

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 8

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING
Forty-third Session
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, 9 – 13 May 2016
(Comments from Egypt)

COMPARISON BETWEEN THE CURRENT GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR USE OF THE TERM HALAL CAC /GL 24-1997 & PROPOSED UPDATES

Current Guidelines For use of the Term Halal (CAC/GL-24-1997)	Proposed Guidelines For use of the Term Halal (CAC/GL-24-1997)	Justification for the change
<p>The codex Alimentarius Commission accepts that there may be minor differences in opinion in the interpretation of lawful and unlawful animals and in the slaughter act, according to the different Islamic Schools of Thought. As such, these general guidelines are subjected to the interpretation of the appropriate authorities of the importing countries. However, the certificates granted by the religious authorities of the exporting country should be accepted in principle by the importing country, except when the latter provides justification for other specific requirements.</p>	<p>The codex Alimentarius Commission accepts that there may be minor differences in opinion in the interpretation of lawful and unlawful animals and in the slaughter act, according to the different Islamic Schools of Thought. As such, these general guidelines are subjected to the interpretation of the appropriate authorities of the importing countries. However, the certificates granted by the religious authorities of the exporting country should be accepted in principle by the importing country, except when the latter provides justification for other specific requirements.</p>	
<p>1. SCOPE: 1.1. These guidelines recommend measures to be taken on the use of Halal claims in food labelling. 1.2. These guidelines apply to the</p>	<p>1. SCOPE: 1.1. These guidelines recommend measures to be taken on the use of Halal claims in food labelling. 1.2. These guidelines apply to the</p>	

<p>use of the term halal and equivalent terms in claims as defined in the <i>General Standard for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods</i> and include its use in trademarks, brand names and business names.</p> <p>1.3. These guidelines are intended to supplement the Codex General Guidelines on Claims and do not supersede any prohibition contained therein.</p>	<p>use of the term halal and equivalent terms in claims as defined in the <i>General Standard for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods</i> and include its use in trademarks, brand names and business names.</p> <p>1.3. These guidelines are intended to supplement the Codex General Guidelines on Claims and do not supersede any prohibition contained therein.</p>	
<p>2. DEFINITION:</p> <p>2.1. Halal Food means food permitted under the Islamic Law and should fulfil the following conditions:</p> <p>2.1.1. Does not consist of or contain anything which is considered to be unlawful according to Islamic Law;</p> <p>2.1.2. has not been prepared, processed, transported or stored using any appliance or facility that was not free from anything unlawful according to Islamic Law; and</p> <p>2.1.3. Has not in the course of preparation, processing, transportation or storage been in direct contact with any food that fails to satisfy 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 above.</p> <p>2.2. Notwithstanding Section 2.1 above:</p> <p>2.2.1. Halal food can be prepared, processed or stored in</p>	<p>2. DEFINITION:</p> <p>2.1 Halal Food means food Completely fulfilling the Islamic <u>Sharia</u>(Islamic Law/Islamic Legislation</p> <p>Sections 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3 , 2.2, 2.2.1,2.2.2 have been moved to 3-Criteria for use of the Term Halal</p> <p><u>2.2 Islamic Sharia</u> (Islamic Law/Islamic Legislation) : It means what ALLAH (God) legislates for Muslims , deriving rules from the Holy Qur’an, the honourable Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him), & practices (Sunnah).</p> <p><u>2.3 Halal animals and birds: All animals permitted to be eaten according to the Islamic</u></p>	

<p>different sections or lines within the same premises where non-halal foods are produced, provided that necessary measures are taken to prevent any contact between halal and non-halal foods;</p> <p>2.2.2. Halal food can be prepared, processed, transported or stored using facilities which have been previously used for non-halal foods provided that proper cleaning procedures, according to Islamic requirements, have been observed.</p>	<p><i>Sharia(Islamic Law/Islamic Legislation) , including birds. (As defined in CLAUSE 3&4)</i></p> <p><u>2.4 Zabah : (Slaughtering as per Islamic Sharia) , as per section 4.6</u></p> <p>2.5 Stunning is the process of rendering animals immobile or unconscious, without killing the animal, prior to their being slaughtered for food. This is acceptable by Islamic Sharia under certain rules & provisions</p>	
<p>3. <u>CRITERIA FOR USE OF THE TERM “HALAL”</u></p> <p>3.1. Lawful food</p> <p>The term halal may be used for foods which are considered lawful. Under the Islamic Law, all sources of food are lawful except the following sources, including their products and derivatives which are considered unlawful:</p> <p>2.1.2 has not been prepared, processed, transported or stored using any appliance or facility that was not free from anything unlawful</p>	<p>3. <u>CRITERIA FOR USE OF THE TERM “HALAL”:</u></p> <p><u>3.1 Lawful Food</u></p> <p>3.1. The term halal may be used for foods which are considered lawful. Under the Islamic-Sharia (Islamic law/Islamic Legislation) , Does not consist of or contain anything which is considered to be unlawful according to Islamic Sharia (Islamic Law/ Islamic Legislation) ,(Refer to section 4) ,</p> <p>3.2. has not been prepared, processed, transported or stored using any appliance or facility that was not free from</p>	

<p>according to Islamic Law; and</p> <p>2.1.3 Has not in the course of preparation, processing, transportation or storage been in direct contact with any food that fails to satisfy 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 above.</p> <p>2.2 Notwithstanding Section 2.1 above:</p> <p>2.2.1 Halal food can be prepared, processed or stored in different sections or lines within the same premises where non-halal foods are produced, provided that necessary measures are taken to prevent any contact between halal and non-halal foods;</p> <p>2.2.2 Halal food can be prepared, processed, transported or stored using facilities which have been previously used for non-halal foods provided that proper cleaning procedures, according to Islamic requirements, have been observed</p>	<p>anything unlawful according to Islamic Law Sharia (Islamic Law/Islamic Legislation) ; and</p> <p>3.3. Has not in the course of preparation, processing, transportation or storage been in direct contact with any food that fails to satisfy 3.1 and 3.2 above.)</p> <p>3.4. Notwithstanding Section 3.1 above:</p> <p>3.4.1. Halal food can be prepared, processed or stored in different sections or lines within the same premises where non-halal foods are produced, provided that necessary measures are taken to prevent any contact between halal and non-halal foods; Moreover Complete delineation between Halal & Non Halal Food should be fulfilled as per Islamic Sharia. (Islamic Law/Islamic Legislation)</p> <p>3.4.2. Halal food can be prepared, processed, transported or stored using facilities which have been previously used for non-halal foods provided that proper cleaning procedures, according to Islamic Sharia</p>	
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<p style="text-align: center;">Section 3.1</p> <p>All sources of food are lawful except the following sources, including their products and derivatives which are considered unlawful:</p> <p><u>3.1.1 Food of animal origin</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) pigs and boars b) Dogs, snakes and monkeys c) Carnivorous animals with claws and fangs such as lions, tigers, bears and other similar animals. d) Birds of prey with claws such as eagles, vultures, and other similar birds. e) Pests such as rats, centipedes, scorpions and other similar animals. f) Animals forbidden to be killed in Islam i.e., ants, bees and woodpecker birds. g) Animals which are considered repulsive generally like lice, flies, maggots and other similar animals. h) Animals that live both on land and in water such as frogs, crocodiles and other similar animals i) Mules and domestic donkeys. j) All poisonous and hazardous aquatic animals. k) any other animals not slaughtered according to Islamic Law l) Blood 	<p style="text-align: center;">(Islamic Law/ Islamic Legislation) have been observed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4. <u>Unlawful Food/ Sources</u></p> <p>All food are lawful except the following sources, including their products and derivatives which are considered unlawful (Non Halal) :</p> <p><u>4.1 Food of animal origin</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) pigs and boars b) Dogs, snakes and monkeys c) Carnivorous animals with claws and fangs such as lions, tigers, bears and other similar animals. d) Birds of prey with claws such as eagles, vultures, and other similar birds. e) Pests such as rats, centipedes, scorpions and other similar animals. f) Animals forbidden to be killed in Islam i.e., ants, bees and woodpecker birds. g) Animals which are considered repulsive generally like lice, flies, maggots and other similar animals. h) Animals that live both on land and in water such as frogs, crocodiles and other similar animals i) Mules and domestic donkeys. j) All poisonous and hazardous 	
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<p>3.1.2 Food of plant origin Intoxicating and hazardous plants except where the toxin or hazard can be eliminated during processing</p> <p>3.1.3 Drink a) Alcoholic drinks b) All forms of intoxicating and hazardous drinks</p> <p>3.1.4 Food Additives All food additives derived from items 3.1.1, 3.1.2, and 3.1.3</p> <p>3.2 Slaughtering All lawful land animals should be slaughtered in compliance with the rules laid down in the <i>Codex Recommended Code of HYGIENIC Practice for Fresh Meat</i> and the following requirements:</p> <p>3.1.1 The person should be a Muslim who is mentally sound and knowledgeable of the Islamic slaughtering</p>	<p>aquatic animals.</p> <p>k) any other animals not slaughtered according to Islamic Law</p> <p>l) Blood</p> <p>4.2 Food of plant origin Intoxicating and hazardous plants except where the toxin or hazard can be eliminated during processing</p> <p>4.3 <u>Food for which Alcohol is added intentionally:</u> Includes any food to which Alcohol (Ethanol) is added intentionally.</p> <p>4.4 Drink a) Alcoholic drinks b) All forms of intoxicating and hazardous drinks</p> <p>4.5 Food Additives All food additives derived from items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 or any food contains additives of non Halal Sources</p> <p>4.6 Slaughtering & Stunning All lawful land animals including Birds should be slaughtered in compliance</p>	
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<p>procedures.</p> <p>3.1.2 The animal to be slaughtered should be lawful according to Islamic law</p> <p>3.1.3 The animal to be slaughtered should be alive or deemed to be alive at the time of slaughtering</p> <p>3.1.4 The phrase “Bismillah” (In the Name of Allah) should be invoked immediately before the slaughter of each animal</p> <p>3.1.5 The slaughtering device should be sharp and should not be lifted off the animal during the slaughter act.</p> <p>3.1.6 The slaughter act should sever the trachea, oesophagus and main arteries and veins of the neck region</p> <p>3.2 Preparation, processing, packaging, transportation</p>	<p>with the rules laid down in the <i>Codex Recommended Code of HYGIENIC Practice for Fresh Meat</i> and the following requirements:</p> <p>4.6.1 The person should be a Muslim(or Jewish or Christian) who is mentally sound and knowledgeable of the Islamic slaughtering procedures.</p> <p>4.6.2 The animal to be slaughtered should be lawful according to Islamic law</p> <p>4.6.3 The animal to be slaughtered should be alive or deemed to be alive at the time of slaughtering</p> <p>4.6.4 The phrase “Bismillah” (In the Name of Allah) should be invoked immediately before the slaughter of each animal</p> <p>4.6.5 The slaughtering device should be sharp and should not be lifted off the animal during the slaughter act.</p> <p>4.6.6 The slaughter act should sever the trachea, oesophagus and main arteries and veins of the</p>	
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<p>and storage</p> <p>All food should be prepared, processed, packaged, transported and stored in such a manner that it complies with Section 2.1 and 2.2 above and the <i>Codex General Principles on Food Hygiene</i> and other relevant Codex Standards.</p>	<p>neck region</p> <p>4.6.7 The place for Slaughtering should be clean & free of any source of non halal products (Refer to criteria Section 3)</p> <p>4.7 Preparation, processing, packaging, transportation and storage</p> <p>All food should be prepared, processed, packaged, transported and stored in such a manner that it complies with Section 3 above and the <i>Codex General Principles on Food Hygiene</i> and other relevant Codex Standards.</p>	
	<p>5. <u>Packaging Materials</u></p> <p>5.1. The Packaging Should be In compliance with Relevant Provisions in Section 3</p> <p>5.2. During processing, Preparation, Storing or transportation of Packaging Materials, It should be</p>	<p>6.</p>

	<p>separated from any Source of non Halal materials.</p>	
<p>4 <u>ADDITIONAL LABELLING REQUIREMENTS</u></p> <p>4.1 When a claims is made that a food is <i>halal</i>, the word <i>halal</i> or equivalent terms should appear on the label.</p> <p>4.2 In accordance with the Codex General Guidelines on Claims, claims on halal should not be used in ways which could give rise to doubt about the safety of similar food or claims that halal foods are nutritionally superior to, or healthier than, other foods.</p>	<p>6. <u>ADDITIONAL LABELLING REQUIREMENTS</u></p> <p>6.1 When a claims is made that a food is <i>halal</i>, the word <i>halal</i> or equivalent terms- Logo should appear on the label.</p> <p>6.2 In accordance with the Codex General Guidelines on Claims, claims on halal should not be used in ways which could give rise to doubt about the safety of similar food or claims that halal foods are nutritionally superior to, or healthier than, other foods.</p>	<p>7.</p>