



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE NEAR EAST**

Eleventh Session

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**Discussion document on the development of Guidelines for General Requirements for Halal Food
(Prepared by Egypt)**

The Arab Republic of Egypt extends its greetings and appreciation to the Near East Committee for its efforts and providing specifications that are compatible with the specificity of the region's products.

The Egyptian delegation extends its sincere thanks to the Coordinator of CCNE and all members for providing Egypt with the opportunity to restructure this document and present it at this session based on the previous meeting of CCNE 10 regarding Document No. CX/NE 19/10/15 for discussion on developing a specific standard for Halal products that texted on:

- a) the importance of having clear rules for halal in the international trade;
- b) that Halal was a faith-based issue rather than a science-based food safety and quality issue;
- c) that Halal was a TBT rather than sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issue, and in this regard, Codex would not have a special status. Other standard setting organizations could serve as reference in case of a trade dispute; the existence of SMIIC halal standards;
- d) that Halal was not a regional issue and regional approaches could adversely affect harmonized international regulation of Halal products.

As CCCNE10 did not agree on how to progress on the matter it was referred to the next session.

In view of the successive notifications between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the countries of the world regarding the application of Halal Certificate in international trade since the last meeting of the committee CCNE10, the Arab Republic of Egypt has made amendments and updates to the draft project and the text of the proposed draft guidelines (General Requirements for "Halal" Food in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Islamic Sharia). This amendment was made in the terms of many references, including the standard issued by the Islamic organization SMIIC, and the standard issued by the GCC Standardization Authority on "Halal Food - Part I: General Requirements for Halal Food " and some other references. Based on the aforementioned, Egypt submits both the project proposal and the draft of international guidelines for reaffirming in accordance with the latest global developments in the handling of Halal foods.

The Arab Republic of Egypt proposes the following:

1. Presenting the proposal contained in the following annexes (1, 2) through the meeting of the committee CCNE11:
 - a. Project document "General Codex Guidelines for Halal Foods".
 - b. Proposed draft guidelines "General Requirements for Halal Foods according to Islamic Sharia/law".
2. Establishing an open electronic working group chaired by Egypt with the participation of countries from other regions to discuss the draft guidelines "Halal" foods to be approved by all Islamic countries in terms of

production, advertising and accompanying certificates in the international trade and certification bodies, since the issuing of international guidelines on Halal food does not only concern the countries of the Near East region, but also concerns Islamic countries in other regions, such as (Africa - Asia...etc.) and these countries have the right to participate in preparing such guidelines.

PROJECT DOCUMENT**“General Codex Guidelines for Halal Food”****1. The purpose and scope of the standard**

This work aims to develop applicable international Codex Guidelines to be prepared by the CCNE committee, including general requirements that must be followed during the stages through which the production process of "Halal" food progresses. This process is to be carried out in accordance with the principles and provisions of Islamic Sharia/law, and acceptable to all Islamic sects in countries of the world. The main objective of this effort is to ensure the integrity of “Halal” food within the context of international trade, and support the consumer confidence in “Halal” food, this through transcending geographical boundary. This, in turn, will foster a conducive environment for international trade and collaboration; with respect the diverse interpretations of Islamic jurisprudence.

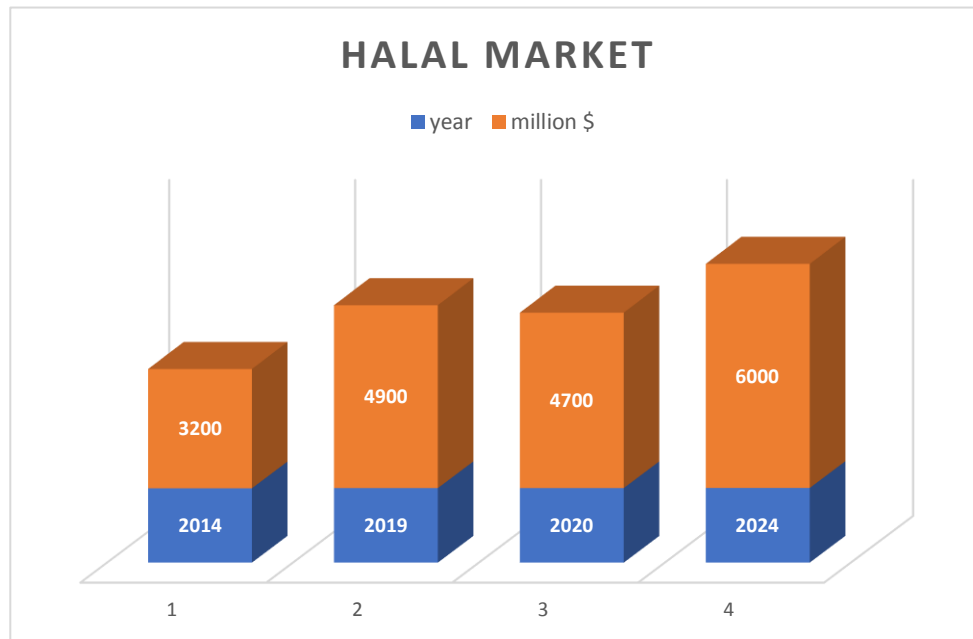
The proposed guidelines consider a cornerstone for fostering transparency principle in the handling of "Halal" food, and a reference for producers, regulators, and consumers by mandate with the principles and provisions of Islamic Sharia/law, offering a shared framework that enhances the Halal food ecosystem on a global scale. One of the main objectives of establishing these guidelines is to establish clear-cut criteria that govern the utilization of the term "Halal" in food to combat fraudulent practices and protecting consumer interests. This transparency is a fundamental right that consumers deserve.

2. Relevance and timeliness

The value of the Halal food trade in the global market increased from \$3.2 trillion recorded in 2014 to \$4.9 trillion in 2019. Its value was estimated at \$4.7 trillion in 2020. With the expected positive momentum in the post-pandemic period, the size of this sector is expected to reach the market is \$6.0 trillion in 2024. At the level of the OIC group of countries, the market size of the Halal industry is estimated at \$3.7 trillion in 2020 and is expected to reach \$4.7 trillion in 2024.*

*(Source: Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) - Organization of Islamic Cooperation)
<https://www.sesric.org/publications-detail-en.php?id=538>

The following chart estimation the Global Halal market size in 2014 and 2024:



There is an urgent need to increase the value in order to complement the current text of CXG 24-1997 (Codex General Guidelines on the Use of the Term “Halal”) in order to ensure an integrated Codex standard. It provides clear conditions about the use of the term “halal” and covers all products. In order to prevent fraud and facilitate international trade in this type of food, the consumer has the right not to be misled by food labeled “Halal” that does not, in fact, comply with Islamic law.

3. Main aspects to be covered

- (1) All definitions related to “Halal” foods according to the principles and provisions of Islamic Sharia/law;
- (2) General Requirements for Halal Food;
- (3) Machinery, utensils, production lines;
- (4) Storage, display, service and transport;
- (5) Hygiene, sanitation and food safety;
- (6) Validation and verification;
- (7) Presentation for the market;
- (8) Labeling;
- (9) Table no. (1): Non Halal Sources in Foods;
- (10) Table no (2): Food products for which Halal certificates shall be issued.

4. Assessment against the Criteria for the establishment of work priorities

General criterion:

The proposal of guidelines seek to cover the following:

- (i) Ensuring the global handling of "Halal" food is a fundamental religious matter for Muslims, not for promotional purposes;
- (ii) Specifying which food is to be certified as Halal according to table (2) in the proposed guidelines;
- (iii) Ensuring fair practices in Halal food trade;
- (v) Not to mislead consumers when purchasing Halal food;
- (iv) Considering the Codex as the international reference for all countries that dandle Halal food products.

a. Diversification of national legislations and apparent resultant or potential impediments to international trade

This new work will help facilitate international trade of Halal foods through further strengthening the existing guidelines that issue from Codex for Use of the Term "Halal" with a view to enhance the understanding of Halal concepts based on the principles and provisions of Islamic Sharia/law.

b. Scope of work and establishment of priorities between the various sections of the work

This new work will focus on the requirements that shall be followed at all stages of the Halal food chain and its products including: receiving, preparation, processing, sorting, determination, packaging, labeling, marking, controlling, handling, transportation, distribution, storage and services based on the principles and provisions of Islamic Sharia/law.

c. Work already undertaken by other international organizations in this field and/or suggested by the relevant international intergovernmental body (ies)

1. OIC/SMIIC 1:2019 "General Requirements for Halal Food".
2. GSO 2055-1/2015 "Halal food - Part 1: General Requirements.
3. CXG 24/1997 "General Guidelines for Use of the Term "Halal".

d. Amenability of the commodity to standardization

Countries of the world trust Codex Commission as a main reference for Food safety and quality through its documents, there is existing Codex guidelines on the use of the term "Halal" accepted by countries since its development, this new work is an additional value ensures covering not only using the term "Halal" but the entire Halal food chain.

e. Consideration of the global magnitude of the problem or issue

Report of the 10th session of the FAO/WHO coordinating committee for the near east FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy 11-15 November 2019, para. 92-98.

5. Relevance to Codex Strategic Objectives

The new work proposal is in line with the current Codex Commission strategic objectives (2020-2025) to promote the countries to apply the maximum of Codex documents in their national systems and programs to facilitate international trade.

It contributes in advancing Goal 1: Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues, through standardizing Halal food, which will assist in the worldwide harmonization regarding the use of the term "Halal".

6. Relationship between the proposal and other existing Codex text:

- (i) General Guidelines for Use of the Term 'Halal' (CXG 24–1997).
- (ii) Other relevant Codex documents are as follows:
 - a) General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CXS 1-1985) Adopted 1985. Amended 1991, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2010, 2018.
 - b) General Guidelines on Claims (CXG 1-1979) Adopted 1979, Revised 1991, Amended 2009.
 - c) General principles of food hygiene (CXC 1-1969), last revised 2022.

- d) Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat (CXC 58-2005).
- e) Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding (CXC 54-2004), last revised 2008.

7. Requirement for and availability of expert scientific advice

Required, when needed.

8. Need for technical input to the standard from external bodies so that this can be planned for the Proposed timeline for completion of the new work

Concerned national religious authorities.

9. Proposed timeline for completion of work

Consideration by CCNE11	2023
Establishment of EWG to discuss the proposal	2023-2025
Presenting the outputs of EWG to CCNE12	2025
Submitting the proposal after the revision of the CCNE12 to the CCEXEC87 for review	2025
Raising the proposal to CAC48 to adopt at (5/8)	2025