

Carrying on Shabbat – Fencing of Domains

Ref: *Sefer Zemanim Hilchot Shabbat*, Chapter 16

Non-dwelling enclosed area. I.e. open spaces area must be enclosed by a fence or wall **10 tefach** or higher.

If area is equal to or less than the size of area sown by **2 seah** of grain – can carry.

2 seah of grain area = 50 amah × 50 × 2 = 5000 square cubits (in any form or shape)

Reminder:

Pack on Weights and Measures



SHAPES

If square, then the dimensions will be **70 amah** and a bit × **70 amah** and a bit

Where rectangular, if the area is 5000 square cubits, then the length cannot be more than **2x** the width. This is because it is derived from the courtyard of the Mishkan. (The Courtyard of the *mishkan* was **100 × 50**)

AREA OF ENCLOSURE GREATER THAN 5000 SQ. AMAH

It is possible to render an area greater than **5000 sq. amah** that was fenced in to be a dwelling, a *karmelit*.

- Trees allow the area to remain a private domain.
- Filled with clean water. Like trees
- Filled with dirty water. Prevents carriage
- Roof. Relaxes laws of carrying
- Partition
- Backyard

A caravan of Jews (**3 or more**) If they camp in the open and set up partitions for *Shabbat*, they are allowed to carry in an area **greater than 5000 sq. amot** etc.

Partition	Suitable	Explanation
Keeps standing when there is a regular wind	✓	
 10 tefach or higher necessary to be fence regarding carrying	✓	<i>Mosheh Misinai</i>
Less than 10 tefach	×	
Open portion of fence exceeds closed portion	×	This refers to gaps being present in fence
Open portion equal to closed portion	✓	 But there cannot be a gap of 10 amah or more , because this could be regarded as an entrance which needs a frame – <i>Mosheh Misinai</i>

Opening in partition is greater than 10 amah but is enclosed by a doorframe	✓	But open space must still not exceed closed space
 Open spaces are 3 tefach or less	✓	These gaps are regarded as solid (i.e. closed). This applies vertically – e.g. reeds and horizontally - e.g. ropes.
The doorframe must be strong enough to hold a door	✓	Door can however be light
The doorframe must be on the centre of wall	✓	The string that creates the “frame” must run above the walls or the poles and may not run on the side.
Fence can be made from any substance even animals or human beings standing next to each other	✓	Must be bound so that it stays together
Branches of tree which are still attached acting as fence	✓	