

AKO ASSOCIATION OF KASHRUS ORGANIZATIONS

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בס"ד

Whisky Alert

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The AKO Executive Committee has reason to believe that there are large liquor companies in the United States which may be owned in whole or part by Jews. We are concerned that such companies may not have arranged for the sale of their *chametz* (*mechiras chametz*) during *Pesach*. These companies primarily manufacture bourbon, cordials, and American whiskey, and also deal in a small amount of Scotch and vodka.

Chametz-containing liquors owned, produced and/or aged by Jewish-owned companies over *Pesach* are forbidden as *chametz she'avar alav haPesach*.

Since many liquor products are aged for many years before they are sold to the public, it cannot be assumed that these beverages are acceptable for kosher use even if they are purchased a long time before or after *Pesach*.

Accordingly, we recommend that *Kashrus* Agencies and consumers change their policies and only consume those alcoholic beverages which [are free of standard kosher concerns and] are known to (a) be produced by a non-Jewish company or a Jewish-owned company which arranged for the sale of their *chametz*, (b) not contain any *chametz*, including not having *chametz* secondary grains or malted barley (bourbon and cordials are examples of items that may have these forbidden items), and/or (c) were not aged over *Pesach* (e.g. vodka).

The following are some brands which we believe to be subject to the above concern:

1792 Ridgmont	Elmer T Lee	Old Charter
51 Ice	Experimental Collection	Old Thompson
99 Schnapps	Fireball	Old Van Winkle
A. Smith Bowman	Fleishmann's	Pappy Van Winkle
Absinthe	Hancock's Presidents Reserve	Peychaud's
Ancient Age	Herbsaint	Regan's
Antique Collection	Highland Mist	Rich & Rare
Barton	House of Stuart	Rock Hill Farms
Blantons	Imperial	Royal Canadian
Bowman	Inver House	Sazerac Rye
Buffalo Trace	James Foxe	Ten High
Canadian Host	Kentucky Gentleman	Terra Brazilis
Canadian Hunter	Kentucky Tavern	Tom Moore
Canadian LTD	Lauder's	Tyrconnell
Canadian Supreme	McAfee's Benchmark	Van Winkle
Colonel Lee	Mix 51	Very Old Barton
Dr McGillicuddy's	Mr. Boston	Virginia Gentleman
Eagle Rare	Northern Light	W L Weller

Consumers who already own one of these liquors are encouraged to ask their personal Rabbi whether returning the bottles to the store is considered to be having *hana'ah* (benefit) from *chametz she'avar alav haPesach*. Lastly, we note that this notification does not cover the serious question of the status of whisky (or other *chametz*) owned on *Pesach* by a Jewish distributor who does or does not arrange for the sale of his *chametz*; consumers are once again encouraged to discuss this question with their personal Rabbi.

For updated information or questions regarding this notification, please email AKO at liquor@akokosher.org.