

## The Status and Perspectives of Halal Accreditation of Certifying Bodies in the USA

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1

## OUTLINE

- Background
- Regulatory Environment
- Accreditation Processes
- Industry Standards
- Consumer Trust
- Challenges
- Perspectives
- Future Outlook



2

## Background of Halal Certification

- Halal dietary laws are more than 1400 years old
- 50 years ago, there was no concept of Halal certification in USA and other part of the world

1,400 year Old Quran e Kareem Written by Khalifa Hazrat Usman RA



3

## Background of Halal Certification

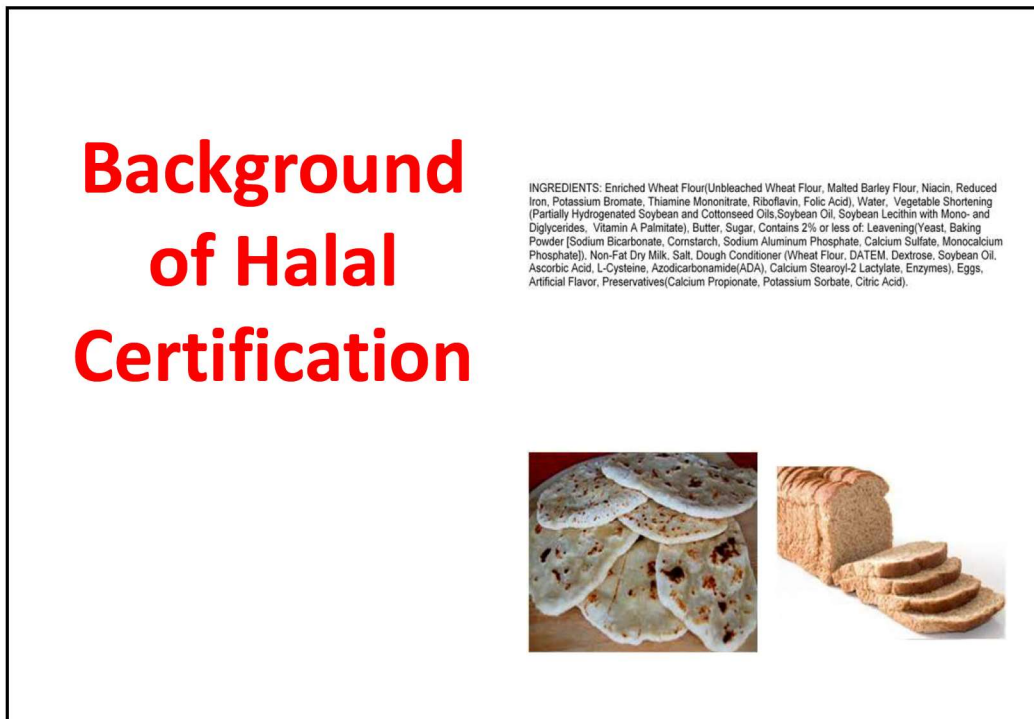
- Halal food was always prepared by Muslims and was usually sold by Muslims



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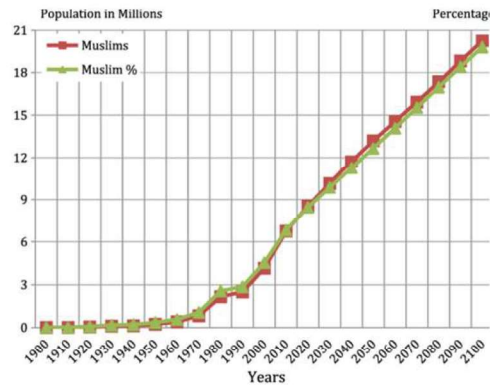


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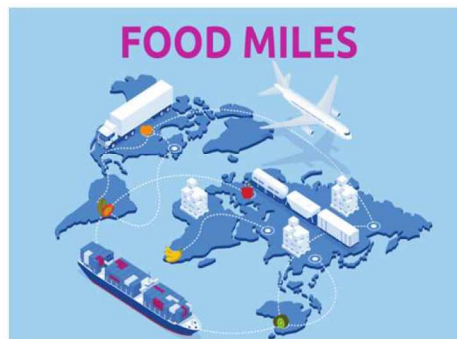


- As the Muslim population was increasing in non-Muslim majority countries, the importance of halal certification became more obvious

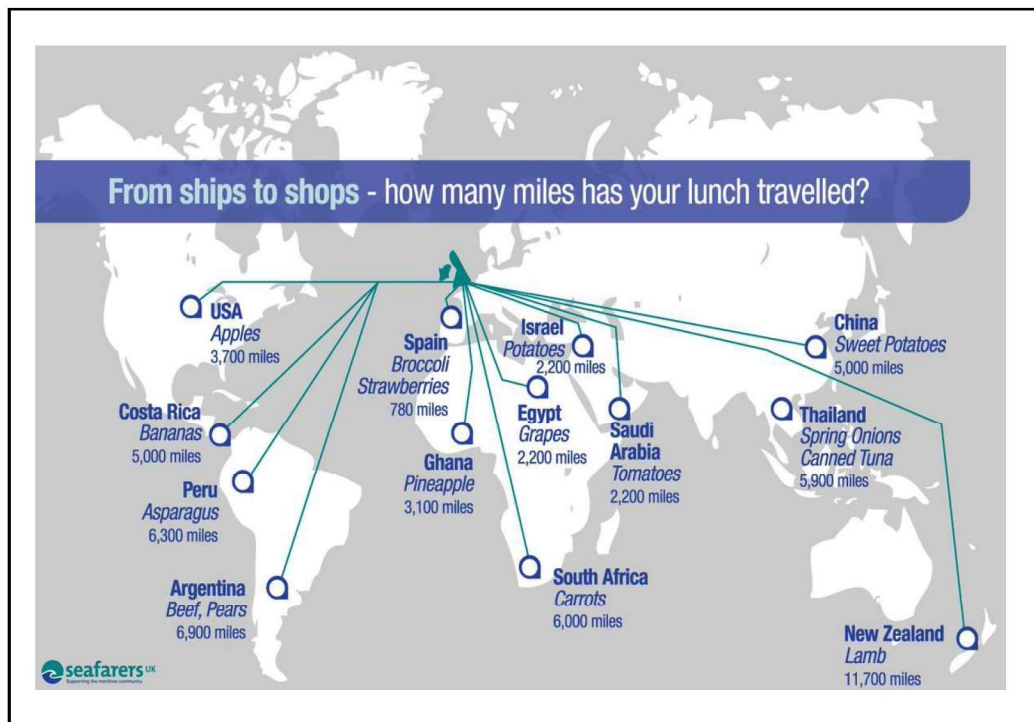
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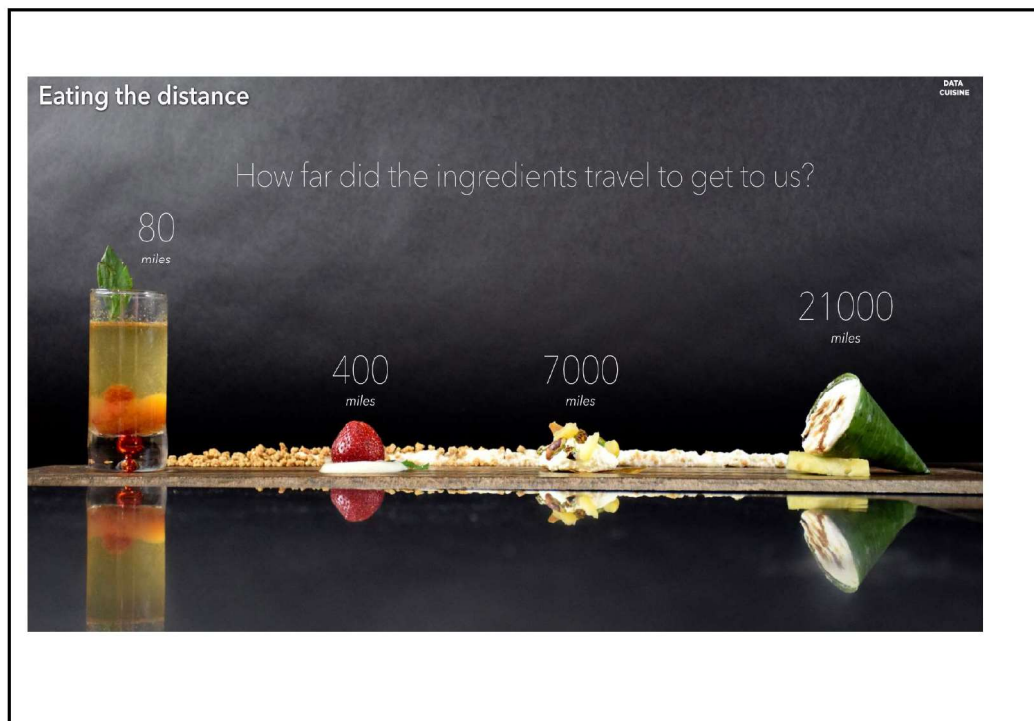
- Prior to the 20th century, Muslims prepared and consumed most of their food without relying on imports
- Since the 1970's, food has been increasingly imported from non-Muslim majority countries into Muslim-majority countries which therefore need halal certification



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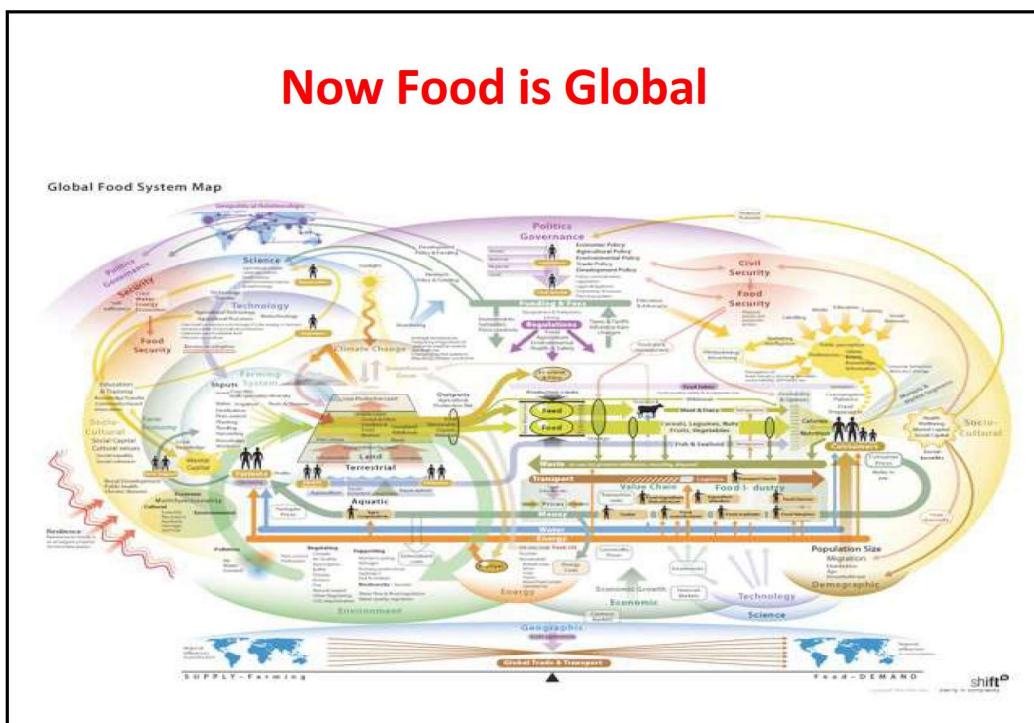
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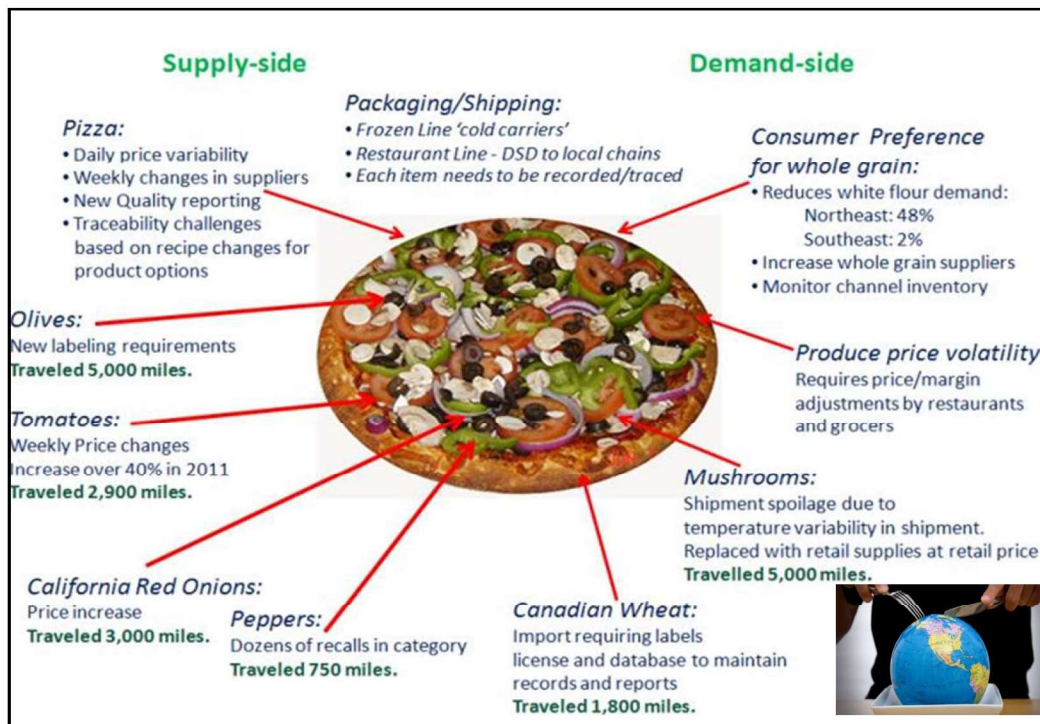
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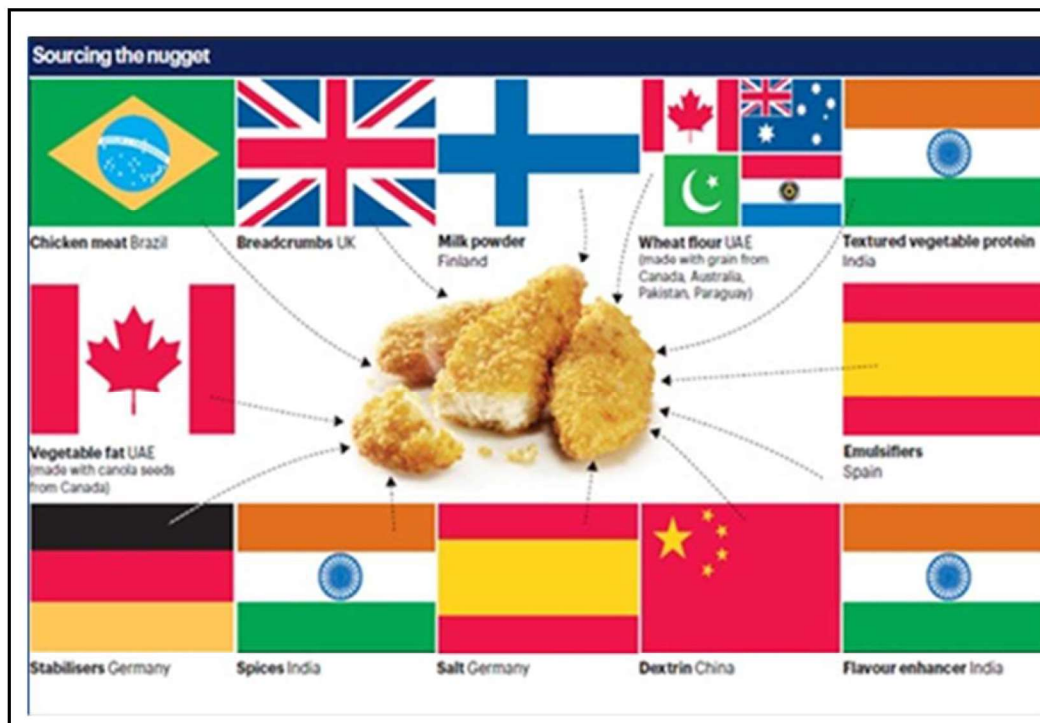
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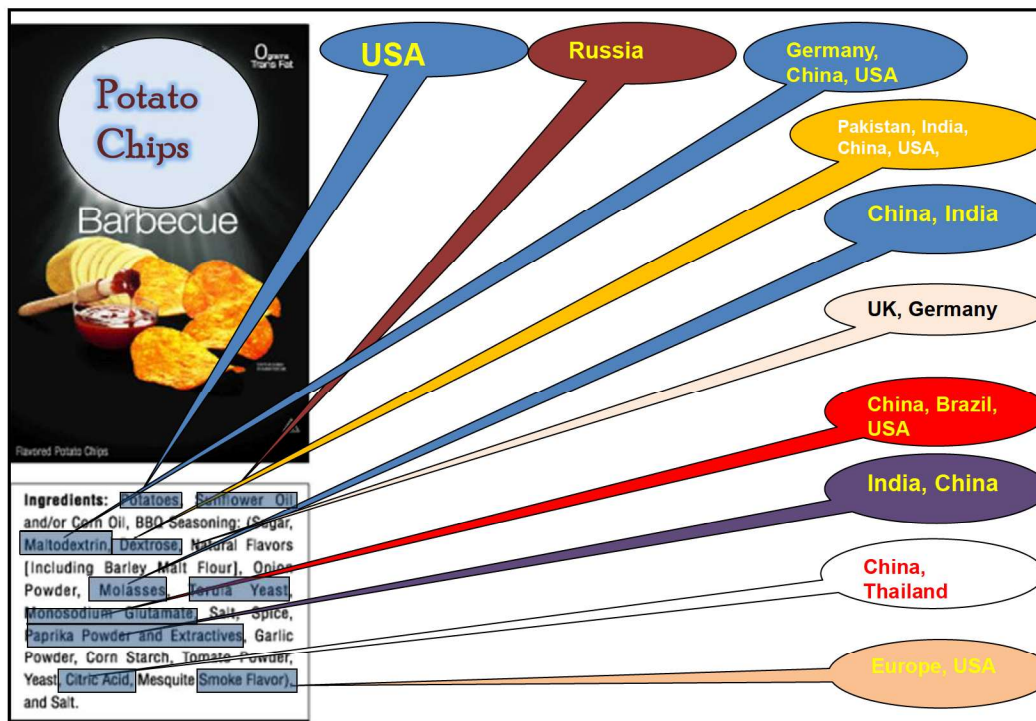
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## Simple Example.....



- Everyone likes Potato chips
- Favorite snack for children
- Consumers have no idea where all the ingredients comes from

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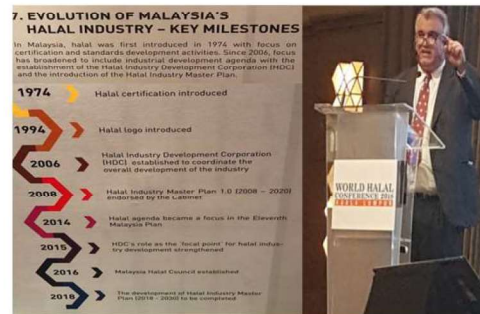
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21

## Start of the Halal Certification

- Malaysia as the pioneer in the halal industry began in 1974
- In the early 1980's, the first HCB was established to monitor and enforce halal standards in food
- Globally, there are now more than 400 HCBs, with 15 operating in the United States



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22

## Start of the Halal Certification

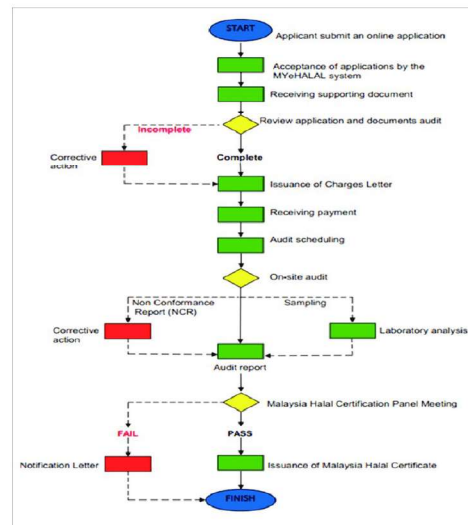
- 1982- Research Center of the Islamic Affairs Division of the Prime Ministers Office (Malaysia) started to issue halal certification letters for products that met the criteria.



23

23

## Flow Chart of Malaysia Halal Certification Process



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## Start of the Halal Certification

- 1992 Indonesia under pressure from rock throwing students to protest use of lard by restaurants, the government asked Indonesian Religious Council (MUI) to intervene



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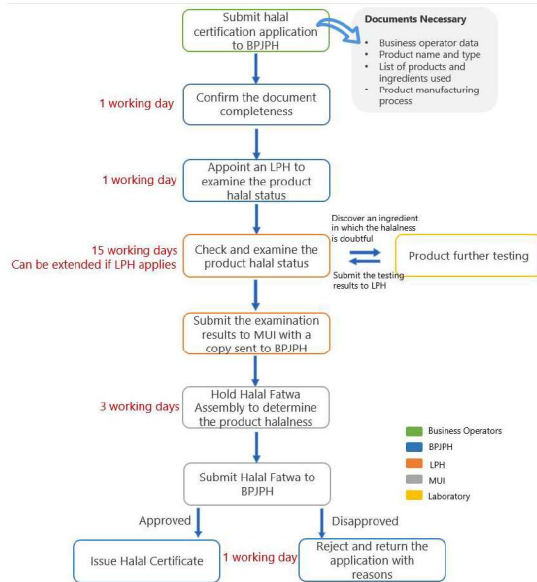
## Start of the Halal Certification



- MUI created a certification agency known as Institute for the Assessment of Foods, Drugs and Cosmetics (LP-POM)

26

## Flow Chart of Indonesia Halal Certification Process



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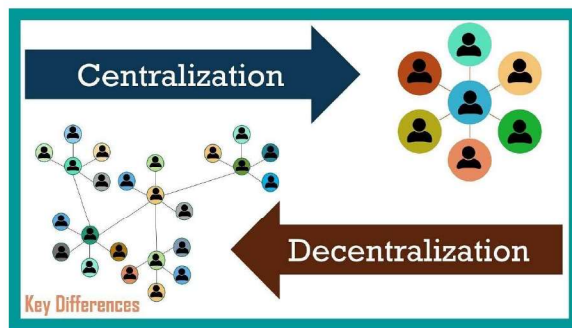
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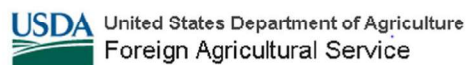
## Regulatory Environment



- USA does not have a centralized regulatory body specifically dedicated to Halal certification
- This decentralized approach allows for a variety of certifying bodies to operate, each with their own standards and procedures

29

## Halal Certifying Bodies in USA



**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** March 21, 2024

**Report Number:** ID2024-0005

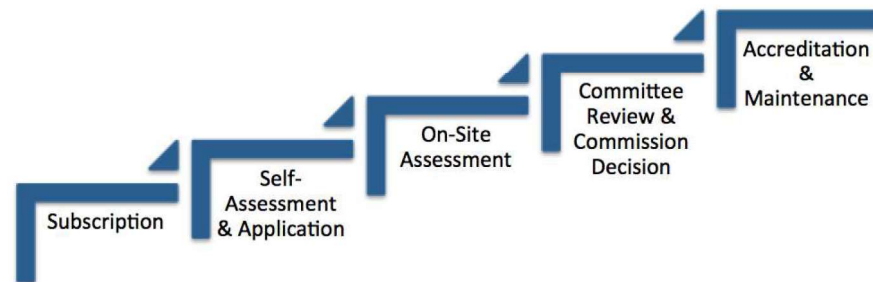
**Report Name:** Indonesia Accredits Five US Halal Certifying Bodies

**Country:** Indonesia

**Post:** Jakarta

**Report Category:** Special Certification - Organic/Kosher/Halal, FAIRS Subject Report, Livestock and Products, MISC-Commodity, Dairy and Products, Beverages

30



## Accreditation Processes for US HCBs

- There is no mandatory accreditation requirement for Halal certifying bodies in the USA
- Some HCBs voluntarily seek accreditation from internationally recognized accreditation bodies to enhance their credibility and demonstrate compliance with industry standards.
- Accreditation may involve a rigorous evaluation of the certifying body's processes, procedures, and competencies by an independent third party.

31

31

## Challenges for US HCBs

- What are Perceived Challenges in implementing halal standards by halal certifying bodies in the United States
- HCBs follow a halal standard recognized as in accordance with Islamic dietary laws
- Different halal standards, due to differences in the interpretation of Islamic dietary laws are used by various Islamic agencies



32



## Industry Standards

- Several Halal standards have been developed that have been accepted legally by more than one country
- The Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC)
- GCC Standardization Organization (GSO)
- Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM)
- Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS),
- Majelis Ulama Indonesia (MUI)
- Central Islamic Committee of Thailand (CICT)

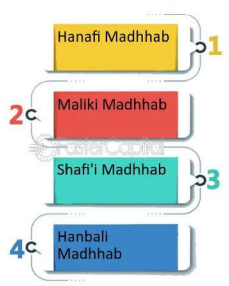
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33

## Consumer Trust

Hanafi, Maliki, Shafii, and Hanbali

- The lack of a unified halal standard due to different Islamic schools of thought has led to
  - Different interpretations and application of Islamic dietary law
  - For example, three Islamic schools of thought
    - Imam Abu Hanifah
    - Imam Malik
    - Imam Ahmed
  - All three require the invocation of the Tasmiya at the time of slaughter
  - Whereas this is not required by Imam Al-Shafi another school of thought.



34

34

## Challenges for US HCBs



Halal standards also vary among countries and sometimes within a country

Issues associated with the lack of one universal halal standard include

No global benchmark

Higher production costs because of a mix of national halal standards

Risk of using a permissible method of slaughtering by one halal standard that may not be accepted by other halal standards (e.g., mechanical slaughter and animal stunning)

Rise of complicated standards that require multiple steps

Several attempts have been made to harmonize halal standards among Islamic states

To date none of these attempts have been successful

35

## Challenges for US HCBs

- Food industry facing some very serious issues
- Food industry is confused and looking for direction to produce Halal foods



36

## Challenges for US HCBs

- Confusion is based on different Halal standards not for different countries but some time for the same country on import and export requirements

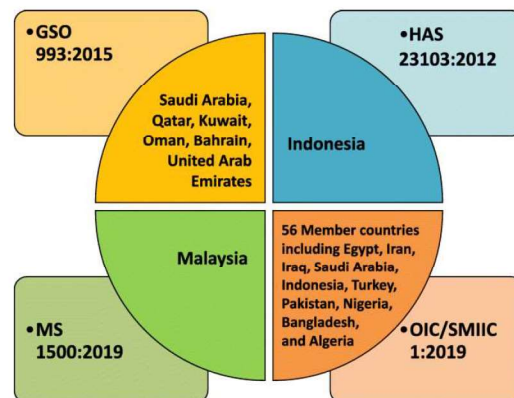


37

## US HCBs Characteristics

- We can classify US HCB as follow:

- Business model (profit/non-profit)
- Halal certification scheme
- Number of halal certificates issued each year
- Accreditation; (accredited/non-accredited by overseas bodies)
- Certification for domestic/international



38

## US HCBs Similarities

- All HCBs halal standards based upon the Holy Quran and Hadith
- All HCB uses similar approach to certification, such as
  - Conducting on-site audits (annual audits)
  - Verify all documents regarding halal raw materials
  - Inspecting the entire production process to ensure compliance with Halal standards
  - Average time required from application to approving the Halal certificate ranges from 1-2 months
  - At least one auditor with Bachelor of Science degree



39

## ARE MACHINE SLAUGHTERED CHICKENS HALAL TO EAT?

### US HCBs Differences

- Main differences between USA Halal HCB are:
- Use of different halal standards
- Some HCBs applied their own halal standards (**most stringent standard**)
- Some HCB follow, **GSO, Malaysian standard, and SMIIC Standards**
- **Examples:** Stunning before slaughter
  - Slaughterman being from people of the book (Jews and Christian)

40

## Summary of Differences

US HCBs	Characteristics
Business Model	For profit vs not for profit
Halal Certification Categories	Slaughterhouses/ Meat Processing plants/ Processed Food/ Chemicals/ Cosmetics/Nutraceuticals/ Vaccine, etc.
Number of Halal Certificates Issue/Year	Less than 100/ a few hundred and some issues more than 1,000
Accreditation Status	Non – accredited vs GAC, EIAC, JAKIM, MUIS, OIC / SMIIC, MUI
Scope of Certificate	Domestic only vs Domestic and International
Duration of Halal Certificate	1 year with annual audit vs 1-3 years with annual audit
Time to Issue the Halal Certificate	1-4 weeks/ 4-8 weeks / 4-12 weeks
Auditors Requirements	1-2 vs 2 vs 1-3 ( including religious advisor)
Auditor Competency	BS of Science/ BS or Art/ Religious knowledge/ DVM

41

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42

## Perspectives of Halal Certification in USA

- The status and perspectives of Halal accreditation of certifying bodies in the USA reflect a dynamic landscape shaped by various factors; such as
- Regulatory frameworks
- Industry standards
- Consumer preferences



43



## Future Outlook

- As the Halal market continues to grow and evolve, there may be increased emphasis on standardization and harmonization of Halal certification processes
- Accreditation requirements
- Greater collaboration among industry stakeholders
- Certifying bodies
- Accreditation bodies
- Regulatory agencies
- This may help address some of the challenges and drive further growth in the Halal market.

44

# SUMMARY



**While Halal accreditation of certifying bodies in the USA is not mandatory**



**It plays an important role in enhancing credibility and consumer trust in Halal-certified products**



**Continued efforts to improve accreditation processes, promote standardization, and address challenges will be crucial for the continued development of the Halal industry in the USA.**