



K MESHULASH / TRIANGLE K INC. 1  
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Rabbinical Coordinator

### STATEMENT OF THE TRIANGLE-K

Outrageously false and defamatory allegations have been made by anonymous disgruntled individuals against Triangle-K's strict rabbinical supervision of Hebrew National products in a complaint filed in court against the company that owns Hebrew National. Those who make the false allegations know full well that because their identities are concealed and their false statements are made in a court pleading, Triangle-K and its principals cannot sue them for defamation. The court complaint is filed on behalf of 11 consumers, none of whom claims to keep kosher, and all allege that they buy Hebrew National products only because they are represented to be "a higher quality product."

If any person making such an allegation against Triangle-K has the integrity to do so in a manner that subjects him to a defamation lawsuit, Triangle-K and its principals will promptly institute proceedings against that person in a rabbinic court ("*Beit Din*") and, if authorized by the rabbinic court, will file a defamation lawsuit against the person, company, or organization responsible for such slander and libel.

The fact is that, contrary to the defamatory allegations, Triangle-K has substantially increased and improved the *kashrut* supervision on Hebrew National products since it began its supervision in 2004.

1. **Kashrut of the slaughtering operation.** – Triangle-K instituted a process under which slaughtering is now done with a team of two or three *shochtim* constantly in the kill box (depending on each specific plant). Each *shochet* on the team slaughters not more than a prescribed quota of cattle, and the knife used for the *shechitah* is examined before and after every slaughter for possible nicks by the *shochet* or by another member of the team. The team continuously slaughters in rotation. This ensures that no *shochet* becomes weary and careless and that the knives are always free of nicks. In addition each *shochet* is required to have numerous knives ready to slaughter with. Contrary to the false anonymous allegation in the court complaint, Hebrew National products are consistently slaughtered in the prescribed manner required to be considered kosher.



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2. **Examination of cattle before and after shechitah.** – Only cattle that are free from physical defects and clean enough are slaughtered for kosher consumption. Triangle-K requires an examination of all cattle to insure that the clean cut necessary for kosher slaughter can be made and that the cattle can, after examination, be qualified for kosher consumption. In addition to prescribing a team of *shochtim*, Triangle-K instituted the requirement that there be two examiners (“*bodkim*”). One is a *bodek pnim*, who examines each animal’s lung while it is still in the animal. The other is a *bodek chutz*, who examines the animal’s lung after it has been removed and who inflates it. In some plants two *bodkei pnim* and two *bodkei chutz* are constantly on the line. Triangle-K represents that Hebrew National’s product is *stam* kosher, not *glatt* kosher. Its goal in providing the supervision to Hebrew National products is to make 100% *stam* kosher meat available to general consumers throughout the United States. Triangle-K also places numerous *mashgichim* at various points on the production line who make specific markings and *simanim* to ensure the correct labeling on the kosher-approved cattle.
3. **Examination of knives.** – Because of the “team” requirement instituted by Triangle-K, the knives used in the slaughtering process are constantly inspected to ensure that they have no nicks. Knives are checked after each *shechitah*, and if a nick is found the animal is marked non-kosher. Each evening, all Rabbis and *shochtim* are also required to present their knives to the *Rosh-Tsevet* (Crew manager) for inspection to make sure the knives do not have any nicks. In addition, cattle are not certified as kosher if an air compressor gun was used on the animal prior to *shechitah*.
4. **Post-slaughter inspection.** – All slaughtered cattle are carefully examined by a *bodek pnim* and by a *bodek chutz*. It is totally false and defamatory to say, as the court complaint declares anonymously, that the organs of animals used in Hebrew National products are “not consistently inspected after the slaughter.”



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5. **Removal of blood.** – Triangle-K drains all slaughtered cattles’ blood and washes it in accordance with the strictest standards of Jewish Law. Allegations that the soaking, salting and washing are inadequate are totally false. Allegations that the carcass is *halachically* cooked before it is salted are totally false.
  
6. **Disciplining of shochtim.** – Triangle-K has required the dismissal of *shochtim* and *bodkim* who failed to comply with the high standards instituted by Triangle-K. It has never reprimanded or subjected to retaliatory measures any employee who objected to the “slaughter of dirty cows.” Nor has the Triangle-K asked any employee “to look the other way” if he saw a violation of kosher laws. Each plant’s head *shochet* and *bodek* reports to the Triangle-K on a weekly basis. The *shochtim* and *bodkim* are constantly tested and checked in surprise visits by Triangle-K for their knowledge of the *halachic* material and for their skills. Some *shochtim* and *bodkim* whose employment was terminated because of their failure to adhere to Triangle-K’s high standards may have initiated the false allegations on which the court complaint was based.

We strongly re-affirm that the Triangle-K Kashrus symbol on Hebrew National products guarantees that the product is 100% strictly Kosher.

The Triangle K Rabbinic team is always available to answer specific questions about any part of the process of the *shechitha*. We base our strict kosher certification on the writings and decisions of the greatest scholars and *poskim* of the last few hundred years of Rabbinic Jewish law and literature.

**Rabbi Aryeh Ralbag - Triangle K Kosher Supervision**