

## Do Stocks in a Company That Deals in Chometz Need to be Sold?

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**Question:** If one owns stocks in a company that buys and sells *chometz*, does he have to sell the stock as part of his *mechiras chometz*?

**Answer:** There is much halachic discussion about how to define the ownership of stocks in terms of various halachos, such as Shabbos, *ribbis*, *basar b'cholov*, etc. Some define stocks as being their own separate entity, rather than partial ownership in a company, which is a big *chiddush*. Others are stringent and do define stockholders as having shared ownership with the company. Rav Moshe Feinstein says that it depends on how much stock the person owns – whether his share is significant enough to give him a controlling interest. Rav Forcheimer says in the name of Rav Aharon Kotler that it would depend if the majority of owners are Jewish or not.

*L'chatchilah*, Poskim advise selling your stocks. Even though such a sale is not legally binding, it would work for *mechiras chometz* since the owners of the company would not mind such a sale. If one didn't sell his stocks, however, it would not be a problem of *chometz she'avar alav hapesach*.

**Question:** So, one shouldn't trade such stocks on Pesach itself?

**Answer:** Correct. It would seem he should not.