



DC Kasher FAQ's

Q. What restaurants are being provided with kashrut supervision?

A. The list is growing and evolving by the week. Please visit www.dckosher.org for the latest information.

Q. Who is providing the kashrut supervision?

A. DC Kasher, a new Kashrut organization led by Rabbi Shmuel Herzfeld and Maharat Ruth Friedman of Ohev Sholom - The National Synagogue are providing kashrut supervision.

Q. Do they have any experience providing prior kashrut supervision?

A. Yes, Rabbi Herzfeld has extensive kashrut supervision experience and knowledge, having initiated kashrut supervision for Soupergirl and other large kitchens and productions. Maharat Friedman is very knowledgeable as well.

Q. What are the standards of DC Kasher?

A. DC Kasher is an Orthodox kashrut supervision, utilizing similar standards as well-known kashrut organizations. All products served at the restaurants are kosher, all pots/pans/dishes are kosher, all vegetables are thoroughly washed, all wine served is Mevushal and there are Mashgichim who conduct random checks.

Q. Is there any concern about Bishul Akum?

A. This is not a concern, either because a Jew is involved in the process of lighting the fire or because the food item in question does not fall under the rubric of bishul akum.

Q. Why are these restaurants being certified as kosher?

A. There is both a great need plus a strong desire for additional restaurants in the Washington, DC to be certified kosher. Vegan and certain vegetarian restaurants were chosen because they are vegan so they are relatively easy to be made kosher.

Additionally, individuals should be aware that not all vegan restaurants are kosher. For example, the Rabbi and Maharat looked at one vegan restaurant closely and ultimately did not provide certification because one of their ingredients uses non-kosher grape products. Most people who go into this store have no idea that this product is problematic from the perspective of Jewish law. Thus, vegan does not necessarily equal kosher. By certifying these restaurants our shul is hoping that it will be easier for more people to follow kosher dietary laws.

Q. Are the restaurants paying for DC Kosher?

A. No, the service is being provided complimentary by Rabbi Herzfeld and Maharat Friedman. They view this certification as a service to the broader Jewish community, and are not accepting any compensation for their services.

Q. I still have questions. Who can I contact?

A. Please contact the Rabbi Herzfeld at RabbiShmuel@ostns.org / 202-812-8900 or Maharat Friedman at MaharatRuth@ostns.org.