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Criteria for Evaluating Halal Schemes
Part 1
Halal Product Certification

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II. Table of Content:

I. Foreword

The International Halal Accreditation Forum (IHAF) is an independent, non-government network of accreditation agencies all mandated to enforce halal standards in their countries and regions. It is established with the aim of unifying and harmonizing halal accreditation practices on global level, to comply with Islamic principles, and to develop and maintain Halal Multi-Lateral Recognition Arrangements (MRA) among IHAF member accreditation bodies. This will result in removing technical barriers facing halal products and services, and facilitating international halal trade, hence protecting the growing number of halal consumers.

This document provides the requirements for evaluating schemes related to halal product certification. The requirements are drafted by IHAF Secretariat; with involvement of all IHAF full members. The final draft was forwarded to members for comments and then approved by Board of Directors before finally being endorsed by IHAF General Assembly.

This document is a reference document for halal product certification schemes. It includes the evaluation criteria based on which IHAF shall approve the schemes. The effective date for implementation of this document is the date of endorsement by IHAF General Assembly. The document shall be published on IHAF website www.ihaf.org.ae.

II. Introduction

One of IHAF main roles is to provide and maintain confidence in halal certificates and marks issued by Conformity Assessment Bodies through approving halal certification schemes and having a mutual acceptance for these schemes between member accreditation bodies in the field of halal.

The purpose of this document is to set the evaluation criteria for halal product certification schemes to complement the implementation of the international standard ISO/IEC 17065 to fulfil the requirements of Halal.

To provide confidence on halal certificates and marks; halal product certification bodies shall adopt certification schemes and seek accreditation for its certification activities as per the scheme requirements by an IHAF signatory accreditation body. This will facilitate the global halal trade.

1. Scope

This document is applied for all halal product certification schemes. Schemes Owners shall ensure that their halal product certification schemes are complying with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065 and this document. Certification bodies who are willing to obtain accreditation from IHAF's member accreditation body as a halal certification body shall comply with these requirements.

Requirements specified in this document are general requirements for halal product and are applicable to any sub-scope; e.g. food, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, utilities product (tissue, textile, resin), disinfectant and cleaning agent, …etc. during all stages of processing.

Mashbooh is not covered under the scope of the halal product certification scheme.

2. Normative References

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. The latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies:

- ISO/IEC 17000: Conformity assessment — Vocabulary and general principles.

- ISO/IEC 17007: Conformity assessment — Guidance for drafting normative documents suitable

  for use for conformity assessment.

- ISO/IEC 17065: Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services.

- ISO/IEC 17067: Conformity assessment — Fundamentals of product certification and guidelines for product certification schemes.

- ISO/IEC Guide 23: Methods of indicating conformity with standards for third-party certification systems

- ISO/IEC 17030:2003: Conformity assessment -- General requirements for third-party marks of conformity.

- ISO 22000: Food Safety Management Systems-Requirements for any organization in the food chain

- ISO 22005: Traceability in the feed and food chain -- General principles and basic requirements for system design and implementation.

- IHAF Rules Document, "Criteria for Halal Accreditation Body - IHAF/RD 03: 2018".

3. Terms and definitions

3.1 Terms and definitions contained in ISO/IEC 17000 and ISO/IEC 17065 shall be applied in addition to:

- Halal:
  The term used for products, services or systems which are considered lawful (Tayeib) or permissible under the Islamic law that do not consist of or contain any part that is considered as unlawful (haram) according to Islamic law.

- Haram:
  A term refers to anything that is prohibited or forbidden in the Islamic law.

- Halal Certification Body:
  Certification body performs activities that are fully complying with the doctrines of the Islamic law.

- Najis:
  A term in Arabic language that means impurity or impure, dirty, polluted, contaminated, dirt, or filth.

- Halal Product Certification Scheme:
  Rules, procedures and management for carrying out certification process related specifically to halal field, to which the specified requirements, specific rules and procedures apply of an object in addition to other relevant halal requirements for that specific object.

3.2 Wherever the term "Certification Body" is mentioned in this document, it means Halal Certification Body.

3.3 Wherever the term "Certification Scheme" is mentioned in this document, it means Halal Product Certification Scheme.

4   General Requirements for Halal Product Certification Schemes:

Any Scheme developed for halal product either related to food, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, textile and leather…etc., and to related process and services shall comply with the followings:

4.1   Within the content of the certification scheme, the following shall be clearly defined:
- The competencies related to its scope (s)
- Brief about the scheme owner; either if it is an accreditation body, government, certification body…etc.;
- Parties involved in developing the scheme;
- Declaration that the scheme is based on the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065 Standard: Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services and does not contradict the requirements of this international standard;
- Scope of the scheme with regard to the sectors/products covered under the halal certification process with specifying any exclusions, if any;
- Specify the qualified applications for the scheme;
- Conditions for the clients seeking halal certificate/halal mark for their products;
- Clearly defined criteria for evaluation;
- Reference standards/regulations/legislations that shall be met;
- Any additional requirements that shall be met in a specific sector; either related to premises, staff, systems, processes, transportation…etc. (if any);
- Description of the certification process, or reference to any relevant document that describes the certification process;

- The stages of certification activities, to include as minimum selection, determination, review, decision on certification and attestation.
- Description of the competency criteria required for staff involved in the halal certification process for the product(s) within the scheme scope;
- Description of the decision-making process or reference to any relevant document that describes the decision-making process;
- Requirement for the client to have arrangements for segregation and procedure to prevent cross contamination.
- Requirement for the client to have arrangements for handling nonconformities related to halal products/halal activities; this includes taking strict measures to prevent re-occurrence of such non-conformities.
- Description of the mechanism for handling claims related to halal certified products;
- General conditions for using halal certificates and marks or reference to any relevant document;
- Provisions for misuse halal certificates or marks;
- Description of the monitoring process for issued halal certificates and marks.

4.2   The certification scheme shall comply with the country halal regulations of manufacture and destination.

4.3   For high risk scope products as defined in the scheme (e.g. animal derivatives and gelatin) the determination activities shall include sampling and inspection, and/or testing.

4.4   The scheme shall ensure that the following requirements are met for products declared "HALAL". These requirements shall be clearly stated within the certification scheme:
  - Halal product shall not contain any element/part/or traces of animals that are non-halal or that comes from animals which are not slaughtered according to Islamic law;
  - Halal product shall not contain synthetic alcohols, liquors, or wines;
  - Halal Product shall not be subjected to come in contact with any processing aid which is Haram.
  - Halal product shall not contain narcotic drugs;
  - Hygiene requirements shall be met for halal products.
  - Any equipment/tool contaminated with non-halal elements or Najis shall not be used in any step of the preparation, manufacturing, packaging, storage, and transportation of the halal product.
  - Source of materials used in the halal products shall be halal;

4.5   The certification body shall appoint minimum of one staff in a permanent supervisory post who is competent and well trained in halal requirements.

5. Additional Requirements for Halal Food Product Certification Schemes:

5.1 Halal Food Product Certification Schemes shall require implementation of other relevant systems like food management systems (FMSs) or good manufacturing practices (GMPs).

5.2 Products covered within the scheme shall fulfil the countries relevant polices and requirements of concerned authority (ies).

6. Additional Requirements for Halal Pharmaceuticals Certification Schemes:

6.1 Halal Pharmaceuticals Certification Schemes shall require compliance with Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and compliance with Good Distribution Practice (GDP) that exists in the scheme owner's country.

7. Additional Requirements for Halal Cosmetics:

7.1 Halal Cosmetic Certification Schemes shall require compliance with Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP).

7.2 Products covered within the scheme shall fulfil the countries relevant polices and requirements of concerned authority (ies).