

Kosher is from the Hebrew word *kasher*, which means "fit" and "proper". The term is usually used for food that Jews are permitted to eat under dietary laws that are derived from passages in the biblical books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

Some elements of Jewish and Islamic dietary laws are common, while some are not. Here are a couple of major differences:

\* Kosher laws do not require Jews to pronounce the name of God at the time of slaughter. On the other hand, Muslims are required to recite the name of Allah at the time of slaughter. For this reason, Muslims are not allowed to consume Kosher meat. For more information, please see the 'Zabihah' section at eat-halal.com.

\* Jews are allowed to consume many types of alcohol, while Muslims must abstain from all forms of intoxicants, including alcohol.

It must be noted that **if a product is Kosher certified, it does not mean that the product is automatically Halal**. While it is true that Kosher certification can be used as a tool for eating Halal, one must be very careful. There are Kosher certification agencies which certify products and ingredients which are not considered Kosher by many Jews.

### **Related Information\***

The following are updates regarding Kosher which were previously sent out by eat-halal.com:

#### ***No animal rennet currently being used in MK certified products***

(October 28, 2001) The Jewish Community Council of Montreal has told eat-halal.com that no animal rennet is used in products certified by them. Products certified Kosher by the Council are marked with MK and a circle around it. The rennet used in the whey in MK certified products is also from a non-animal source. Rennet from Kosher animals may be used in MK certified products in the future, but the Council has agreed to inform us when that occurs. This means that the rennet and whey currently being used in MK certified products are Halal. It should be kept in mind though that this does **not** mean that all Kosher or MK certified products are Halal. The Jewish Community Council of Montreal may be reached at (514) 739-6363.

#### ***Most COR certified products free of animal rennet***

(December 17, 2001) A spokesman for the Kashruth Council of Toronto has told eat-halal.com that most (if not all) COR certified products are free of animal rennet. He said that while rennet from Kosher animals is allowed to be used, the rennet being used in most products is from non-animal sources. He also said that the rennet used in the production of whey is from non-animal sources. The Kashruth Council of Toronto can be reached at (416) 635-9550.

\*Please note that the information in this section is deemed to be correct at the time of publication (Feb. 2002) and may become outdated at any time. Please visit eat-halal.com for the latest information.