

## **IMPORTANT HALACHOT FOR KASHRUT ESPECIALLY THOSE MAKING SIMCHOT**

**It has become, of late, very common to use waiters who are not Jewish or who are not practicing the tenets of our faith, at affairs being held with even no Jewish waiter or mashgiach present. It is especially of concern when affairs are held at halls on Shabbat, the food being brought from another place. The waiters do all the preparations for Shabbat without at least a mashgiach yotzei venichnas being present. It is quite possible that there will be basar shenisalem min haayin (meat that has left the sight of a Jew), which is forbidden by rabbinic law, as well as the prohibition of eating bread, wine, and pieces of fish which have not been under Jewish supervision, each one according to its level of severity, no matter that the actual food was prepared with supervision at the highest standard of kashrus.**

**Also, today people eat so much away from home in all manner of establishments. Finally, at home many take in non-Jewish workers to help clean, especially before a Yom Tov. Therefore, we find it necessary to inspire the community who do eat at such establishments and, even more so, the ones making the simchos to take extra care with all of the points mentioned here.**

**A. Food being sent to a hall must bear proper seals and identification as explained in Shulchan Aruch (YD 118) and these seals remain until the mashgiach or one making the affair removes them.**

**B. When the caterer himself brings the food to the simcha or after the seals have been opened, there must be a Shomer Torah & Mitzvot Jew who goes in and out of the kitchen area, especially while the guests are**

davening, or makes certain that the kitchen is locked during that time. This is crucial Friday night if no non-Jew is still present.

All of the above applies equally to one who has a non-Jew remaining alone at his home for a significant amount of time. Everyone should be careful about these matters. The testimony of a non-Jew cannot be relied upon. In addition to all of the above, there are also issues of bishul akum and yichud, etc. In addition, it is extremely important when one is offering food to a group that he uses food from a caterer who has hashgacha.

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