



The Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC)

ISSUES on HALAL FOOD

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The Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) is an affiliated institution to Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations which has membership of 57 states spread over four continents. The Organization is the collective voice of the Muslim world and ensuring to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world.



What does Islamic rules mean?

It means what ALLAH legislates for Muslims which derive its rules from the Holy Qur'an, and the honourable Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him), practices (Sunnah).

What is Halal food?

Halal food is the food including drinks, which is allowed to be consumed according to Islamic rules and that comply with the requirements mentioned in OIC/SMIIC Standard.



OIC/SMIIC Standards related Halal Food

- OIC/SMIIC 1:2011, General Guidelines on Halal Food
- OIC/SMIIC 2:2011, Guidelines for Bodies Providing Halal Certification
- OIC/SMIIC 3:2011, Guidelines for the Halal Accreditation Body
Accrediting Halal Certification Bodies

The mentioned standards entered into force as of 17 May 2011.



Halal Food Standards dully have been considered and adopted by the SMIIC Technical Committee Meeting on Halal Food Issues which was held in Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon on 16-17 May 2011 by the representative of following OIC-SEG Member Countries and the OIC and its Organs.

- The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)
- COMCEC Coordination Office
- Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI)
- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
- Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT)
- The SEG (Standardization Experts Group) Secretariat



- Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- Republic of Albania
- Republic Azerbaijan
- Peoples Republic of Bangladesh
- United Arab Emirates
- The Government of Brunei Darussalam
- People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
- Republic of Indonesia
- Kingdom of Morocco
- Palestinian Government
- Republic of Gabon
- Republic of Iraq
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Republic of Cameroon
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Qatar Government
- Republic of Kyrgyzstan
- Government of Kuwait
- Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
- Republic of Uzbekistan
- Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- Republic of Senegal
- Democratic Republic of Somalia
- Republic of Sudan
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Republic of Tajikistan
- Tunisian Republic
- Republic of Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Republic of Uganda
- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- Republic of Yemen
- Lebanese Republic
- Republic of Maldives
- Malaysia
- Arab Republic of Egypt
- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Kingdom of Oman



Steps throughout Halal Food Standards Development

The idea to establish a sound mechanism for the harmonization of standards among Islamic countries can be traced back to the 1st Meeting of the Economic and Commercial Cooperation Standing Committee (COMCEC) of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in 1984.



Steps throughout Halal Food Standards Development

The Standardization Experts Group for Islamic Countries (SEG) which was established in 1985 for this purpose and its work led to the approval of the SMIIC (The Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries) Statute at the COMCEC Meeting in 1998.



Steps throughout Halal Food Standards Development

The Statute of SMIIC was first submitted to the member countries for its signature during the 15th COMCEC Meeting held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on November 04-07, 1999.



Member States of SMIIC

The Statute entered into force after fulfilling the ratification requirement of 10 OIC member states on May 2010. 13 OIC Member States (in alphabetical order) which ratified the SMIIC Statute are:

1. People's Democratic Republic of Algeria (Member of the Board of Directors),
2. Republic of Cameroon(Member of the Board of Directors),
3. Republic of Guinea(Member of the Board of Directors),
4. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (Member of the Board of Directors),
5. Libya (Member of the Board of Directors),
6. Republic of Mali,
7. Kingdom of Morocco,
8. Islamic Republic of Pakistan,
9. Republic of Somalia,
10. Republic of Sudan,
11. Republic of Tunisia (Member of the Board of Directors),
12. Republic of Turkey (Member of the Board of Directors), and
13. United Arab Emirates.

* In the 3rd BOD Meeting on 23 January 2012, the Board accepted the membership application of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Institute of Standards and Industrial Research of Iran, ISIRI) to be submitted to the 3rd General Assembly of SMIIC.



Steps throughout Halal Food Standards Development

SEG was mandated to develop Halal Food standards and procedures at the 23rd Meeting of COMCEC in 2007 and prepared three draft standards by getting general consensus through mutual work and contribution among its stakeholders namely OIC Member Countries and International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), and other interested parties like four schools of thought (hanafi, maliki, shafi and hanbali).



Steps throughout Halal Food Standards Development

After the discussions on the comments received, the formed final drafts, namely the “General Guidelines on Halal Food”, “Guidelines for Bodies Providing Halal Certification” and “Guidelines for the Halal Accreditation Body Accrediting Halal Certification Bodies” were considered and adopted as “OIC/SMIIC 1: 2011”, “OIC/SMIIC 2: 2011” and “OIC/SMIIC 3: 2011” standards respectively in May 2011 and entered into force.



Steps throughout Halal Food Standards Development

There is a need for a harmonised halal standard among OIC Member States in order to ensure trust and safety both throughout the value creation chain and for the consumers focused on the entire food chain and not merely on parts of it, such as production.



So What is Next?

The adoption of the first three SMIIC standards were already communicated to the National Standardization Bodies of all OIC countries as well as the General Secretariat of the OIC.



So What is Next?

The importance of standards to the economy must be highlighted and all OIC Member States must be encouraged to harmonize OIC/SMIIC Standards as their national standards and to implement one standard and one recognized certification mechanism which will eliminate technical barriers to trade and increase the trade by mutual recognition of certificates issued in line with OIC/SMIIC Standards to boost the economies of OIC Countries.



So What is Next?

To attract more OIC Member States to become the member of SMIIC and make it available regional and international standardization organizations to adopt OIC/SMIIC standards on Halal Food.



So What is Next?

In many of the OIC Member States, even in non-Muslim Countries, there are many different halal food standards which were already published.

Also, The European Committee for Standardization (CEN) has already set up a Working Group (CEN/BT WG 212) to analyse the feasibility of a European Standard on halal food.



So What is Next?

By the application of Accreditation Process, make it available independent evaluation of conformity assessment bodies against recognised standards to ensure their impartiality and competence.



So What is Next?

Without standards and accreditation process, technical barriers to trade would result in increased costs for importers and consumers, reduced competition and different standards of a product or service as mentioned for Halal Food.



Finally?

Consequently, without wasting time of OIC member countries, it is a top-priority to initiate and develop joint action aiming to establish, promote and expand industrial cooperation amongst themselves to boost the intra-OIC trade on the basis of sustainable economic, environmental and social development with the help of standardization which gives a crucial role to SMIIC and that is the main reason of establishment of SMIIC.



Any Questions?



Thank You for Listening ...

For More Information:

Please Do not Hesitate to Contact Us

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