



Shatnez Alert-June '10

Monsey Shatnez Laboratory R' Chaim Rosenberg

A women's black knit 2 piece maternity outfit [see picture] was found to contain shatnez in its jacket and skirt.

Brand Name: Khari Marcs
Country of Origin: China
Contents Label: 68% Linen, 32% Nylon

The suit was produced by a Heimishe company, who had the material checked before manufacturing to ensure that it was not shatnez. Although it was found to contain linen, there was no wool, thus no shatnez.

The material was then sent to China and made into outfits. Finally they made their way back to Monsey and were sold via the stores, with the assumption that they were shatnez free. After all, the material had been checked, hadn't it?



A careful consumer brought their suit to R' Chaim Rosenberg to be inspected, despite having been told that it was pre-checked. It was found that all the *seams* was sewn together with a wool yarn!

The manufacturer having been informed of the test results was greatly concerned. They immediately submitted another outfit to be tested. The seams of this second outfit were *polyester*. After further careful inspection though, wool was found in a *different* place! along the shoulder seam a *wool* edging had been sewn onto the knit material!

Understanding the scope of the problem, the Monsey Shatnez Laboratory along with the manufacturer are acting to recall the garments for testing and to inform the public.

This instance and many similar occurrences serve to highlight a number of points. But the most important for a consumer be aware of is, ***the consumer has the final responsibility in ensuring that his/her clothes are shatnez free!***

The fact that a company pre-checked their material is commendable, a positive step towards ensuring kosher clothing. It also makes good business sense. However, this does not absolve *you* the consumer of the responsibility of having your garment checked by a reliable shatnez laboratory!

A special note of recognition should be given to the wary purchaser. Although they had been told that the garment had been pre-checked, they went the (not so) extra mile to have it checked by a shatnez tester. They are זוכה and מזכה את הרבים with their carefulness.

There are many other lessons that can be gleaned from this story:

- a. The label is not a reliable indicator of shatnez status.
- b. In absence of a reliable השגחה certifying the actual in-plant manufacturing, it must be checked by a reliable shatnez tester!
- c. *You the consumer* are responsible for ensuring that the garment is shatnez free.
- d. *Each garment* must be individually checked – the findings of one are not conclusive for another.

For more information or to have your garments checked, please contact our Shatnez Laboratory at (854) 352 0778 - certified member of The International Association of Professional Shatnez Laboratories, in conjunction with a board of Rabbonim.