



PASSOVER MATZOS

Some of these halachos (laws) are adapted from a Star-K article by Rabbi Moshe Heinemann

Even Matzos with a proper KFP certification can have occasional problems.

Matzoh Kefulah (Matzoh with a fold) - If in any place, a matzoh is bent over, the doubled over portion is not kosher for Pesach. One must remove and discard this area together with a one inch margin of regular matzoh. This is required even if the bent over part is very small. However, if a matzoh is bent over, but the two layers do not at any point actually touch one another, then it is kosher, and removal of this area is not required. In hand-made matzos, it is common to find creases in the matzos. If there is a corresponding crease on the other side of the matzoh, then one should assume that the dough probably doubled over during the rolling process. In such cases, it is customary to remove the creased area. An important difference between a true matzoh kefulah that is doubled over and a matzoh that is only creased on both sides, is that in the former case the doubled over portion must be disposed of as though it were chometz, as soon as it is discovered, while in the latter situation the creased matzoh may be kept in one's possession. If the creased matzoh is a shalem (complete), one may use it for lechem mishna. After reciting the bro-

cha, simply put aside the creased area so it will not be eaten.

To avoid any problems of borer, separating, on Shabbos, the non-kosher part of the matzoh (the kefulah) should be held in one hand and the kosher part in the other. The matzoh should be broken and the good part should be removed from the bad part. If it is a real kefulah, it is considered to be chometz. Since one sold his chometz before Pesach, technically, this kefulah belongs to the non-Jew. One may not discard the non-Jew's chometz on Pesach, and it must be put away until the conclusion of the Chag. If it is just a chashash chometz, the custom is not to discard it in the garbage. It may be placed in the non-Pesachdik sink, after it has been broken into small pieces, and washed down the drain.

Matzoh Nefucha (Matzoh which has not been Scored properly) A matzoh which has ballooned and formed a blister during the baking process also requires special scrutiny. If the blister formed is so small that it cannot accommodate an average sized hazelnut (with its shell) between the upper and lower layers, then such a matzoh is kosher. Certainly, matzos that have

not formed any blisters, but are merely uneven in appearance, are kosher. Matzos which do not have small holes all over them should not be used.

A matzah lacking the usual brown spots, that is completely white on both sides, should not be used since it may not have been thoroughly baked. It follows that matzah meal should be slightly brownish, and the more brown it is, the better the matzos from which it was made were baked.

In order for matzos to be considered shalem, so they can be used for lechem mishna, the halacha is that as long as no more than one forty-eighth (1/48, approximately 2%) of the matzoh is missing, it can still be considered a shalem. Hand matzos that are irregularly shaped, are still considered whole, as long as no pieces broke off after baking.

Q. What is the difference between regular machine matzah and those labeled “18 minute” matzah?

A. Regular machine matzah is made in a continuous production, such that any tiny crumbs of dough that might separate from an earlier dough will almost certainly get mixed into one of the subsequent doughs which immediately follow. Since it takes 18 min-

utes for dough to become chametz, the assumption is that all crumbs will get mixed back in and will be baked before 18 minutes. Matzos baked in the first 18 minutes after a cleaning are labeled “18 minute” matzahs. These matzos are considered more mehudar (superior), since there is no possibility at all that they might contain crumbs that were not baked within 18 minutes.

Shemurah Matzah is the halachically preferred matzah for the seder which is a special production of matzah which has been watched over from when the grain is harvested until baking. It can be the round hand matzos or the machine matzos depending on your family custom.

Egg Matzah: according to the Torah, matzah is the poor man’s bread, made only with flour and water. Matzos made with eggs are called *matzah ashira* and should only be used only by the elderly and infirm who cannot digest regular matzah, and separate utensils should be used (according to Ashkenazic custom). Please note even the sick and elderly cannot fulfill their obligation at the seder with egg matzos. Chocolate covered matzos, Manischewitz Passover Tams, Egg Matzo, Egg Matzo Crackers and Osem Egg Matzo are in this category.

