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A. Introduction

Chametz which was owned by a Jew during *Pesach* may not be eaten even after *Pesach* ends.¹ This year, AKO established an "AKO Post *Pesach* List Committee" to explore the post-*Pesach* status of supermarkets, convenience stores and distributors. Some of the issues explored by the committee were the following: Is there Jewish ownership, was a *mechiras chametz* performed before *Pesach*, and if so, how was it executed and by whom, and finally, who are the suppliers and are they Jewish? Despite extensive effort and investigation, the answers to some of these questions remains elusive. The information presented below represents the group's best estimate.

There are several halachic issues that must be considered when determining the status of *chametz* after *Pesach*. Our committee did not address these issues. Our goal was to gather information which *Poskim* can use to form halachic conclusions, and individuals should consult with their local Rabbi and *Posek*.

Here are some of the relevant halachic concerns:

- Since *chametz she'avar alav haPesach* is an *issur d'rabannan*, to what extent does *safek d'rabannan l'kulah* apply when accurate information is not readily available?
- Can we rely on the opinions of *Zecher Yitzchok* (#8) and *Chemed Moshe* (quoted by *Mishna Berurah, Sha'ar HaTziun* 448:4) who hold that *chametz she'avar alav haPesach* is *batel b'rov* if there is a majority of non-Jewish ownership?
- Is ownership of stock in a corporation the same as ownership of the corporation's *chametz*?
- How effective is *mechiras chametz* for a supplier or store which continues to operate on *Pesach*?

Below are categories of establishments and the Committee's best estimation of stores that fall into each category:

B. No Jewish Involvement

Publicly traded companies or non-Jewish ownership

Supplier is not a Jewish distributor.

Chametz may be purchased from these stores after Pesach

Aldi	Kmart	Walgreens
BJ's Wholesale Club	Price Chopper	Walmart
Costco	Publix	Wawa
CVS	Rite Aid	Wegmans
Duane Reade	Sam's Club	
Hannaford	Trader Joes	

¹ It is permitted to own *kitnios* during *Pesach*, and products which contain *kitnios* (and no *chametz*) may be purchased from anyone after *Pesach*. This includes rice, beans, lentils, corn, soy, and certain other items. In this context it is noteworthy that vinegar used in the United States is assumed to be produced from *kitnios* sources rather than from *chametz*. Accordingly, condiments such as ketchup, mustard, and mayonnaise are not subject to concerns of *chametz she'avar alav haPesach*.

C. Jewish Supplier

Publicly traded companies or non-Jewish ownership

Supplier is Jewish

Chametz of supplier is sold before Pesach but continues to operate on Pesach

D'Agostino Markets	Gristedes Foods	Stop and Shop
Food Emporium	Key Food	Target – see below
Foodway Supermarket	Kroger	Winn Dixie

- Target.....Only frozen foods are in this category. Non-frozen *chametz* is supplied by non-Jewish company. Also, kosher food aisle is supplied by a *Shomer Shabbos* distributor who is closed on *Pesach*.

D. Franchised Stores

Some stores are Jewish owned

Investigation is necessary to determine the status of each establishment

- 7-Eleven.....[Supplier is not Jewish]
- Shoprite.....A Rabbi arranges transfer of ownership for some Jewish owned stores, and purchases of *chametz* on *Pesach* from the supplier is allocated to the “new” non-Jewish owners. See discussion below about Wakefern which supplies all Shoprite stores.

E. Minority Jewish Ownership

Jewish partners are minority stockholders

Mechiras chametz is performed, and business is open on Pesach

- Albertson’swhich owns Acme, Jewel-Osco, Safeway, and Shaw’s. Part of the company is publicly traded, but minority stockholders are Jewish. The Jewish owners sell their shares before *Pesach*.
Other chains owned by this company include Star Markets, Vons, Pavilions, Tom Thumb, and Randalls
- Wakefern.....which supplies all Shoprite stores. Wakefern Food Corporation is a cooperative which is owned by the Shoprite store owners, some of whom are Jewish. A Rabbi arranges transfer of Jewish ownership to non-Jewish partners, and the purchases and distribution of *chametz* on *Pesach* by Wakefern are allocated to the non-Jewish partners.

F. Some Jewish Suppliers

- Amazon.....is publicly traded and does not use a Jewish supplier. However, they serve as the distributor for many Jewish-owned companies. The name of the supplier is generally posted on the Amazon website. Consumers should make a reasonable effort to determine if the supplier is Jewish before purchasing *chametz* after *Pesach*.

G. Alphabetical Listing

Section where information can be found about specific establishments

7-Eleven.....D	BJ’sB	Food Emporium..... C
Acme..... E	CostcoB	Foodway C
Albertson’s..... E	CVSB	Gristedes C
Aldi.....B	D’AgostinoC	Hannaford B
Amazon..... F	Duane Reade.....B	Jewel..... E

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Key Food	C	Safeway.....	E	Trader Joes	B
Kmart	B	Sam's Club.....	B	Vons	E
Kroger	C	Shaw's	E	Wakefern.....	E
Pavillions.....	E	Shoprite	D	Walgreens	B
Price Chopper	B	Star Markets	E	Walmart	B
Publix	B	Stop and Shop.....	C	Wawa	B
Randalls	E	Target.....	C	Wegmans	B
Rite Aid	B	Tom Thumb.....	E	Winn Dixie	C