



# Halal Quality Control

Halal Certification Scheme | HQC.S:2023



**Applicable Transition Period for Full Implementation; Effective Date to be determined.**

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**This document is continuously evolving; monitoring the version number and the revision history is advised.**

## Revision History

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30-Aug-2022	1	Fee Policy Work Instruction added to Paragraph 5. Halal Assurance Program Scheme reference added to Paragraph 2.
15-Dec-2022	2	Paragraph 4.5 point d) amended; extra requirements for reporting and reviewing added.  Paragraph 9 amended; updated company name, logos, and training program names described.  Paragraph 10 amended; point 10.9 added
May 2023	3	HQC Certification Scheme Issue 2 created.
Dec 2023	3	Minor changes and updates were added; Issue 2.1 was created.
April 2024	4	Section 10.1 updated with improved tables and a direct link; Section 10.7 added
May 2024	5	Issue 2.2 created. Section 2.1 updated; Indonesian Reference Standards amended. Sections 2.8 and 10.8 added Hyperlinks in the Table of Contents created.

## Copyright

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# 1. Introduction

The Halal Quality Control Group provides comprehensive guidelines to navigate its existing or upcoming clients through the certification process, effectively outlining the procedure to minimize complexity while reducing audit duplication and costs.

The Halal Quality Control Certification Scheme articulates the essential prerequisites for acquiring certification of Halal compliant products, services, and practices. It underscores the establishment of a secure and sustainable system premised on the effective implementation of this scheme.

This Scheme is linked to HQC Procedure No. 4 (P04) and is a part of the Five Schemes of HQC.

The benchmarking process of this scheme meticulously compares international [Halal] standards or guidelines pertinent to Halal certification.

This includes an analysis of general protocols, regulations, critical control points, and compliance criteria.

As a prominent Halal certification body based in Europe, with its headquarters in the Netherlands and over 13 branch offices across Europe and the Middle East, the Halal Quality Control Group is an essential player in the global Halal certification landscape. With Halal certified products serving as a crucial requirement for millions of consumers and governments worldwide, our certification is a fundamental facilitator of global trade.

Given the absence of a unified global umbrella for Halal standards, various regional-specific Halal product or certification standards are adhered to, depending on the export target region of our clients.

The foundational basis for Halal suitability stems from the Holy Quran, the sacred scripture of Islam.

However, due to varying interpretations in Islamic jurisprudence and methodologies, there exist multiple opinions on Halal rulings.

This results in an array of diverse standards and regulations across the globe.

The HQC Halal Certification Scheme is designed to cover a wide range of products, ensuring that they meet the strict requirements for Halal compliance. While the scheme is broadly applicable, certain product categories require specific considerations and certifications (please see Section 2.8).



## 2. General Information

This document describes the rules and guidelines for companies seeking a Halal certification to be obtained by the Halal Quality Control Group based on its sufficient conformity with the Halal Quality Control Scheme.

### 2.1.1 Reference (Halal) Standards

Reference: HQC Work Instruction 0456

#### Organisation of Islamic Countries [OIC – 57 Nations]

OIC/SMIIC 1: 2019: General Requirements for Halal Foods

OIC/SMIIC 24: 2020: General Requirements for Food Additives

OIC/SMIIC 4: 2018: General Requirements for Halal Cosmetics

OIC/SMIIC 50-1:2022 Halal Pharmaceuticals - Part 1 - General Requirements

OIC/SMIIC 23:2022 Feeding Stuffs for Halal Animals – General Requirements

OIC/SMIIC 17-1:2020: Halal Supply Chain Management Systems Part 1: Transportation

OIC/SMIIC 17-2:2020: Halal Supply Chain Management Systems Part 2: Warehousing

#### United Arab Emirates [UAE] and the Middle East

UAE.S 2055-1: 2015: General Requirements for Halal Foods

UAE.S 2055-4: 2014: General Requirements for Cosmetics and Personal Care

UAE.S 993:2022: Animal Slaughtering Requirements According to Islamic Rules

#### Gulf Region and the Middle East

GSO 2055-1:2015: General Requirements for Halal Foods

GSO 993:2015 Animal Slaughtering Requirements According to Islamic Rules

#### Malaysia

MS 1500:2019: General Requirements for Halal Foods

MS 2400:2010: Management Systems for Warehousing

MS 2400-1:2010: Management Systems for Transportation and Logistics

MS2424: General Guidelines for Pharmaceuticals

MS 2565: General Guidelines for Packaging Materials

MS 2634:2019: General Requirements for Halal Cosmetics

#### Indonesia [SJPH]

BPJPH Decree Nr. 20 of 2023: Halal Product Assurance System (HPAS) Requirements

BPJPH Decree Nr.77 of 2023: Halal Slaughtering Requirements for Ruminants and Poultry



## **2.1.2 Relevant Halal Quality Control Schemes**

- a) We refer to the Appendices Section (10.1) for more details.
- b) We refer to document 0402, which may be downloaded here: <https://shorturl.at/aoGT1>

## **2.2 Normative References**

The following referenced documents are in support for the application of this scheme and during the Halal certification process. Please note that the latest version of the referenced documents applies.

### **International Standardization Organisation:**

ISO/IEC 17000: Vocabulary and general principles

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

ISO/IEC 19011: Guidelines for auditing management systems

ISO/IEC 17021: Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems

### **Halal Certification Bodies Authorities and Regulators:**

OIC/SMIIC 2:2019: Requirements for Bodies providing Halal Certification

UAE.S 2055-2:2016: General Requirements for Halal Certification Bodies

GSO 2055-2:2021: General Requirements for Halal Certification Bodies

BPIPH Decree Number 78 of 2023: Halal Food and Beverage Certification Guidelines

**Note: all official stores of the Halal Standards issuers, if any, are referred in the Appendices.**

## 2.3 Definitions

Under the purview of this scheme, we draw upon the standards and guidelines cited in clauses 2.1 and 2.2 as well as the Halal Assurance Program Scheme for a comprehensive understanding of the definitions used. This scheme provides a concise summary of critical definitions for ease of comprehension.

### Halal

Permissible/allowed in accordance with the Islamic Law.

### Haram

Forbidden in accordance with the Islamic Law.

### General Haram Terms

- i. **Pork and its by-products:** All parts of the pig, including pork meat, ham, bacon, lard, and certain types of gelatin, among others, are haram.
- ii. **Alcohol and intoxicants:** All types of alcoholic beverages, including beer, wine, whiskey, vodka, and any foods or drinks containing alcohol, are haram. Drugs that are used for recreational purposes and cause harm are also haram.
- iii. **Carnivorous animals and birds of prey:** Animals with fangs, such as lions, dogs, wolves, and cats, and birds with sharp claws, such as eagles and hawks, are considered haram.
- iv. **Dead animals and blood:** Animals that have not been slaughtered according to Islamic law, have died of natural causes, or were killed by other animals are haram. Blood is also considered haram.
- v. **Animals slaughtered in the name of anything other than God:** If an animal is slaughtered in the name of anything or anyone other than God (Allah SWT), it is considered haram.

### Risks

This term refers to anything that might jeopardize the halal status of a product or service. It includes harmful products, services, machines, suppliers, processes, or activities that could cause a halal product or service to be considered haram or non-halal. This could be due to contamination or any other factor that makes the product or service unacceptable according to Halal standards.

### Halal Training

This is an educational program provided by the Halal Business School. The sessions are designed to educate a company on how to set up the Halal Assurance System (HAP). The goal is to ensure that the company understands and can effectively implement the standards and controls needed to maintain Halal status for its products or services.



## General Impurities, also known as Najis

- i. **Pork and its by-products:** This includes all parts of the pig, as well as any food products made from pig-derived ingredients (like certain types of gelatin or lard).
- ii. **Dead animals:** Animals that have died without being properly slaughtered according to Islamic law (Dhabihah) are considered impure. This also includes animals that died of natural causes or were killed by other animals.
- iii. **Blood:** Consuming blood is considered impure. This includes any food products that contain blood.
- iv. **Carnivorous animals and birds of prey:** Animals that have fangs and birds that have talons are generally considered impure and are not to be eaten.
- v. **Alcohol and intoxicants:** Any substance that causes intoxication is considered impure, and this includes alcohol. Even foods that contain small amounts of alcohol (such as certain flavor extracts) can be considered impure. [Please refer to Work Instruction W0415].
- vi. **Animals not sacrificed in the name of God:** Animals must be slaughtered while invoking the name of God (Allah SWT). If the name of anything or anyone other than God is invoked at the time of slaughter, the animal is considered impure, but not deemed as Haram when meats other than pork are present within the production facility.
- vii. **Idolatry:** Anything that is directly associated with idolatry is considered impure.

## Halal Control Points

These are checkpoints where additional control can be applied to ensure halal compliance. This might involve checking the ingredients used, the cleanliness of the equipment, the method of production, and so on.

## Halal Critical Control Points

These are steps in the production or handling process where visual control is essential to prevent or eliminate any risk that could compromise the halal status of the product or service. This might involve inspecting the product or the process to ensure there's no contamination or other issues that could make the product haram.

## Equipment and Utensils

This term refers to all the tools and items used in the manufacturing process that come into contact with the end product or any of its raw materials. This includes machinery, production lines, clothing, pipelines, crates, and so on. These items must be properly cleaned and maintained to avoid any contamination that might compromise the halal status of the product.

### **Product / Service**

- i. An item composed of multiple or singular ingredients.
- ii. A manufacturing process or a central kitchen.
- iii. A slaughtering plant.
- iv. Logistics and storage facilities.
- v. Trading and labeling activities

### **Private Label**

This refers to products that are manufactured by a third party (also known as a toll manufacturer), but are owned or copyrighted by a company that does not have its own manufacturing site. The company that owns the brand and copyright sells the product under its own label.

### **Halal Certificates [multiple definitions could apply]**

- i. A certificate of conformity issued by a competent and accredited third party.
- ii. A statement of conformity.
- iii. Licensing the rights to make use of the Halal mark/logo.
- iv. A certificate of conformity for a single batch of products.

### **Third-Party Halal Certificates**

These are Halal certificates that are issued by organizations other than the Halal Quality Control Group. These certificates serve as proof that a product or service meets the necessary Halal standards, as determined by the issuing organization.

### **Halal Certification Bodies**

These are entities that have been accredited or recognized with the authority to issue Halal certificates to manufacturing sites. They assess whether a product or service complies with Halal standards and, if it does, provide a certificate to attest to its halal status.

### **Halal Accreditation Bodies**

These are the authorities that have the power to accredit Halal Certification Bodies. In other words, they are the entities that verify and endorse the legitimacy and competence of Halal Certification Bodies, ensuring that these bodies are capable of reliably determining whether a product or service is Halal.

### **Halal Mark or Logo**

This is an approved mark or logo from the Halal Quality Control Group (or other recognized entity) that is granted to a product, service, or system that has been successfully certified as halal. The presence of this mark or logo on a product's packaging indicates to consumers that the product is halal.

### **Fatwa**

A legal ruling on a point of the Islamic Law provided by a qualified Islamic jurist.

## 2.4 Certification Category Index

Please view the PDF file through this link:

<https://shorturl.at/gpu15>



## 2.5 Risk Classes [Reference: HQC Risk Classification Table Version 2.1]

Complexity Class	Description of Examples
<p><b>Critical</b></p>	<p><b>Animal Derivatives:</b>                      Examples include Meats, Gelatine, Collagen, Tallow, Rennet, Fats, Enzymes, Glycerine, Stock, Powders, Keratin, Vitamins, and other components derived from Skin, Horns, and Hair, among others falling under the 'Animal Derived' category.</p> <p><b>Insect Derivatives:</b>                      These include Shellac, Carmine, Protein Bars, Flour, Pasta, Drinks, Spreads, and Candies that are insect-based, as well as other products falling under the 'Insect Derived' classification.</p> <p><b>Alcohol-Based Products for Consumption:</b>                      Such products could be Flavours, Aromas, Fermented Foods, Vinegars, Kombucha, Non-Alcoholic Beers, Spirits, Wines, Kimchi, Soy Sauce, certain types of Baked Goods, Desserts, Pastas, Sauces, and Beverages, along with other items classified under 'Alcohol-Based Products'. <b>Please refer to Work Instruction W0415: Permissible Ethanol Limitations for further details on limits per types of products.</b></p> <p><b>Others:</b>                      This includes any material, supplement, medicine, or product containing any Critical component, thus defaulting to the Critical classification. It also comprises Products containing Blood, Genetically Modified Organisms, Bio cultures, and Plasma.</p>
<p><b>High Risk</b></p>	<p><b>Dairy Products:</b>                      This category encompasses Cheeses, Flavoured Yoghurts, Dairy-Based Desserts, Flavoured UHT Milks, and Flavoured Whey Products.</p> <p><b>[Dietary] Supplements:</b>                      This covers all types of Supplements that contain any Critical component.</p> <p><b>Baking and Confectioneries:</b>                      This segment includes Candies, Chocolate-Based Snacks and Bars, Biscuits, Premixes for Cakes and Puddings, and Fondants.</p> <p><b>Others:</b>                      This broad category includes Sauces and Condiments, Edible Oils, Beverages, Processed Fish-Based Products, Soups, Ready-Meals, Vinegars, Vegetarian and Vegan Products, Dried Spices, Cosmetics, Pharmaceuticals, Processing Aids, and Food Additives.</p>
<p><b>Low to Medium Risk</b></p>	<p>This category encompasses dairy products, fresh fish and egg-based items, bee-derived products, fresh spices, fresh and preserved fruits and vegetables, natural oils, plant and flower-based items, mineral water, mineral-based products, and grain and pulse commodities.</p>

Complexity Class	Examples of Risks
<p><b>Critical</b></p>	<p><b>Animal Derivatives:</b>                      Utilization of animal-based ingredients like gelatin, tallow, or rennet, which may not be Halal-compliant, especially if derived from non-Halal slaughtered animals or from forbidden species like pigs.                      Use of animal fats in cooking or frying processes, which may come from non-Halal slaughtered animals, risking cross-contamination with Halal products.</p> <p><b>Insect Derivatives:</b>                      Use of ingredients such as carmine or shellac, which are derived from insects and might not align with Halal practices, especially if the insect is considered Haram or if the extraction method compromises Islamic ethical guidelines.                      Products containing honey or propolis that may be processed or blended with non-Halal ingredients, thus compromising their Halal integrity.</p> <p><b>Alcohol-Based Products for Consumption:</b>                      Incorporation of alcohol in flavors, fermented foods, or vinegars, which can render the product non-Halal, as any presence of alcohol is generally not permissible in Halal products.                      Products like cakes or confectioneries infused with alcoholic beverages, which are strictly prohibited in Halal-certified products.</p> <p><b>Others:</b>                      The inclusion of blood, genetically modified organisms that contravene Halal principles, biocultures, or plasma, which could potentially conflict with Halal compliance due to their nature or source of origin.                      Use of enzymes or biocultures from genetically modified microorganisms that have been manipulated using non-Halal components, creating ethical concerns under Halal standards.</p>
<p><b>High Risk</b></p>	<p><b>Dairy Products:</b>                      Cheese and flavored dairy products might use enzymes derived from animal sources or non-Halal starter cultures, thus compromising their Halal status.                      Dairy-based drinks or yogurts that may incorporate flavorings or colorings derived from alcohol or animal-based sources.</p> <p><b>[Dietary] Supplements:</b>                      Nutritional powders or drinks that may include ingredients like amino acids or fatty acids derived from non-Halal sources.                      Supplements containing critical components like gelatin capsules derived from non-Halal sources or vitamins extracted using alcohol-based solvents.</p> <p><b>Baking and Confectioneries:</b>                      Candies and baked goods might contain emulsifiers, glazing agents, or flavorings derived from animal sources (like pork-based gelatin) or alcohol-based extracts.                      Use of confectionery glazes or waxes on candies and sweets that are derived from non-Halal animal sources, like certain types of beeswax or carnauba wax.</p>

## 2.6 Types of Halal Certificates

- a) There are three certification documents issued depending on the extent of conformance with the Halal Quality Control Scheme:

Type	Certificate Type	Description
1	<b>Factory Halal Certificate</b> (also known as Annual)	<p>A certificate awarded by Halal Quality Control to the customer and its optional manufacturing site(s). This certificate must include an appendix mentioning all approved products or processes and describe their details. These types of certificates are usually valid for 1 up to 3 years.</p> <p>A minimum of 1 reference standard is to be mentioned onto the certificate.</p> <p>A valid signature by the CEO or the Chief Managing Director, a QR code linking to <a href="http://www.halaloffice.com">www.halaloffice.com</a> or <a href="http://www.halalqualitycontrol.com">www.halalqualitycontrol.com</a>, and a unique reference number (cert. no) shall always be mentioned on each issued Factory Certificate.</p> <p>For customers working in the Critical sector (see Risk Classes in 2.5), certain terms and conditions may apply.</p> <p>For Slaughtering Plants and Meat Processors, this type of Certificate may only be issued when only Halal products are being produced.</p>
2	<b>Halal Shipment Certificate</b> (also known as Batch)	<p>This document, issued by Halal Quality Control, is specific to a shipment from an approved manufacturer or facility. It's typically used by slaughtering plants exporting fresh or frozen [Certificate Type HA] meat but can be used by any type of company as well other than slaughtering plants [Certificate Type HB].</p> <p>Key details include the producer, importer, exporter, health certificate number [if applicable], product quantities [in kilograms or liters], production and expiry dates, product description, a valid signature by the CEO or the Chief Managing Director, a QR code linking to <a href="http://www.halaloffice.com">www.halaloffice.com</a> or <a href="http://www.halalqualitycontrol.com">www.halalqualitycontrol.com</a>, and a unique reference number.</p>
3	<b>Halal Suitability Declarations or Halal Statements</b>	<p>This document, issued by Halal Quality Control, asserts that a process, product, or facility is Halal-compliant or has successfully completed its assessments.</p> <p>It should specify the name and address of the facility, including its manufacturing sites if any, date of issue and expiry, a signature by an approved signatory, a valid QR code, and a reference number.</p>



## 2.7 Transition Period for Full Implementation

- a) Upon the publication or dissemination of this Scheme [Edition 2.1], a one-year transitional period has been designated for its complete implementation and operation [estimated in December 2024 for full enforcement].

## 2.8 Applicable Types of Products and Scopes

- a) The HQC Halal Certification Scheme is designed to cover a wide range of products, ensuring that they meet the strict requirements for Halal compliance. While the scheme broadly applies, certain product categories require specific considerations and certifications.
- b) The detailed breakdown of the types of products and scopes covered under the HQC Halal Certification Scheme are based on the HQC Risk Classification Table (see Section 2.5).
- c) Certain products such as fresh meats and animal extraction products could require a Halal Shipment Certificate due to their nature and external requirements by governmental authorities.
- d) For scopes other than Product Manufacturing, we refer to the other HQC Schemes (see Section 2.1 for an overview of HQC Schemes).





### 3 Scope

- a) This scheme provides companies with an understanding of the fundamental prerequisites and steps necessary to secure Halal Certification. For additional specifics, refer to the pertinent HQC Schemes, including the Halal Assurance Program Scheme. This scheme is focused on outlining the process of certification and the elementary requirements involved.

### 4 Certification Process

- a) The subsequent stages outline the procedure that Halal Quality Control has designed to ascertain an applicant's conformity with the set criteria. It's equally crucial to evaluate the applicant's documents and processes against specific control points to meet these compliance criteria.
- b) This process consists of the following 8 steps:



## 4.1 Application Process

- a) The purpose of the application form is to ascertain that the applicant supplies all requisite details and relevant documents to Halal Quality Control, allowing progression to subsequent stages of the process.
- b) An application form can be directly downloaded here:  
[www.halalqualitycontrol.com/apply-now/](http://www.halalqualitycontrol.com/apply-now/) [click on Download Application Form]
- c) The application form can be transmitted via email to the assigned contact person or directly submitted to [info@halaloffice.com](mailto:info@halaloffice.com) or [info@halalqualitycontrol.com](mailto:info@halalqualitycontrol.com) if the contact person is unknown.
- d) For the application review, Halal Quality Control assigns a qualified assessor to assess the form in accordance with the relevant standard. The review may result in the application being accepted, put on hold, or dismissed. Should the application be put on hold or dismissed, the applicant is required to provide timely clarifications or suggest changes to any technical or formal discrepancies. The application's status will remain unchanged until the reviewer confirms resolution of the discrepancies. If the application is accepted after review, the applicant will be notified and can proceed to the subsequent steps.
- e) Simultaneously, the applicant is required to create an account on the HQC E-Portal by visiting [hqc.halaloffice.com](http://hqc.halaloffice.com) or [www.halalqualitycontrol.com/apply-now/](http://www.halalqualitycontrol.com/apply-now/)

## 4.2 Contractual Arrangements

- a) The applicant will be provided with a financial proposal. This proposal takes into consideration details from the application form, including the size and nature of the operations, risk factors, and the anticipated time required for assessments.
- b) The applicant is furnished with a service and confidentiality agreement. This agreement, provided as an external link within the financial offer, defines the terms, conditions, and mutual rights of both the applicant and the certification body.
- c) The financial proposal and the contract are integrated onto one document and are referenced as Form 0417.

### 4.3 [Pre] Assessments

- a) Documentation review is a vital stage in the certification process. During this stage, Halal Quality Control verifies the existence and completeness of essential documentation that supports the adherence to Halal standards and the scheme requirements.
- b) The aim of the documentation review is to ascertain the readiness of the applicant for the next stage of the certification process: the assessment. This involves a thorough inspection of the documentation, highlighting any areas of non-compliance or areas requiring clarification.
- c) The mandatory documents include, but are not limited to:
  - i. Filled out application forms.
  - ii. Signed contracts.
  - iii. Listings of products, suppliers, and ingredients, as detailed in document F0438 or indicate them within a matrix.
  - iv. All associated documentation concerning products, suppliers, and ingredients as specified in HQC Work Instruction W0438.
  - v. Additional documents required for entities classified as Critical according to the HQC Risk Classification Table [Version 2.1] could apply.
  - vi. Certifications demonstrating adherence to Food Safety Management Systems, Good Manufacturing Practices, or other relevant external certifications.
- d) If necessary, an applicant might undergo an on-site or remote pre-assessment. This preliminary check ensures there are no immediate hazards or risks before proceeding further in the process.
- e) The assessment process is broken down into two stages, each with their distinct objectives:

**Stage 1:** This initial stage aims to scrutinize the documented information of the management system, evaluate site-specific conditions, and provide an opportunity to interact with the personnel in preparation for Stage 2. Depending on the certification category and risk factor, Stage 1 may be conducted remotely or on-site during production hours.

**Stage 2:** This stage is designed to evaluate the implementation of the Halal system, and it always takes place on-site during production hours. The goal is to gather pertinent information related to the audit objectives, scope, and criteria through an appropriate sampling process and verification steps. This information will serve as audit evidence. Gathering information may include techniques such as interviews, observations of processes, or review of on-site records and documentation. The audit program is based on the requirements set out in the Halal Assurance Program Scheme.
- f) An audit plan is to be composed for each assessment. This document is referred to as F0401.
- g) Halal Training requirements may be applicable; please refer to the Training Requirements in Section 8 or Section 4.1.4 in the Halal Assurance Program Scheme.

#### 4.4 Corrective Actions

- a) Upon completion of the assessments, any identified non-compliances will be addressed following these general principles:
  - i. Identification of Non-compliances: The assessment process will highlight any deviations from the set requirements, schemes, or applicable Halal standards. These will be properly listed in a document referred to as F0436.
  - ii. Corrective Action Proposal: It is incumbent upon the assessed company to propose suitable corrective actions to rectify each identified non-compliance [if any]. This proposal should comprehensively cover the measures to be taken, individuals responsible for the implementation, and a timeline for completion. These will be properly listed in a document referred to as F0436.
  - iii. Review of Proposed Corrective Actions: The assessors of Halal Quality Control will scrutinize the proposed corrective actions, ensuring they are apt and likely to resolve the identified non-compliances.
  - iv. Execution of Corrective Actions: Following the approval of the corrective actions, the organization should promptly implement these within the agreed timeline [if any].
- b) The collective audit team will evaluate the discovered findings against the set audit objectives and established criteria. These conclusions and any consequent actions required will be mutually agreed upon by both the audit team and the company.
- c) During the reporting phase, audit outcomes may fall into one of three categories: Observations, Minor Nonconformities, or Major Nonconformities.
  - i. **Observations** indicate areas where there is potential for improvement. These do not impact the certification status.
  - ii. **Minor Nonconformities** are instances where action is required to resolve minor issues in a timely manner.
  - iii. **Major Nonconformities** are serious issues requiring prompt action and can influence the certification status, often leading to a hold on the audit until the applicant or customer has implemented the necessary corrective actions.

## 4.5 Reporting

- a) Based on the assessment outcome, the audit team may suggest alterations for subsequent audits. These changes may encompass adjustments to the scope, improvements to the Halal manual, modifications in audit schedules, or the assignment of different auditors for future evaluations.
- b) The audit team is responsible for generating a written report for the conducted assessment, which is then shared with the respective applicant or customer. However, the intellectual property rights for the audit report reside with Halal Quality Control's audit team.
- c) In addition to the above, all documentation and implementations are to be reviewed prior to the certification decision.

## 4.6 Certification Decisions

- a) The objective of decision-making is to establish if a Halal certification is either:  
  
Granted, maintained, renewed, extended, reduced, suspended, or withdrawn.  
  
More explanation on Certification Decision Outcomes can be found here:  
<https://shorturl.at/uLQkT>
- b) After successfully completing the assessment and obtaining positive decision-making results, the applicant or customer is awarded a certificate of conformity, which is either a Factory or Shipment Certificate [see Section 2.6].
- a) The certificate holder may use **the HQC Halal Mark [logo]** on its certified products to proof its compliance with Halal-related activities; all certified products are mentioned in the appendix of the Factory Halal Certificate or within the appendix of the Shipment Halal Certificate; the Halal Mark is property of Halal Quality Control and may be requested by the applicant or the customer after being granted a certificate.
- c) Special conditions may apply for Halal Shipment Certificates.
- d) Factory Halal Certificates may have a validity for one, two, or three years.
- e) Halal Shipment Certificates are only valid for a specific shipment as specified within the certificate [see examples in Appendices]

#### 4.7 Surveillance

- a) These are onsite audits carried out, usually once a year or as determined by the risk classification. The purpose is to verify ongoing compliance.
- b) The same steps as described in section 4.3 are to be carried out where applicable.
- c) Surveillance may be carried out unannounced for applicable sectors and when agreed upon during the Contractual Arrangements.
- d) Surveillance is mainly applicable when having a certification cycle which is longer than 1 year.

#### 4.8 Recertification

- a) Re-certification involves a formal reassessment process to confirm that a certified company continues to meet the certification standard's requirements once the validity period of the current certification is nearing its end.
- b) The same steps as described in sections 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, and 4.6 are to be carried out where applicable.



## 4 HQC Fee Policy

- a) Reference: HQC Work Instruction 0464
- b) The HQC Fee Policy can be downloaded through [www.halalqualitycontrol.com/useful-documents/](http://www.halalqualitycontrol.com/useful-documents/)

## 5 Complaints and Appeals

- a) Reference: HQC Procedure 9 [may be requested through e-mail]
- b) Complaints may be submitted through [www.halalqualitycontrol.com/complaints/](http://www.halalqualitycontrol.com/complaints/)

## 6 Acceptance Criteria for Third-Party Halal Certification Bodies

- a) Reference: HQC Work Instruction 0405: Halal Quality Control List of Approved Organization [latest versions apply].
- b) The Halal Quality Control List of Approved Organization can be downloaded through [www.halalqualitycontrol.com/useful-documents/](http://www.halalqualitycontrol.com/useful-documents/)



## 7 Training Requirements

- a) The company is obligated to undergo Halal training with at least 2 attendants to understand the aspects of the Halal certification requirements.
- b) Training is obligatory only to sectors engaged in Critical activities that align with the HQC Risk Classification Table [see Section 2.5].
- c) Sectors identified as Critical, but not identified as an Animal Slaughtering Plants, are to receive a training session once every three years, whereas Slaughtering Plants are to receive a Halal training session every year.
- d) Following the successful completion of the training session, participants who have satisfactorily completed the course will be issued a Halal training certificate, valid for three years or one year depending upon its sector and will be recognized as authorized members of the Halal Management Team and deemed as designated contact persons of HQC.
- e) Training sessions ought to be conducted by a competent party capable of conducting these sessions; presently, the Halal Business Academy holds the authority to deliver training in accordance with this Scheme. More information can be found on [www.halalbusiness.academy](http://www.halalbusiness.academy)



## 8 Handling of Confidential Information Procedure during Audit

- a) Reference: HQC Work Instruction W0476 - Handling and Distribution of Confidential Information
- b) The Handling and Distribution of Confidential Information can be downloaded through [www.halalqualitycontrol.com/useful-documents/](http://www.halalqualitycontrol.com/useful-documents/)

## 9 Appendices

### 10.1 Useful Halal Quality Control Work Instructions and Forms

- a) We refer to document 0402, which may be downloaded here: <https://shorturl.at/aoGT1>
- b) To provide a clear overview of applicable documents, HQC refers to Form 0402. The contents of this form are displayed on the next page.

**Table 1: Halal Quality Control Schemes**

Procedure	Name	Standard	Description
P04-3	HQC Halal Assurance Program Scheme	HQC.S1:2023	General requirements for setting up a Halal Manual for Manufacturing Sites
P04-4	HQC Halal Certification Scheme	HQC.S:2023	General Halal certification procedures for any applicant
P04-5	HQC Halal Supervision Scheme	HQC.S4:2023	Supervision requirements for Slaughtering Plants
P04-6	HQC Animal Slaughtering and Awareness Scheme	HQC.S2:2023	General requirements for Slaughtering Plants
P04-7	HQC Halal Service Provider Scheme	HQC.S3:2023	General requirements for Service Providers
P04-8	HQC Beauty and Personal Care Products Scheme	HQC.S5:2023	General requirements for setting up a Halal Manual for the Cosmetics industry

**Table 2: Halal Quality Control Work Instructions (Guidelines)**

Document	Document Name	Document Description
W0403	HQC E-Portal Registration and Guideline	This document outlines registering on the HQC E-Portal and setting up your account.
W0403-1	Halal Shipment Certification Requesting Guideline	This document outlines how to apply for Halal Shipment Certificates through the HQC E-Portal.
W0405	List of Approved Organizations	This document describes the criteria required to accept third-party Halal certification bodies to be approved during the certification process.
W0413	Decision-Making Processes and Guidelines	This document describes the procedures and protocols of the HQC Decision-Making Committee. (internal document).

W0415	Permissible Ethanol Limitations	This document describes the criteria for accepting permissible ethanol, including their limits in multiple types of products.
W0418	Halal Shipment Certification Policy	This document describes the procedures and requirements for companies requesting shipment certificates through the HQC E-Portal.
W0438	Raw Materials Approval Process	This document describes the required supporting documents for multiple product types and categories.
W0438-1	Supporting Documents for Critical Materials	This document describes the required supporting documents for multiple types of critical materials (the types of essential materials could differ from country to country).
W0456	Approved Halal Standards	This document describes the acceptable and adoptable Halal standards or guidelines that the Halal Quality Control Group can use.
W0457	Halal Materials List - Chemicals	This document describes the approved materials (by default) that do not need supporting documents (including Halal certificates) during the Halal certification process.
W0457-1	Halal Materials List - Fragrances	This document describes the approved materials (by default) that do not need supporting documents (including Halal certificates) during the Halal certification process.
W0457-2	Halal Materials List - Flavours	This document describes the approved materials (by default) that do not need supporting documents (including Halal certificates) during the Halal certification process.
W0462	Ritual Cleaning Process	This document describes the procedures for cleaning equipment and/or production lines

		used to manufacture forbidden materials or items unsuitable for Halal certification.
W0463	E-Numbers and Materials Classification Table	This document describes the Halal status of each E-Number (applicable in Europe) and other types of materials.
W0463-1	Cosmetics Ingredients Classification Table	This document describes the Halal status of numerous cosmetic ingredients.
W0464	Fee Policy	This document describes the policies for calculating or judging the certification fees.
W0476	Handling and Distribution of Confidential Information	This document describes the procedures for properly handling confidential information or documentation during the Halal certification process.
W0477	HQC Risk Classification Table	This document describes the classification of Low, Medium, High-Risk, and Critical materials and/or items, including examples for each classification.
W0480	Listing of Inappropriate Wordings on Halal Certificates	This document outlines the inappropriate and/or forbidden words that cannot be inserted or used in any Halal Certificate.
W0490	HQC Accreditation and Recognition Overview	This document outlines the accreditation and recognition granted to the HQC Group.
W0492	Requirements and Guidelines for Colorings and Hues	This document outlines essential information on allowed usage of colorings and hues during the production or processing activities.
W0493	HQC Authorized Domains	This document outlines the approved and operational websites of the Halal Quality Control Group.
W0498	Guidelines for HAKSIS Registration (only for Türkiye)	This document outlines how to apply for your products to be uploaded and updated into the HAKSIS Portal (only applicable for companies exporting Halal products to Türkiye).

**Table 3: Halal Quality Control Forms**

Form	Form Name	Form Description
F0422	Application Form	This is the initial form applicable to all applicants. An application review must be conducted before proceeding to the Certification Contract.
F0417	Certification Contract	The contract describes essential details of both HQC and the customer, and the contract is accompanied by the contract as an appendix.
F0417-2	Certification Quotation	This is a form only describing the general details of the customers and the involved fees for Halal certification. It does not act as the contract.
F0427	Pre-Assessment Checklist: General Manufacturers	A comprehensive (self-assessment) checklist is needed to prepare for assessments. This form may be used by both the customer and the HQC staff members.
F0428	Pre-Assessment Checklist: Service Providers	A comprehensive (self-assessment) checklist is needed to prepare for assessments. This form may be used by both the customer and the HQC staff members.
F0429	Pre-Assessment Checklist: Cosmetic Companies	A comprehensive (self-assessment) checklist is needed to prepare for assessments. This form may be used by both the customer and the HQC staff members.
F0434	Pre-Assessment Checklist: Slaughtering Plants	A comprehensive (self-assessment) checklist is needed to prepare for assessments. This form may be used by both the customer and the HQC staff members.
F0438	Materials and Products Matrix	A form enlisting all applicable raw materials, processing aids, or products along with their details for approval.

F0439	Halal Declaration Form	<p>An optional form used when an item is classified between Low to High Risk (based on the HQC Risk Classification Table) but does not hold a Halal Certificate.</p> <p>The Declaration Form includes a questionnaire to acquire essential information, after which the item in question may be exempted from needing a Halal Certificate by HQC or a third party to continue the certification process.</p>
F0451	Pork-Free Facility Declaration Form	An optional form to be signed and declared by a company to showcase that no porcine materials of any kind are present within the facility.
F0450	List of Final Products	A list mentioning all final products of the Halal Certificate holder to be uploaded into the HQC E-Portal and to be mentioned within the Appendix of the Halal Factory Certificate of the certificate holder.
F0415	Production Records: Slaughtering Plants	A form to be filled in by a customer. Describes the production records for traceability purposes.
F0404	List of Slaughtering Personnel	A list encompassing all members of a slaughtering plant who are approved and eligible to carry out slaughtering activities.
F0415-1	Production Records: Meat Processing Companies	An optional form to be filled in by a customer. Describes the production records for traceability purposes.
F0415-2	Production Records: General Manufacturers	An optional form to be filled in by a customer. Describes the production records for traceability purposes.
F0416-1	Production Announcement Form: Meat Processing Companies	An optional form to be filled in by a customer. Describes the dates on which Halal production activities will be carried out so that an assessment can be planned in advance. Mostly needed for companies in need of a Halal Shipment Certificate.
F016-2	Production Announcement Form: General Manufacturers	An optional form to be filled in by a customer. Describes the dates on which Halal production activities will be carried out so that an assessment can be planned in advance. Mostly needed for companies in need of a Halal Shipment Certificate.
F0401	Audit Plan and Agenda	A form encompassing the assessment details, including an agenda for preparation purposes.



F0436	Non-Conformance Report	A form used to outline the details of the non-conformance, including the nature of the deviation, its location, and the date of identification. It also proposes corrective actions and possibly preventive measures to address the deviation. The goal of an NCR is to ensure that the non-conformance is systematically addressed, corrected, and documented to prevent recurrence
F0449	Sampling Form	An optional form used to describe the details of the collected sample which will undergo testing in a laboratory. Applies only to items deemed as Critical (based on the HQC Risk Classification Table)
F0421	Audit Review Form	A form used internally to ensure that all required steps in the certification process have been fulfilled before continuing to Decision Making.
F0403	Decision-Making Report	A form used to outline the outcomes of the decision taken based on the assessment results.  Several outcomes may apply. If the results are positive, a Halal certificate of any type may be granted to the applicant.

**Other useful Guiding Documents**

**HQC Risk Classification Table (see [www.halalqualitycontrol.com/useful-documents](http://www.halalqualitycontrol.com/useful-documents))**

This document describes the classifications of multiple product groups. Classification levels differ from Low, Medium, and High to Critical.

**HQC Animal and Insect Classification Table (see [www.halalqualitycontrol.com/useful-documents](http://www.halalqualitycontrol.com/useful-documents))**

This document describes the classifications of multiple animals and insects.

**Certification Category Index (see [www.halalqualitycontrol.com/useful-documents](http://www.halalqualitycontrol.com/useful-documents))**

This document describes the codes for identifying a client's category (including the activities).

## 10.2 Guidance and Contact

- a) At Halal Quality Control, we acknowledge that transitioning to this Scheme could represent a significant shift from existing practices. To support companies through this change, we offer ongoing guidance through work instructions and procedures to facilitate the Scheme's implementation.
- b) These resources can be accessed via our [official website](#), our [E-Portal](#), or by request through [WhatsApp](#) or email for our existing customers. You may always call us for assistance through +31 70 346 97 95.
- c) Should you require assistance, wish to make inquiries or [lodge complaints](#), or have any questions regarding our Scheme, please feel free to contact us. You can reach us via WhatsApp or phone at +31 70 346 97 95, by email at [info@halalqualitycontrol.com](mailto:info@halalqualitycontrol.com) or through our website [www.halalqualitycontrol.com](http://www.halalqualitycontrol.com)

## 10.3 Halal Quality Control Branches / Local Offices

- a) Please visit [www.halalqualitycontrol.com/hqc-ecosystem](http://www.halalqualitycontrol.com/hqc-ecosystem) for a full overview of our branches.
- b) We also refer to the HQC Business Operational Profile for a detailed overview.

## 10.4 Example of a Halal Factory Certificate

[Example of a Halal Factory Certificate](#)

## 10.5 Example of Halal Shipment Certificates

[Example of Halal Shipment Certificate Type A \(Fresh/Frozen Meats\)](#)

[Example of Halal Shipment Certificate Type A \(All Other Products\)](#)

## 10.6 Halal Standards Stores

- a) [Gulf Standardization Organisation](#)
- b) [United Arab Emirates Standards](#)
- c) [OIC SMIIC](#)
- d) [Malaysian Standards](#)
- e) [Indonesian Standards](#)
- f) [Singapore Standards](#)
- g) [Turkish Halal Accreditation Council](#)

## 10.7 HQC Business Operations Profile (HQC BOP)

- a) We refer to the HQC BOP for a full overview of HQC’s activities, business profile, and operational details. This document can only be shared upon request and with authorization from Headquarters.

## 10.8 HQC Global Accreditation Overview

- a) [See Work Instruction 0490](#)
- b) We refer to [www.halalqualitycontrol.com/useful-documents](http://www.halalqualitycontrol.com/useful-documents)

