CARMINE** - See Cochineal.

**CASEINATE** can be combined with calcium, sodium, or potassium to form Calcium Caseinate, Sodium Caseinate, or Potassium Caseinate. Caseinate is produced by neutralizing casein, a milk protein with sodium hydroxide. Caseinates are used as emulsifiers and protein fortifiers in products such as coffee whiteners, cereals, whipped toppings and American processed cheese. (See *Kashrus Kurrents* article, "Eating Her Curds No Way".)

**CITRIC ACID** is an acid and antioxidant produced by fermentation of crude sugars, such as molasses or corn. It can be produced by extraction from lemon and limes, however, this extraction method is generally not used on an industrial level. Citric acid has many ingredient applications. It is used as an acidulant in fruit drinks, carbonated beverages and jellies, and as an antioxidant in instant potatoes, as well as in the processing of fresh fruits and vegetables.

**COCHINEAL** or **CARMINE** is a natural red colorant extracted from the dried bodies of the coccus cacti insect which produces a highly stable natural red dye. Major *kashrus* agencies do not consider cochineal or carmine as a kosher colorant.

**COLLAGEN**, a protein found in the bones and connective tissues of animals, is the principal ingredient used to make gelatin. (See Gelatin.)

**CREAM OF TARTAR** is the acid potassium salt of tartaric acid. It is created through the heating of argol, the sediment formed on the walls of fermented wine barrels, and potassium carbonate. Cream of tartar is a colorless crystal white powder, and it is used in baked goods, icing, and candy.

**DIGLYCERIDE**, an emulsifier, is a combination of fatty acids and glycerol. (See Glycerol.) Similarly, mono-glyceride and tri-glyceride combine the same components, the difference being that 'mono' combines one fatty acid, 'di' combines two, and 'tri' three. Often, ingredients list 'mono' and 'di' glyceride together. 'Mono' and 'di' glyceride have a wide array of uses including ice cream, margarine, and peanut butter stabilizers, to name a few. They are a basic ingredient in shortening, baking mixes and coffee whiteners. 'Mono' and 'di' glyceride can be kosher or non-kosher and **require** reliable kosher certification.

**ETHYLENEDIAMINETETRAACETATE** is a chemical that will make most spelling champions quiver. It is also known as EDTA which is added to margarine, mayonnaise, or vegetable spreads to prevent oil from becoming rancid.

**ERYTHORBIC ACID** or **SODIUM ERYTHORBATE** is a food preservative used in delicatessen meats to preserve its color, and to help prevent color and flavor deterioration in fruits. Erythorbic acid can be derived from *kitniyos* and could be a problem if used in Kosher for Passover products.

**ETHYL ALCOHOL** or **ETHANOL** is commonly known as alcohol or grain alcohol. Ethyl alcohol can be derived through natural fermentation of grain, petroleum, or the enzymatic hydrolysis of cellulose. Ethyl alcohol has a wide variety of applications, from beverages to pharmaceuticals to cosmetics. Ethyl alcohol **requires** kosher certification, especially in Kosher for Passover products.

**FD&C COLORANTS** (red, green, blue, yellow) or **ARTIFICIAL COLORS** are kosher synthetic colors. FD&C stands for food, drug and cosmetics. Natural colors do not bear FD&C designation. FD&C colors can be manufactured in dispersions, such as glycerin, which would require reliable kosher certification.

**GELATIN** is a jelling agent derived from collagen. Col-

lagen is obtained from beef bones, calf or pork skins. Gelatin requires very reliable kosher certification. Consumers may be misled by the statement kosher-gelatin or k-gelatin in the ingredient statement. Products bearing kosher gelatin must bear a reliable kosher certification. Gelatin is an essential ingredient in marshmallows, gummy candies, and gelatin capsules or gelpcaps. (For a full discussion of gelatin, see "Getting Into the Thick of Things: Gelatin")

**GLYCERIN** or **GLYCEROL**, a syrupy sweet liquid, is found in many food and pharmaceutical products. It is used to maintain moisture content and prevent food from drying out, to create the syrupy liquid one tastes in cough medicine, and in salad dressings, candies, and bakery goods. Glycerin is a polyol that may be derived from natural sources, both animal or vegetable, and can also be produced synthetically. This is a very kosher-sensitive ingredient because there is no discernable difference between the animal, vegetable or synthetic versions. Glycerin requires reliable kosher certification.

**GRAPE SKIN EXTRACT** is a colorant that is extracted from the grape skins after the juice is pressed out of the grapes. It contains the same components as grape juice, but in different proportions. Common practice among U.S. kosher certification agencies is not to use grape skin extract as a colorant.



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# THE *Secret Ingredient*

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**GRAPE SEED OIL** is extracted from dried grape seeds. Since oil cannot be pressed out of moist grape seeds, the grape seeds need to be perfectly dry before extraction. Dried grape seeds no longer have any *stam yehum* (non-kosher wine) concerns. However the method of drying has to be monitored to see that the grape seeds have been dried properly before processing. (See *Kashrus Kurrents* article, "The Grapes of Worth").

**GUAR GUM**, obtained from a seed of a guar plant, is a thickener used in dairy products, bakery goods, and beverages.

**HIGH FRUCTOSE CORN SYRUP (HFCS)**, a corn derivative, is a sweetener widely used in soft drinks, canned fruits, fruit juices, and frozen desserts. Through the use of enzymes and hydrochloric acid, the corn starch is converted into a sweetener.

**HYDROGENATED VEGETABLE OIL**, is vegetable oil into which hydrogen has been introduced. This gives the vegetable oil a more solid consistency and a higher melting point. Hydrogenated vegetable oil is used in baking, cooking and frying and requires reliable kosher certification. (See Vegetable Oil)

**HYDROLYZED VEGETABLE PROTEIN** is a wheat gluten or corn, beets, soy or cottonseed derivative. The components of the HVP consist of monosodium glutamate, amino acids and salt. Generally used as a flavor enhancer, HVP is found in soups, meat and poultry products, and sauces. HVP requires reliable kosher certification.

**INVERT SUGAR** is a sweetener that is a combination of dextrose (corn sweetener) and fructose (fruit sugar). Soft drinks are generally sweetened with invert sugar syrup.

**LACTIC ACID** functions as a flavor agent, preservative and acidity adjuster. Generally, lactic acid is produced synthetically, but it may also be derived from grains such as corn. It is used in olives to prevent spoilage, and in spreads and salad dressings. Lactic acid is generally *pareve*, not to be confused with lactose which is a dairy sugar.

**LACTOSE** is a milk sugar. It is used as an anti-caking agent and a carrier for other ingredients such as vitamins or medications. This dairy ingredient may also be used as a sweetener.

**LECITHIN**, a soybean derivative, is an emulsifier. It is used extensively in chocolates to control the flow of ingredients. It is also used to emulsify and blend the ingredients of margarine and shortening. Lecithin is a *kitniyos* derivative and is not used in Kosher for Passover productions.

**LOCUST BEAN GUM** or **CAROB GUM** is obtained from the seed of the locust bean tree. It is used in cream cheese, ice cream, and bakery goods.

**MAGNESIUM STEARATE** - See Stearic Acid.

**MALT** or **MALTED BARLEY** is produced by sprouting barley and drying the sprouted grain to obtain enzymes used to convert starch into sugar. In its liquid state, malted barley is used as a basic flavor component in cereal. In solid form, it is a basic ingredient of beer and liquor.

**MONOGLYCERIDE OR MONO-DIGLYCERIDE** - See Diglyceride.

**MONOSODIUM GLUTAMATE (MSG)** is produced through a fermentation process of molasses or beets and is a flavor enhancer in soups, meats and sauces. MSG requires reliable kosher certification.

**NITRATE** or **NITRITE** (including Sodium or Potassium varieties) is used in delicatessen to stabilize the pink color of the meat during the curing process. It is the salt found in nitric acid.

**OLEORESIN**, a solvent-free extraction of spices, is used as a flavor replacement for spices in spice blends and seasonings. Oleoresin requires reliable kosher certification.

**PECTIN**, a gel that is obtained from citrus peels or apple pomace, is used as a gum in jams and jellies.

**POLYSORBATE 20, 60, 65, and 80** are a very important group of emulsifiers. They are manufactured through the mixing of edible fats, oils, or fatty acids with glycerol. Glycerol has the property of maintaining the moisture of a food. The combination of glycerol with the fatty acids gives the polysorbate wide food applications. It may be used in ice creams and frozen desserts to help emulsify the ingredients, as well as in cake mixes to increase volume. It lubricates the surface of pan liners and other machinery. In pickle products, polysorbates are used to disperse flavors and colors. Its technical name is polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters. Polysorbates require reliable kosher certification.

**PREGELATINIZED STARCH** is a starch that has been cooked in liquid, redried and then ground into a powder. This process, known as gelatinizing, allows the starch to swell in cold water. It is used in puddings and soup mixes. (Gelatinizing should not be confused with gelatin.)

**PROPYLENE GLYCOL** is a synthetic liquid that serves as a solvent for flavors and colors, and as an ingredient to maintain the moisture content and texture in foods such as shredded coconut.

**RENNET**, the enzyme obtained from a calf's stomach, is used to coagulate milk into cheese curds. Today, kosher cheese productions use microbial rennet which is a synthetic counterpart of the natural variety that has the same genetic properties. Rennet requires reliable kosher certification.

**SORBIC ACID**, a preservative used to prevent mold in cheese, jellies and syrups, can be manufactured synthetically and can be kosher for Passover.

**SORBITAN MONOSTEARATE**, derived from fatty acid, is an emulsifier that is used as a gloss enhancer in chocolate and as a coating and surface release agent for dry active yeast. Sorbitan monostearate requires reliable kosher certification. (See Stearic Acid.)

**STEARIC ACID**, derived from both animal or vegetable sources, is a fatty acid with wide food and pharmaceutical applications. Its multiple uses include use as a lubricant, release agent, a softener in chewing gum base, and a flowing agent in tablets. Stearic acid may be combined with other chemicals such as calcium, magnesium or zinc to make calcium, magnesium or zinc stearate. It can be combined with sorbitol to make sorbitan monostearate. It also may be used in polysorbates or with propylene glycols. All of these food ingredients require reliable kosher certification.

**TAPIOCA**, a starch that is derived from the tapioca plant, is used in puddings and pie fillings. Pure tapioca is Kosher for Passover. Treated tapioca requires Kosher for Passover certification.

**TITANIUM DIOXIDE** is a white pigment that is used as a natural white color.

**VANILLIN** is a synthetic vanilla flavor. It is also the primary flavoring ingredient of natural vanilla. Vanillin is used as a substitute for natural vanilla and is kosher.

**VEGETABLE OIL** is one of the liquid substances extracted from the vegetable. Some vegetable oils are extracted from the seed of the vegetable as in corn, soybeans or peanuts. Some come from the fruit, as in olives. Vegetable oils are generally refined and require reliable kosher certification.



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# electric SHAVERS

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The issue of shaving the beard area is more involved since we have two actions working in concert, גילוח and השחתה. What is meant by the term השחתה, destroying the hair? According to the *Chochmas Odam*, השחתה is defined as the process of removing the entire facial hair below the skin. Obviously, plucking out a hair removes the hair below the skin. Can "below the skin" hair removal be achieved with a straight-edge razor blade?

The hair shaft grows under the skin, as well as above the skin. When one shaves with a razor, the skin is pulled taut actually exposing the hair growing below the skin. The razor runs against the hair grain in the opposite direction of the pulled skin, lopping off the exposed hair. When the taut skin relaxes, the hair is actually cut below the skin. This is the definition of השחתה. גילוח is simply any normal method of shaving.

Alternative effective methods of beard removal e.g. electrolysis, depilatory, or tweezers would definitely qualify as השחתה but would not qualify as a means of shaving, גילוח; therefore, they would be halachically permissible.

On the other hand, scissors qualify as a normal means of shaving. Since you can only cut a beard to a stubble, when using this method, the other criteria of השחתה would not be fulfilled. Scissors, therefore, would be a halachically permissible method to "shave" one's beard, providing that the blade nearer to the skin is not sharp enough to cut by itself.

Based on the above, the razor blade, תער, is the classic example of a shaving instrument that the Torah forbids. The *Gemara* definitively states this position clearly, that shaving is forbidden with a תער שחוצה מסתחת וחתו תער. According to all halachic authorities, the razor fulfills both prohibitions of גילוח and השחתה and is forbidden to be used.

Seemingly, any shaving implement that effectively cuts hair below the skin would also be categorized as a תער, regardless of whether the shaving implement is single or double edged. As long as the hair is cut below the skin, one would violate both actions of גילוח and השחתה. Any shaving instrument giving a less effective cut, where the hair is not cut below the skin but even with the skin, would be categorized as a כשף תער cut.

In summary the three levels of גילוח are:

1. מספרים - that cuts above the skin, a shaving process that does not qualify as השחתה of the beard.
2. מספרים בעין תער - that cut at skin level, which would also not qualify as השחתה.
3. תער - that cuts below the skin creating גילוח and השחתה, the Torah's forbidden combination of hair removal.

How would the electric shaver fare in the kosher shaving arena? The electric shaver is a relatively recent introduction to the shaving scene. Prior to the shaver, the only practical method of kosher beard removal was the use of shaving powder. The powder was mixed with water and made a very offensive smelling paste that was spread on one's face and ate away the person's facial hair. One had to be careful to remove the paste in haste so that only facial hair, and not facial skin, would be removed.

The electric shaver seemed to be a welcome technical halachic introduction, although shaving in general has not been without controversy. However, those halachic authorities that permitted shaving with electric shavers did so because it seemed to fulfill all halachic requirements. The shaver was made up of a vibrating head and screen, with the beard hair passed between the cutting edges of the screen and the vibrating head; the hair is cut off in a scissor-like cutting fashion between head and screen. The shave was closer than manual scissors, since the shaver cut the beard close to the skin, yet it never effectively gave a smooth shave because they were not as powerful as they are today.

As shavers became more sophisticated, they also became more halachically challenging. With some models, the stronger motors made the head vibrate faster and cut the beard closer. The lift and cut shaving systems that evolved from the older Norelco Triplehead system claimed that they could shave as close as a razor. As the skin was held taut, the shaver alleged to cut the beard below the skin like a תער. Although shaving professionals will admit that the closeness of one's shave depends upon a person's beard conditions and texture, realistically, the system works better in theory than in practice.

Hagaon R' Moshe Feinstein זצ"ל was of the opinion that the אגור's statement - אין גילוח שיש בו השחתה הוי אסור זה - is teaching us that only the תער, the straight-edged razor, is the Torah's forbidden form of גילוח and השחתה. Any other method of גילוח and השחתה would be permitted. Based on this fundamental understanding of the אגור, electric shavers would be permitted even if the shaver removed facial hair beneath the skin, since the shaver works in a scissor-like and not razor-like action.

However, due to the increased sharpness of the blades of the rotating heads it is conceivable that the blades could cut the beard hairs off before the combined cutting of blade and screen. Therefore, even according to the *Poskim* that permit electric shavers, this shaver would be problematic because it would be cutting like a תער, which is אסור. Can one practically determine whether the shaver in question is a kosher model?

Hagaon R' Moshe Feinstein זצ"ל, who permitted the use of electric shavers, used a criteria similar to the *shochet* who would demonstrate how sharp his חלף (*shechita* knife) was. To show the sharp edge of his knife, a *shochet* would take a hair from his beard, and holding the hair in one hand the *shochet* would see whether the חלף cut the dangling hair. If the hair was severed, the *shochet's* steel passed the test.

So too, in a similar manner, R' Moshe would often test the sharpness of an electric shaver's blades. He would take a beard hair and test the blades! The shaver would be acceptable if the hair was held taut and was not split in half.

The only practical suggestion that can be given to one whose shaver failed this test is to dull the blades. This can be done by taking a key or some other hard, flat instrument and running it along the sharp edge of the blade. Obviously, this shaver will not work as well; nevertheless, it is still effective and will transform a previously questionable shaver into one that is acceptable by the *Poskim* who permit the use of shavers.





## STAR-D KOSHER CERTIFICATION *Welcomes Baskin Robbins*

BY MARGIE PENSAK

Baskin-Robbins, the world's largest chain of ice cream specialty shops, serving over 150 million customers worldwide, now bears STAR-D kosher certification, according to STAR-K President Avrom Pollak. Star-D is the registered trademark of the National Council of Young Israel. All Star-D establishments and products are administered by STAR-K personnel and employ STAR-K standards; the only difference is that STAR-D products are *cholov stam*, not *cholov Yisroel*.

Founded in California in 1945, by brothers-in-law Burton Baskin and Irvine Robbins, Baskin-Robbins' selection of 31 flavors—one for each day of the month—has grown to more than 1000! According to Baskin-Robbins, tubs and ice cream cakes now bear the STAR-D logo, and consumers will begin seeing this logo on the pre-packed quarts in the coming weeks.

Baskin-Robbins ice creams, ice cream cakes, ice cream Cake Bites, frozen dairy desserts, sherbets, sorbets, ices, and frozen yogurts will all be STAR-D certified. The company's custom cakes, cones, and ice cream novelties will also be STAR-D certified when used in combination with a kosher ice cream and kosher toppings. Non-kosher exceptions are Rocky Road and Pink Bubblegum ice creams, and any other flavors containing miniature marshmallows.

Rabbi Jonah Gewirtz, STAR-K's Global Management Consultant/Senior Advisor, who played a significant role in Baskin-Robbins' kosher certification for the past 35 years, will continue to represent the company in its association with STAR-D. "I have worked so closely with STAR-K for over 20 years," commented Rabbi Gewirtz. "It is a privilege to have available to me the outstanding Rabbinic and lay staff of our organization to aid in the enhancement of *kashrus* and corporate standards of Dunkin' Brands, Inc."



## THE *Secret Ingredient*

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**WHEY<sup>2</sup>** is the liquid portion of milk that remains after the curds are removed in the cheese-making process. Whey is derived from all types of cheese productions and **requires** kosher certification. Whey is dairy and is used as a source of protein in baked goods, ice cream, candy and dry mixes. (For a full discussion of whey, see "Wheying the Kosher Possibilities")

**WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE** is a sauce that contains vinegar, soy sauce, sweeteners, and at times anchovies (fish). If there is more than 1.6% anchovies in the blend, the proper kosher marking on the label should be kosher-fish. Kosher-fish Worcestershire sauce should not be used to flavor meat dishes. Regardless of the percentage of fish, Worcestershire sauce **requires** reliable kosher certification.

**XANTHAN GUM**, obtained through microbial fermentation, is used together with other gums, such as guar, to give the food more jelling properties. Xanthan gum is used in salad dressings and sauces.

**ZINC STEARATE** - See Stearic Acid.

Generally speaking, products containing those "secret" ingredients that do not have a "requires reliable kosher certification" statement may be purchased without *hashgacha*. However, when a product bears reliable

kosher certification, the ingredients are no longer just assumed to be kosher; the consumer is assured that the ingredients are indeed kosher and that any other issues, however minimal, have been resolved.

Are any of the dairy kosher-approved ingredients used in *cholov Yisroel* products? In the United States, any dairy ingredient used in a *cholov Yisroel* production is derived from *cholov Yisroel* sources. For example, the cultures used to make cheese or yogurt are specially manufactured for *cholov Yisroel* productions. All *mehadrin* supervisions in Israel will also follow these rules. Consumers wishing to purchase *cholov Yisroel* must identify a *cholov Yisroel* statement on the label of products containing any of the dairy ingredients above. (For a full discussion of *cholov Yisroel* and dairy ingredients, see "Cholov Yisroel: Does a Neshama Good" and "Wheying the Kosher Possibilities")

In regard to *Pesach*, products containing the aforementioned ingredients **require** reliable Kosher for Passover certification.

So there you have it in a nutshell. And these are only the basics. Hopefully, the kosher consumer will gain a greater appreciation of the work involved for *kashrus* organizations to ensure that what we are eating is 100% kosher.



# NEW UNDER STAR-K KOSHER CERTIFICATION

## CONSUMER PRODUCTS

(only when bearing Star-K symbol)

**ACETUM S.R.L.**  
ITALY  
VINEGARS

**ALPHA PRIME, INC.**  
Menasha, WI  
PAN LINERS

**AMPHORA INTERNATIONAL**  
Lake Forest, CA  
OLIVES

**ATE NUTRITIONALS**  
Brooklyn, NY  
TEAS

**BALDOR SPECIALTY FOODS**  
Bronx, NY  
VEGETABLES (DRIED)

**CENTRAL COATED PRODUCTS**  
Alliance, OH  
PAN LINERS

**BEVHOY'S, LLC**  
Baltimore, MD  
COFFEES

**BFS FOOD, LTD.**  
TURKEY  
VEGETABLES (DRIED)

**EKEN TICARET GIDA IEMIZLIK PAZ ITALAY IHRACAT**  
TURKEY  
FRUIT (DRIED); FRESH

**FAMILY DOLLAR STORES**  
Matthews, NC  
RICE

**FRESH DIRECTIONS DOMINICANA**  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
VEGETABLES (FROZEN)

**GOOD SOURCE**  
Carlsbad, CA  
PRETZELS

**GRECIAN DELIGHT FOODS, INC.**  
Elk Grove Village, IL  
FUMIGAS

**GROWING NATURALS, LLC**  
Ora Valley, AZ  
VITAMINS, SUPPLEMENTS & NUTRITIONALS

**H.E. BUTT COMPANY**  
San Antonio, TX  
RICE

**INSIS GARDEN NUMBER ONE LTD. EURO ANDERTONS**  
UNITED KINGDOM  
VITAMINS, SUPPLEMENTS & NUTRITIONALS

**LOBLAWS INC.**  
CANADA  
CANDY & CONFECTIONERY ITEMS

**MADERA NATURALS**  
Madera, CA  
FRUIT (FRESH; FROZEN)

**MARIO COMACHO FOODS**  
Plant City, FL  
PICKLED PRODUCTS

**MAYAB HAPPY TACOS, INC.**  
Peth Arroyo, NJ  
TORTILLAS/TACOS

**NUVO SPORT LLC**  
New York, NY  
BEVERAGES & DRINK MIXES; VITAMINS, SUPPLEMENTS & NUTRITIONALS

**OLAI FOODS**  
Norwalk, CT  
CEREAL PRODUCTS

**RENAISSANCE FOOD GROUP**  
Rancho Cordova, CA  
FRUIT (FRESH/PACKAGED)

**SCHREIBER FOODS INT'L**  
U. Saddle River, NJ  
VEGETABLES (CANNED)

**TEMESH SPICES**  
Israel  
SPICES AND SEASONINGS

**TOPCO ASSOCIATES**  
Skokie, IL  
GLUTEN FREE PRODUCTS; PASTA PRODUCTS

**TURKISHAN FOODS**  
Ripon, CA  
NUTS & SEEDS

**WAKEFERN FOOD CORP.**  
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SAUCES & DIPS

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FISH PRODUCTS-KOSHER BOYFAN CANAR

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(see letter of certification)

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PAN LINERS

**ALPHONSA CASHEW**  
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NUTS & SEEDS

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FRUIT (CANNED)

**ANHUI SEALONG BIOTECHNOLOGY**  
CHINA  
FOOD/CHEMICALS

**AQUEOUS LABS**  
Las Vegas, NV  
SWEETENERS

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CHINA  
FRUIT (CANNED); VEGETABLES (CANNED)

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NUTS & SEEDS

**BHEDA BROTHERS**  
INDIA  
NUTS & SEEDS

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TOMATO PRODUCTS

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THAILAND  
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**CHANDIRANI FOOD PROCESSING**  
INDIA  
NUTS & SEEDS; OILS/OLIVE OILS

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CHINA  
FRUIT (CANNED)

**DALLIAN FONCOO PHARMACEUTICAL**  
CHINA  
FOOD/CHEMICALS

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FRUIT (DRIED)

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TURKEY  
FRUIT (DRIED; FRESH)

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GREECE  
OLIVES

**EPICUREX, LLC**  
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CHINA  
VEGETABLES (DEHYDRATED); FROZEN

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PHILIPPINES  
COCONUT PRODUCTS; OILS/OLIVE OILS

**FRESH DIRECTIONS DOMINICANA**  
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VEGETABLES (FROZEN)

**GENCLER TARIM**  
TURKEY  
FRUIT (DRIED)

**GUANGXI LIANLING FOOD GROUP**  
CHINA  
FRUIT (CANNED)

**HEBEI AOSHENG FOOD & BEVERAGE CO.**  
CHINA  
FRUIT (CANNED); VEGETABLES (CANNED)

**HEBEI CHILLIES & SPICE CORP.**  
CHINA  
SPICES & SEASONINGS

**HUBEI FONDAS FOODS CO.**  
CHINA  
FRUIT (CANNED)

**HUBEI YUGUO GUYE CO.**  
CHINA  
FRUIT (CANNED)

**INDIA FOODS**  
INDIA  
DRY MIXES

**JIANGSU ALPHAY BIO-TECH CO.**  
CHINA  
VITAMINS, SUPPLEMENTS & NUTRITIONALS

**JIANGXI SPICE CHEMICAL INDUSTRIAL CO.**  
CHINA  
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PICKLED PRODUCTS

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FRUIT (CANNED); VEGETABLES (CANNED)

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INDIA  
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FRUIT (CANNED); VEGETABLES (CANNED)

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(see letter of certification)

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**DAVID'S KOSHER**  
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**SL TUDOR HEIGHTS**  
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The Star-D is a kosher symbol of the National Council of Young Israel (NCYI). The Star-K, in its relationship with the NCYI, administers the business of the Star-D. All Star-D products are dairy kosher (non-dairy Star-K).

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The following flavors are not Star-D certified: Pink Bubble Gum, Rocky Road, Rum Raisin, Cherries Jubilee, Cotton Candy. Also NOT Star-D certified: Decorations on store-made custom-built cakes and loose toppings in individual stores.  
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**C.A.L. MARKETING AUSTRALIA**  
PORCOW

**D&S INNOVATIVE LLC**  
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SAUCES & DIPS

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Leadership in



Kashrus Education

# Insights from the Institute

SHAILOS FROM THE INSTITUTE OF HALACHAH



RABBI MORDECHAI FRANKEL  
DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF HALACHAH

**Q:** When my barber works on the area around my ear and temple, what I am allowed to let him do and what should I stop him from doing?

**A:** The hair on a person's head generally grows in a semicircle, starting from the top of the ear down to the nape of the neck and up again to the top of the other ear, as well as in an arc from one temple to the other. If a person joins that arc to the semicircle by shaving all the hair below the imaginary line from his temple to the back of his ear, he will be left with a circular shaped head of hair. The Torah<sup>1</sup> forbids a man<sup>2</sup> to 'round' the hair on his head. The *meforshim* explain this to mean that it is forbidden to create a circular head of hair by shaving below the line connecting the temple to the back of the ear, as described above.<sup>3</sup> The hair that one is forbidden to shave is called the "pe'os ha'rosh", and is shown as the striped area in Image 1:<sup>4</sup>



IMAGE 1



IMAGE 2

[Drawn by the Steipler Gaon]

As some people may have lower or higher hairlines, making it difficult to accurately measure the height of the line connecting the temple to the back of the ear, it is prudent to err on the side of caution. Therefore, the *sefer Yad Ketana* encourages a person with a lower hairline not to shave in the area which would be forbidden to one with a higher hairline.<sup>5</sup> The *Chazon Ish* is quoted as having said that the area extends from the temple to the hair just above the highest point of the ear, but does not include the hair starting behind the highest point of the ear continuing toward the back of the head.<sup>6</sup> The *Steipler*

Gaon demonstrated the area in question by drawing the picture<sup>7</sup> in Image 2. [The text in the picture, מותר שם, refers to the area behind the ear, which is not included in the prohibition].

It is forbidden to shave with a razor in the prescribed area. It is also forbidden to cut the hair with scissors, if it will cut the hair very close to the skin like a razor.<sup>8</sup> If a person uses scissors, he should leave each blade of hair long enough so that he can grasp it with his fingers.<sup>9</sup> Therefore, *Rav Heinemann, shlit"e*, *poskens* that each blade of hair should be left at least approximately 3 millimeters long.<sup>10</sup> The *Semag* is of the opinion that it is forbidden to cut even two hairs of the pe'os ha'rosh in a forbidden manner.<sup>11</sup> It is also forbidden for a Jew to allow a non-Jew to cut his hair in a forbidden manner.<sup>12</sup>

Included in this *issur* is the restriction for a man not to shave his sideburns. This applies to the hair in front of the ears, extending down to the cheekbone,<sup>13</sup> which is approximately adjacent to the middle of the ear.<sup>14</sup> These measurements denote the minimum *shiur* for pe'os ha'rosh. However, there is an old and widespread *minhag* in *klal Yisroel* to grow longer pe'os. Many people follow this custom and, in general, a person should continue to uphold the traditions of his family and community.

1. וקרא יונה. 2. אלו ילד מי קטן שני. 3. על ב"ח שם בענין אחר. 4. בענין אחר. 5. ד"ר קטן ח"ב עמ' 10. 6. ד"ר קטן ח"ב עמ' 10. 7. ד"ר קטן ח"ב עמ' 10. 8. ד"ר קטן ח"ב עמ' 10. 9. ד"ר קטן ח"ב עמ' 10. 10. ד"ר קטן ח"ב עמ' 10. 11. ד"ר קטן ח"ב עמ' 10. 12. ד"ר קטן ח"ב עמ' 10. 13. ד"ר קטן ח"ב עמ' 10. 14. ד"ר קטן ח"ב עמ' 10.

## STAR-K Welcomes Baltimore's



# Tudor Heights Senior Assisted Living

BY MARGIE PENSACK

Senior Lifestyle Corporation, a family owned Jewish company and a leader among senior living communities, operating over 75 properties in the U.S., has ventured into the world of kosher, according to Tudor Heights Senior Assisted Living's new executive director, David Lapin. Senior Lifestyle residential communities are unique in that they custom-tailor every aspect for the particular populations it services. In this regard, Tudor Heights now offers a fully STAR-K certified kosher kitchen and dining room, in addition to boasting a local community-based management team that will cater to its kosher clientele, both literally and figuratively! The newly renovated and expanded 64-room historic retirement community in Baltimore has a 70 resident capacity; it presently accommodates 36 residents. For more information about Tudor Heights' assisted living amenities, its Legacy, memory care programs, or its Passover respite program, please call 410-318-8000.



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Star-K's Kashrus Training Program will take place in July 16-19, 2012. This intensive seminar, held at Star-K's offices in Baltimore, Maryland, is limited to 25 students – rabbonim, kollel fellows, and others serving as *klei kodesh* – who have studied *Yorah Deah*. In addition to lectures, audio-visual presentations and a hands-on practicum, several field trips are planned.

To apply, call Star-K office at 410-484-4110 and speak with Rabbi Zvi Goldberg, or go to [www.star-k.com](http://www.star-k.com) to download the application form.



The STAR-K family notes the sad passing of **Rabbi Yosef Tendler, z"l**, who pioneered the STAR-K certified *Pride of the Farm Cholov Yisroel* brand of dairy products.

May the Tendler family be comforted amongst the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.



## Star-K Kosher Certification

A non-profit agency representing the Kosher consumer in promoting Kashrus through Education, Research and Supervision.

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