



KOF-K

Kosher Supervision 201 THE PLAZA, TEANECK, NJ 07666-5156 201.837.0500 FAX:201.837.0126

e-mail: info@kof-k.org • website: www.kof-k.org

בס"ד

Bishul Akum on Potatoes

A food which is eaten raw or is not fit for a kings' table never has a problem of *bishul akum*.¹ There is a discussion in the *poskim* whether a potato is fit to be served on a kings' table. Some *poskim* say a potato is fit to be served on a kings' table² while others hold it is not.³ If a food is served at a smorgasbord it is considered fit to be served on a king's table.⁴ The *minhag* is that a potato is not fit to be served on a kings' table.⁵ However, if a potato is made in a way that it is fit for a kings' table, then that particular potato could potentially be a problem of *bishul akum*. Some *poskim* hold even though the potato is not fit for a kings' table in one way of preparing it, since it could be fit for a kings' table if prepared differently, the whole *min* of potatoes is considered fit to be served on a kings' table, and all potatoes would need *bishul yisroel*.⁶ However, most *poskim* disagree with this statement and maintain that one judges each way of preparing the potato separately.⁷ Accordingly, if a specific potato is prepared in a way that it is fit for a kings' table then only that type of potato is a problem of *bishul akum*. This is the opinion followed by most *kashrus* agencies.⁸ (A sweet potato is generally fit to be served on a king's table when cooked etc. Therefore, it would require *bishul yisroel*).⁹

The previous *machlokes* has ramifications in regard to potato chips. Some say since a fried potato is fit to be served at a kings' table one may not eat potato chips unless they have *bishul yisroel* even though potato chips themselves are not served on kings table.¹⁰ Others say since fried potatoes are not fit to be served at a kings' table, potato chips would not require *bishul yisroel*. This is the opinion of the majority of the *poskim*.¹¹

¹ Shulchan Aruch Y.D. 113:1.

² Chuchmas Adom 66:4, see Shevet Ha'Levi 6:108.

³ Aruch Ha'shulchan Y.D. 113:18, Yaskil Avdi Y.D. 7:6, Pischei Halacha page 118:8. Refer to Chelkes Binyomin 113:9.

⁴ Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita.

⁵ Aruch Ha'shulchan Y.D. 113:18 in depth.

⁶ Refer to Bishul Yisroel pages 139-144.

⁷ Refer to Bishul Yisroel page 143.

⁸ Journal *ibid* page 64:footnote 33.

⁹ Pischei Halacha page 118:footnote 7, OU Document A-89.

¹⁰ Igros Moshe Y.D. 4:48:5, Emes L'Yaakov Y.D. 113:footnote 42, Shevet Ha'Levi 10:124, Journal Of Halacha and Contemporary Society Fall 2001:page 67. Refer to Bishul Yisroel 37:12-22.

¹¹ Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita, Shulchan Ha'Levi pages 67-72, see Chelkes Binyomin biurim page 67a-67b, OU Document A-68, Bishul Yisroel teshuva from Horav Falk Shlita page 14. This is the consensus of some of the major *kashrus* agencies including the KOF-K (see Journal *ibid* page 64:footnote 33). If a fried potato



KOF-K

Kosher Supervision

201 THE PLAZA, TEANECK, NJ 07666-5156 201.837.0500 FAX:201.837.0126

e-mail: info@kof-k.org • website: www.kof-k.org

בס"ד

Potatoes at a Wedding

Fried potatoes that appear at weddings as side dishes are in fact fully edible boiled potatoes that are merely placed in oil to deep fry for a small amount of time in order to brown them. Therefore, the potatoes are not actually considered fried, but rather cooked and then browned in some oil.¹²

French Fries- *Bishul Akum*

The fact that French fries appear at the children's table at weddings does not make fried potatoes fit to be served on a kings' table.¹³ Accordingly, frozen french fries do not require *bishul yisroel*.¹⁴

Pringles® –*Bishul Akum*

The consensus of the *poskim* at the OU is that Pringles® are not considered a food that is fit to be served on a kings table, and do not require *bishul yisroel* in order to permit a *hechsher* to be placed on them.¹⁵

Mashed/Instant Potatoes- *Bishul Akum*

One is not required to have *bishul yisroel* in order to permit a *hechsher* to be given on either mashed or instant potatoes. The reason for this is because there is an opinion in the *poskim* who maintains that if a *goy* makes a food which is not fit to eat until a *yisroel* cooks it, such a food does not need *bishul yisroel* to permit one to give a *hechsher* on it.¹⁶ The same *halacha* would apply to potato flakes.¹⁷

would indeed begin to be fit to be served on a kings' table the OU might insist on Bishul Yisroel for its potato chip products (Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita). Refer to Bishul Yisroel 37:1.

¹² Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita. Refer to Journal Of Halacha and Contemporary Society Fall 2001:pages 56-57:footnote 20, Be'er Moshe 4:49, Teshuvos V'hanhugos 1:438. That is why these "deep fried" potatoes are not fit to be served on a king's table because they are never deep fried (Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita).

¹³ Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita. Journal *ibid*:footnote 20, Refer to Pischei Halacha page 119:15.

¹⁴ OU Document A-25.

¹⁵ Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita, Shulchan Ha'Levi pages 71-72. Refer to OU Document A-23, see *ibid*:about frozen potato latkes, Journal of Halacha and Contemporary Society Fall 2001:page 69:footnote 40. Refer to Bishul Yisroel page 578.

¹⁶ Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita, Shulchan Ha'Levi page 72. Refer to Darchei Teshuva 113:65, OU Document A-68, Be'er Moshe 4:48, Hechsheiros 43:2:footnote 80, see Bishul Yisroel page 37 (Teshuva from Horav Falk Shlita) and pages 297-299. Refer to Chelkes Yaakov 2:71 about steamed potatoes.

¹⁷ OU Document A-21.