



KOF-K

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בס"ד

Butter

Does butter have the same status as *chalav akum*, or it is a different min and is not included in *chalav*? Is it included in *gevinas akum* or not?

Butter is made by beating cream, the thickest part of the milk. As the cream is beaten the fat globules begin to stick together forcing the cream to form a solid mass or milk fat, which is known as butter.

Halachic Opinions

Some say that *Chazal* did not make a *gezeira* on butter which was made by a *goy*.¹ The reason why *gevinas akum* is forbidden is we are concerned that a non-kosher curdling agent was used.² This is not the case for butter since no curdling agent is put in.³ Some say that we have to be concerned that some non-kosher milk was mixed into the butter,⁴ but others say this is not a concern.⁵

Reasons to be Stringent

There are many reasons why some do not permit the usage of butter made by a *goy* without a *Yid's* supervision.⁶ Some say the reason to be stringent with butter is although butter could have only been made from *kosher* milk we are concerned that if non-kosher milk was mixed in it would stay on the top,⁷ the *Rambam*⁸ writes that this can be fixed by cooking it.⁹

¹ Ramabam Hilchos Macholos Asuros 3:15, see Shulchan Aruch Y.D. 115:3, Gr'a 17.

² Shulchan Aruch Y.D. 115:2.

³ Shach 27, Gr'a 17, Aruch Ha'shulchan 20, Chelkes Binyomin 115:79.

⁴ Aruch Ha'shulchan Y.D. 115:20.

⁵ Refer to Taz 12, Aruch Ha'shulchan 24.

⁶ Tur Y.D. 115, Aruch Ha'shulchan 27.

⁷ Aruch Ha'shulchan Y.D. 115:21.

⁸ Hilchos Macholos Asuros 3:16.

⁹ Refer to Taz 12. This is not considered as being *mevatel* an *issur* since there is a chance that there is no *issur*. In addition there is no intent to be *mevatel* it (Shach 28).



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Today's Butter

Most butter bought in the stores today is cooked already so this problem is non-existent. However, today the companies add many additives to the butter some of which may not be *kosher*.¹⁰ Many times a starter distillate (which is found in regular milk that was fermented) will be added to unsalted butter, and it can be assumed that it is not *cholov yisroel*.¹¹

Even those who want to be lenient and eat non certified butter should be careful to make sure the ingredients are *kosher*.¹²

Some say if it hard to find butter with a *hechsher* then one can eat it (if the ingredients are *kosher*), but if there is butter that has a certification one should use that. This is the way a G-D fearing person should act.¹³

¹⁰ Article from Horav Zusha Blech, see Kashrut.com in an article entitled Is it Butter or Something Else, OU.org document entitled Everything is in Butter, Ha'kashrus K'halacha pages 427-428, the opinion of the Shevet Ha'Levi quoted in M'Bais Levi pages 44-45:footnote 15.

¹¹ Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita.

¹² Aruch Ha'shulchan 27, Hechsheiros 8:15:footnote 46, See Kaf Ha'chaim 115:41-45.

¹³ Chuchmas Adom 67:9, Aruch Ha'shulchan 27. Refer to Chelkes Binyomin biurim "hamokom" page 167. Refer to Yalkut Yosef 81:page 113.