

Halacha Highlight

A narrow sukkah

Shulchan Aruch Siman 634 Seif 1
סכה שאין בה שבעה על שבעה

A sukkah that is not seven tefachim by seven tefachim

Shulchan Aruch (סעי' אי) rules that a sukkah must be at least seven tefachim wide and seven tefachim long to be valid. This size will allow a person's head, majority of his body and a table at least the size of a tefach to be contained in the sukkah (מ"ב סק"א). Mishnah Berurah cites later authorities who write that the requirement is for there to be seven tefachim of length and width and it is not sufficient to have the necessary square tefachim but one side is longer than seven tefachim and the other side shorter than seven tefachim.

Mishnah Berurah (סק"א) cites Magen Avrohom who writes that even if one's sukkah is very large but in one place it is less than seven tefachim by seven tefachim one may not sit in that area since that area is too narrow of a place to sit. Chazon Ish (סי' קמ"ד סק"ו ד"ה כתב) disagrees with this ruling and questions why this is different than the halacha of פסל היוצא מן הסכה (See above siman 631:6, 7). The principle of פסל היוצא מן הסכה teaches that anything that is connected to a valid sukkah may be used as a sukkah even if that space is smaller than seven tefachim by seven tefachim. Accordingly, if a large sukkah has a corner that is smaller than seven tefachim by seven tefachim it is valid. Biur Halacha (ד"ה סוכה) cites Derech HaChaim who maintains that if the small space is seven tefachim wide but is

Overview

Siman 634 Seif 1:

A sukkah that does not contain seven tefachim by seven tefachim of space is invalid. There is no limit concerning how large the sukkah could be.

- ❖ This is the size necessary for one's head, most of his body and a tefach of his table. Later authorities agree that there must be at least seven tefachim of length and width. Even in a large sukkah, if there is a section that does not contain seven tefachim by seven tefachim one may not sit in that section. (M.B. 1)

Siman 634 Seif 2:

If the sukkah is round it must be large enough that it contains a square that is seven tefachim by seven tefachim.

- ❖ The entire sukkah is valid and one need not sit specifically in the square section in the middle. (M.B. 3)
- ❖ The same halacha is true if the sukkah has five or more walls, it must contain a square that is seven tefachim by seven tefachim. (M.B. 4)

not seven tefachim deep it is valid. Biur Halacha, however, maintains that one should be stringent even in such a case. Although Chazon Ish is lenient even if the small area is not seven tefachim wide, other Poskim write that one should, l'chatchila, be stringent in accordance with Mishnah Berurah and Biur Halacha's ruling (פסקי תשובות אות אי).