



**KOSHER
CERTIFICATION
SERVICE**

ORTHODOX UNION

UNION OF ORTHODOX JEWISH CONGREGATIONS OF AMERICA
איחוד קהילות האורתודוקסים באמריקה

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KASHRUTH DIVISION

7/29/2026

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RABBI MENACHEM GENACK
Rabbinic Administrator, CEO (1980-2026)

Dear Colleagues and staff,

As many of you are aware, the kosher meat industry is currently experiencing significant supply challenges following the temporary closure of a major kosher slaughterhouse in the Chicago area, together with the fire that caused substantial damage to the Agri Processors facility in Postville. These events have created an unexpected shortage of kosher meat in the marketplace.

Periods of limited supply can unfortunately create opportunities for dishonest practices. It is therefore essential that every Mashgiach exercise heightened vigilance when receiving meat and meat products at restaurants, catering facilities, retail establishments, and food manufacturing plants under OU certification.

Please pay particular attention to the following:

- Verify that all incoming meat and poultry bear the appropriate kosher identification and required seals.
- Carefully inspect labels, packaging integrity, and certification markings before accepting deliveries.
- Confirm that products are received only from approved suppliers and distributors.
- Immediately report any discrepancies, irregularities, or suspicious circumstances to your Rabbinic Coordinator before permitting the product to enter production or inventory.

The integrity of the kosher supply chain depends upon the diligence and professionalism of every member of our field and office staff. Your attention to these details is critical to maintaining the confidence that consumers place in the OU symbol.

At the same time, I want to reassure you that OU leadership is actively addressing this situation. We are working continuously with industry partners to identify qualified alternative slaughter facilities and to help ensure a reliable supply of kosher meat during this interim period. We will continue to keep you informed as developments occur.

Thank you for your dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to safeguarding the standards of Kashrus.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Moshe Elefant
Rabbinic Administrator, CEO
OU Kosher