Accreditation and Harmonization of Halal Standards

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Saudi Arabia: Gateway of US66bn food market

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This paper will tackle Halal Standard as a global standard from these hot issues:

- As a Promoter of Trading.
- As a guideline for better Marketing.
- Its current situation.
- How to resolve disputable issues?

**Introduction:**

The main target of a Global Halal Standard is:

To strengthen the obligatory religious requirements of Halal.

To avoid Haram in Halal certified products.

To avoid technical barriers.

To increase economical relations and cooperation in the World.
Halal as a Promoter of Trading.

When proposing a global Halal standard

the expected challenge is:

How to harmonize existing Halal practices as approved by sharieah of different schools on a common ground?

Halal Guidelines for better Marketing.

The proposed global Halal standard in its initial state should be:

**Guidelines** and **not standard** to give flexibility and room to encompass controversial issues on Halal issue among different Islamic schools.
Current situation of Halal.

The Halal Industry

This Industry is unique in the sense that it is an industry where Islamic values, ideals and beliefs are implemented and adhered within the whole chain of the Halal production process.

Given that certain aspects of the Halal procedure cannot be fully verified at a later stage through random sampling and testing, very close and continuous supervision is necessary.
Global Market potential of Halal

Global Halal products market is estimated at 2.3 trillion (excluding Islamic banking):

Food & Beverage: 70%.
Pharmaceutical: 22%.
Personal care & cosmetics: 10%.

As it can be seen the key sector for the Halal Market is the food sector.

Halal cover the following modules:

Meat & Poultry – Slaughter Practices
Food Manufacturing
Food Retailing
Restaurant Chains
Food Service Industry
Pharmaceuticals & Healthcare products
Logistics & Shipping
Islamic Banking & Finance
Testing and analysis
Resolving disputable issues.

Issues to consider when marketing Halal products:

**Slaughter Methods** (stunning, post-stunning, thoracic sticking, time of death, and mechanical slaughter).

**Istihala or Change of State** (gelatin, bovine based of non-Halal slaughtered animals, pork based gelatin, and fat based animal)

**Fish items** (what to consider and what not to consider as Halal)

**Animal Feed** (Haram animal by products in herbivore animal feed)

**Alcohol Tolerance** (zero tolerance, Low tolerance of 0.1%, Alcohol Types such as ethanol, methanol)

**Slaughter man** (only Muslim, Ahlulkitab of Christian or Jew faith)

**Genetically Modified Food** (use of non-Halal source animals/organisms, labeling, and moral & safety Issues)
Testing & Analysis (sampling, standard operating procedures for Halal Testing and Global laboratory mutual recognition)

Supply Chain Integrity (Halal logistics such as warehouse, cold rooms, containers, ports, traceability, and Islamic banking & finance)

Judgments (lack of Islamic scholars with relevant industry knowledge).

Issues raised at International Industry Dialogues:

Certification agencies not industry friendly.

Certification agencies do not follow SOPs, Quality Management Systems, etc.

Halal Auditors do not have relevant industry knowledge (Shariah centric).

Competing national standards.
No mutual recognition amongst Certification Bodies.

Domestic Labeling not comprehensive – non-Halal ingredient loopholes.

Lack of Industry awareness on the benefits of Halal standardization.

Misconception of Halal by Non-Muslims.
The meaning of Halal and Tayyib

- Animal welfare
- Healthy and wholesome
- Environmentally friendly
- Organic
- Ethical
- Fair Trade

How to move forward:

Halal Certification Bodies (HCB) must be accredited to carry out the suggested Halal Model as Halal standards and not as a Halal Guidelines!
WE should have a series of Halal standards

ISO XYZ 0000 for General Halal standard

ISO XYZ 0001 for Halal as approved by Hanbali school.
ISO XYZ 0002 for Halal as approved by Hanafi school.
ISO XYZ 0003 for Halal as approved by Shafiei school.
ISO XYZ 0004 for Halal as approved by Maliki school.
ISO XYZ 0005 for Halal as approved by X school.

For Importing Countries to have full control of Halal

I suggest approving only few best of the Muslim HCB and accredit them to carry the task of Halal (either by themselves or it accredit other HCB to take the Halal task).

Importing countries can update itself on Halal by direct contact with the only the accredited Muslim HCB.

Non-accredited HCB with time can qualify themselves.
Conclusions:

It is the sharieah scholars of well known knowledge along with experts in related sciences to the Halal industry such as veterinarians, chemists, food scientists, and pharmacists that together formulate a global Halal Model based on:

1) Islamic values, ideals and beliefs as approved by sharieah and

2) on the recognition of related International Standards (Audit, Traceability, Food safety HACCP (ISO22000), GMP, EU Standards, Logistics, Laboratory Testing, etc.).
The global Halal model should encompass all Halal modules. Industry players need to be engaged with at the onset to ensure buy-in.

Once the global Halal Model have been finalized, local governments will verify it for its adoption initially as a suggested Halal guidelines to promote its implementation.

Latter, the suggested model will be modified to produce International Halal Standards.

Kuwait will work with all Muslim organizations interested in providing Halal services for the implementation of GCC Halal Standard and will encourage the presence of global Halal Model as a guideline.
References:


Many thanks

For your kind attentions
Dr. Hani Mansour Al- Mazeedi
With brother Amjad Mahboob in Australia in 1981