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Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
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סימן ת"ק סעיף ב'-ג'

# Overview

Siman 500 Seif 2:

**It is prohibited to weigh meat, even in one's home, to determine how much to cook. It is not even permitted to place meat in the cup of a scale to keep it from mice if it is suspended in the place where it is normally weighed. One may not even weigh one piece of meat against another piece of meat. It is permitted to weigh meat by hand by taking it in one's hand and estimating its weight but a professional butcher may not even do that. If he is capable of cutting meat in the size of a litra or half-litra he may cut it in a normal manner without concerns.**

- Even if one does not use a weight and instead places a utensil or a knife with the intent to weigh that item the following day it is prohibited since it entails a weekday activity. Later authorities write that even if one is not precise when he weighs the food it is prohibited since it looks as though he is weighing the food precisely. (M.B. 8)
- Shulchan Aruch refers to where one is trying to keep the meat away from the mice but if one is actually weighing the meat it is prohibited regardless of where it is suspended. (M.B. 10)
- It is permitted only when it is an estimate but if one takes a weight in one hand and meat in the other hand it is prohibited. (M.B. 12)
- Authorities write that this restriction is true when he is selling meat but he may estimate the weight of meat in his own home. Meat may not be weighed by placing it into a container with water and markings on the side. (M.B. 13)
- Magen Avrohom writes that one may ask for a litra of meat since his intent is not the weight but the quantity of meat that he needs. (M.B. 14)

Siman 500 Seif 3:

**It is prohibited to pierce a hole in meat so that it could be suspended but by hand is permitted. If the intent is to mark the meat it is permitted even with a knife.**

- The wording implies that even a regular person may not pierce a hole in meat in order to hang it from the wall as he would during the week. However, some authorities maintain that the restriction is limited to butchers and the restriction is so that it is not reminiscent of the way he does business during the week. It is permitted to pierce a hole in the afikomen with a knife but to cut a circle or triangle is prohibited. (M.B. 15)
- Letters and images may not be carved in the meat on Yom Tov. (M.B. 17)

# Halacha Highlight

## Weighing for a mitzvah

Shulchan Aruch Siman 500 Seif 2

**אסור לשקול בשר**

**It is prohibited to weigh meat**

Shulchan Aruch (סעי' ב') rules that it is prohibited to weigh meat, even in one's home, to know how much meat to cook. This restriction applies even if one does not weigh the meat on a scale using a weight as a counter balance. Even if one places a utensil or knife on one side of the scale and meat on the other side it is prohibited since weighing objects is considered a weekday activity. Even if one is not precise as he weighs the meat it is prohibited (מ"ב סק"ח). Mishnah Berurah (שם) explains that the rationale behind the prohibition is that weighing items is a weekday activity that is prohibited. Rambam (פ"ד מהל' יו"ט הי"ט-כ) asserts that the rationale for the prohibition is that it is considered part of a business transaction.

Poskim discuss whether the prohibition against weighing items includes weighing items for the sake of a mitzvah. For example, is it permitted for someone to weigh his matzos with a scale to make sure that he eats an olive's volume of matzah? Kaf HaChaim (סי' ש"ו אות ס"ג) cites Sefer Pesach HaD'vir who reasons that just as it is permitted to measure on Shabbos for the sake of a mitzvah so too it is permitted to weigh items for the sake of a mitzvah on Shabbos or Yom Tov. Kaf HaChaim expresses hesitancy regarding this halacha. Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach (שמירת שבת כהלכתה פכ"ט הע' ק"ג), however, supports Pesach HaD'vir's rationale that it is permitted to weigh items for the sake of a mitzvah. He further explains (שלחן שלמה סי' ת"ק סק"ב) that one may use a small household scale to weigh one's matzos since it does not appear as though one is engaged in a business transaction and for the sake of a mitzvah it is permitted. However, it is preferable for one to weigh his matzos before Yom Tov when feasible.