



Chicago Rabbinical Council Guide to Starbucks Beverages

May 3, 2013

Over the years, Starbucks shops have evolved from simple coffee shops to stores that serve many kosher and non-kosher items, with the most serious non-kosher items being hot meat sandwiches. The standard daily clean up at Starbucks includes a hot wash of all utensils and some parts of that washing are done without soap. This clean up process challenges the kosher status of the otherwise kosher products and each product must be judged by a competent halachic authority.

When evaluating these issues, Rav Schwartz Shlit"ta, Av Beis Din of the cRc, acknowledged that there is basis for being lenient on many of the items being sold at Starbucks stores, but directed the cRc to be true to the mission of a reliable *Kashrus* Agency which only recommends items that are free of all *shailos* and not those which are only acceptable *b'dieved*.

Rav Schwartz Shlit"ta noted that this is especially true when there is a viable alternative which is not subject to the same *shailos*, and indeed there are many Starbucks locations that do not serve hot meat sandwiches. These are generally the Starbucks kiosks that can be found in airports, highway rest-stops, supermarkets etc., and at these locations the cRc is able to recommend any drink made from kosher ingredients (even though some items in those stores are not kosher certified). [Some kiosks share sinks and other equipment with nearby stores; those Starbucks facilities have the status of full-service stores noted below.]

To fully explain the details, questions, and *shailos* involved in this issue the cRc printed an analysis of the topic in the Spring 2011 edition of *The Journal of Halacha and Contemporary Society*, and that article is available on the cRc website.

The coming list is accurate at this time for stores in the United States, and since the information is subject to change **this list should not be used after July 31, 2014**. [The list is limited to beverages and does not address foods sold in Starbucks (e.g. sandwiches), or toppings and other items added to beverages.] It is also worth noting that many items sold at Starbucks are dairy and *chalav stam*.

Drink	Full-Service Store	Kiosk-Type Store	Drink	Full-Service Store	Kiosk-Type Store
Americano, using shot glass	A, L	✓	Iced coffee	✗ ^G	✓
Americano, using disposables ^B	L	✓	Iced latte, using shot glass	A, L	✓
Apple juice (steamed)	✗ ^C	✓	Iced latte, using disposables ^B	L	✓
Brewed Coffee	H	✓	Iced tea	✗ ^G	✓
Caramel Macchiato ^K	✗	✗	Latte/cappuccino	✗ ^{A,C}	✓
Clover-brewed coffee	✗ ^J	✓	Lemonade ^F	✗	✗
Cream	D	D	Milk, cold	✓	✓
Espresso, using shot glass	A, L	✓	Milk, steamed	✗ ^C	✓
Espresso, using disposables ^B	L	✓	Smoothie ^F	✗	✗
Flavor syrups	E	E	Soy Milk	✓	✓
Frappuccino ^F	✗	✗	Tea (hot)	E	E
Hot chocolate	✗ ^{C,D}	D			

Key	
✓	Recommended
✗	Not Recommended

Notes

- ^A Shot glasses may have been washed with other non-kosher items. Although some *Poskim* hold kosher beverages made in glass are still kosher, the cRc recommends purchasing items which are free of all *shailos*. See also "L" below.
- ^B Have espresso made in a disposable cup, instead of into a reusable shot glass.
- ^C Metal steaming cup may have been washed with other non-kosher items.
- ^D Cream is purchased regionally and must be checked for kosher certification.
- ^E Check specific flavor for kosher certification (many are).

- ^F Bases are not kosher certified.
- ^G Plastic pitcher used to hot brew the (double-strength) coffee or tea may have been washed with other non-kosher items.
- ^H Brew basket may have been washed with non-kosher items. Although the brew basket is only used as a *kli sheni*, the cRc recommends purchasing items which are free of all *shailos*.
- ^J Equipment may have been washed with non-kosher items.
- ^K Caramel sauce is not certified (caramel syrup is certified kosher).
- ^L Ask the barista to remove the "shot-divider" from the Masterna machine's pour spout before brewing the espresso portion of this beverage.