

Dough Mixer

Excerpted and adapted from a *shiur* by HaRav Chaim Weg

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<https://baishavaad.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/P37-Parshas-Shelach-5783-Are-Freezers-Mitazaif-For-Challah.mp3>

As the first of your kneading you shall set aside a loaf as a portion...

Bemidbar 15:20

According to Rashi, “*reishis arisoseichem* (the first of your kneading)” refers to the minimum quantity of flour that is subject to the mitzvah of *hafrashas* challah, one omer. According to *poskim*, five pounds is enough to meet this *shiur* with certainty and make a *bracha*. (Many are strict to separate challah from a dough made from as little as 2.5 pounds of flour, without a *bracha*.) Doughs can combine for the *shiur* by touching strongly enough that when separated, one takes a piece from the other (*neshichah*) or by being temporarily in the same basket (*tziruf sal*) or other container. If several smaller cakes or challos are put into the freezer, would that qualify as *tziruf sal* to combine them for the minimum and subject them to challah?[1] R’ Pesach Eliyahu Falk (Shu”t Machazei Eliyahu) rules leniently by combining several arguments, each of which is controversial on its own:

- Some *poskim* hold that *tziruf sal* requires that the items touch, and plastic bags may prevent that.
- Some *poskim* say that since you chose to keep the doughs or loaves separate from each other with plastic bags, the freezer doesn’t combine them.
- Some *poskim* maintain that a large stationary container doesn’t qualify as a *sal*, and this may apply to a freezer.
- If the items are of different flavors, e.g., chocolate cake and vanilla cake, or if they were kneaded with the intent that they would be consumed by different people, *tziruf sal* may not apply.

[1] Loaves that are joined only after baking still require challah if they reach the minimum *shiur*.