



STAR-K KOSHER CERTIFICATION

27 Cheshvan 5786
November 18, 2025

Dear STAR-K Vendors and Mashgichim,

We are writing to inform you about an upcoming policy change regarding acceptability of beer. Historically, many unflavored beers were generally assumed to be Kosher due to their simple ingredients (water, hops, barley, yeast). However, the rise of craft brewing and new production methods has led to a proliferation of flavored beers, diverse additives, and shared equipment that can compromise the Kosher status of even seemingly straightforward brews. After much research as well as consultation with other leading Kashrus agencies including the OU and OK as well as a number of leading local Vaadim, it has been collectively determined that these developments necessitate a more stringent approach to ensure our strict Kosher standards will consistently be met.

As such, beginning January 1, 2026, all beer served in STAR-K establishments or at certified functions or events will only be allowed with reliable kosher certification. We will be making available a [partial] list of current Kosher certified breweries, which contains almost 1000 beers that are already kosher certified. Note that many national brand beers already have kosher oversight and will therefore remain acceptable even without a symbol on the label. All craft brews would be required to have a kosher symbol or letter indicating Kashrus.

We would encourage and reinforce that you contact us in advance of any event being planned to review the beer (and all alcohol) selections to ensure they will be compliant with this updated policy. As this does reflect a significant change in policy, we are committed to working with you to ensure as smooth of a transition as possible. Please feel free to reach out to your Kashrus Administrator with any questions or concerns.

Thank you in advance for your partnership with STAR-K and your commitment to ensuring the highest standards of Kosher.

The STAR-K Foodservice Administrative Team

Rabbi Tzvi S. Goldberg
Rabbi Shmuel Heinemann
Rabbi Zvi Holland
Rabbi Mayer Kurcfeld
Rabbi Dovid Stern
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