



INFORMATION UPDATE ON THE
WITHDRAWAL OF THE



HALAL FOOD COUNCIL OF EUROPE
(HFCE)

ACCREDITATION BY JAKIM, MALAYSIA

November 2023



Flanders Investment & Trade Malaysia
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FIT BULLETIN/MEMO

To: All Flanders Companies Engaged in Export to Malaysia

Subject: Critical Update on HALAL FOOD COUNCIL OF EUROPE (HFCE) Certification Recognition Withdrawal by JAKIM, Malaysia

Date: 12 Dec 2023

Dear Esteemed Flanders Companies,

We are writing to inform you of a significant development that may impact your business operations in Malaysia. The Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM) has recently made an important announcement regarding the recognition of the Halal Food Council of Europe (HFCE) as a Foreign Halal Certification Body (FHCBC).

Key Points of the JAKIM Announcement:

1. **Withdrawal of Recognition:** Effective 13th October 2023, JAKIM officially withdrew HFCE from its list of Recognised FHCBCs. This means HFCE's halal certification will no longer be valid for products exported to Malaysia.
2. **Grace Period for Transition:** Companies with products certified by HFCE are granted a grace period until 12th April 2024. During this time, businesses must obtain halal certification from other FHCBCs recognised by JAKIM to continue exporting to Malaysia.
3. **Acceptance of Existing Products:**
 - Products already in Malaysia before the withdrawal of HFCE recognition will be accepted.
 - Products enroute to Malaysia with HFCE's halal certificates issued before or on 12th April 2024 will be accepted.
 - Products being processed before or on 12th April 2024 will be accepted, provided they are accompanied by supporting documentation related to the production date.
4. **Continued Export Post-Withdrawal:** Manufacturers affected by this change can continue exporting their products to Malaysia after securing halal certification from other recognised FHCBCs (**Appendix**) in Belgium or nearby countries.

Advisory for Affected Companies:

1. **Immediate Action Required:** We urge all affected companies to transition to alternative halal certification bodies recognised by JAKIM swiftly. This proactive approach is crucial to avoid disrupting your export activities to Malaysia.
2. **Transition Strategy:** We recommend developing a transition strategy that includes identifying alternative FHCBCs, applying for new certifications, and planning for any necessary changes in product labelling or packaging.



3. **Seeking Assistance:** For more information or assistance in understanding this change and transitioning to a new certification body, you may open a case with FIT Antenna Malaysia to get more information and guidance for your particular industry and products.

This development requires immediate attention and action from all Flanders companies exporting halal-certified products to Malaysia. We understand the challenges this change may pose and are committed to providing support and guidance during this transition period.

For personalised assistance or detailed inquiries regarding your industry in light of the recent developments concerning your halal accreditation, we encourage you to contact us at Flanders Investment & Trade Malaysia. Our team is dedicated to offering guidance and support. Additionally, we can facilitate direct communication with relevant departments within JAKIM to discuss specific requirements. Your concerns and questions are important to us, and we're here to help you navigate this situation.

We have added a list of alternative European halal certification bodies recognised by JAKIM for your convenience.

Best Regards,
Thomas Bernthaler
Flanders Investment & Trade – Antenna Office (Malaysia)



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APPENDIX 1: LIST OF RECOGNISED FHCBS IN EUROPE


1.1 AUSTRIA

Organisation & Address	Contact	Halal Logo
<p>Islamic Information Documentation and Certification GmbH (IIDC)</p> <p>IIDC Austria GmbH A-4050 Traun Johann-Roithner-Str. 131, BS3E00T005 Austria</p>	<p>Mr. Günther Ahmed Rusznak (President)</p> <p>Tel: +43 699 884 658 04</p> <p>Email: office@iidc.at ahmed.rusznak@iidc.at</p> <p>Website: www.iidc.at www.iidc.eu</p>	


1.2 CROATIA

Organisation & Address	Contact	Halal Logo
<p>Centre For Halal Quality Certification (CHQC)</p> <p>Prilaz Safvet-bega Basagica 1 10 000 Zagreb Republic of Croatia</p>	<p>Mr. Aldin Dugonjic (Chairman)</p> <p>Contact Person: Ms. Edina Mesic</p> <p>Tel: +385(1) 5619 062</p> <p>Email: info@halal.hr</p> <p>Website: www.halal.hr</p>	



1.3 FRANCE

Organisation & Address	Contact	Halal Logo
<p>Ritual Association of Lyon's Great Mosque (Association Rituelle de la Grande Mosquée de Lyon)</p> <p>146 boulevard Pinel 69008 Lyon France</p>	<p>Mr. Kamel Kabtane (President) Mr. Azeddine Bahi (Director)</p> <p>Tel: +33 (0)4 78 78 18 05 +33-(0)6-18-00-49-76</p> <p>Fax: +33 (0)4 78 75 77 42</p> <p>Email: argml@mosquee-lyon.org</p> <p>Website: argml.com</p>	




1.4 GERMANY

Organisation & Address	Contact	Halal Logo
<p>HALAL CONTROL GmbH</p> <p>Halal Certification Body Stahlstraße 44 65428 Rüsselsheim am Main Germany</p>	<p>Mr. Mahmoud Tatari</p> <p>Tel: +49 6142 301 987-0</p> <p>Fax: +49 6142 301 987-29</p> <p>Email: info@halalcontrol.de mtatari@halalcontrol.de</p> <p>Website: www.halalcontrol.eu</p>	

1.5 ITALY

Organisation & Address	Contact	Halal Logo
<p>Halal Italia</p> <p>Via Francesco De Sanctis 74 20141 Milano Italy</p>	<p>Mr. Hamid Abd al-Qadir Roberto Distefano (Chief Executive Officer)</p> <p>Tel: 0039 (0)444 571106</p> <p>Email: info@halalitalia.org</p> <p>Website: www.halalitalia.org</p>	
<p>World Halal Authority (WHA)</p> <p>Viale Brianza, 20 – 20092 Cinisello Balsamo Milano, Italy</p>	<p>Dr. Mohamed Elkafrawy (Chairman)</p> <p>Tel: +39 0236587564</p> <p>Mobile: +39 3801773591</p> <p>Email: info@wha-halal.org ceo@wha-halal.org</p> <p>Website: www.wha-halal.org</p>	

1.6 NETHERLANDS / HOLLAND

Organisation & Address	Contact	Halal Logo
<p>Control Office of Halal Slaughtering B.V & Halal Quality Control (HQC)</p> <p>Laan van Meerdervoort 53d 2517 AE, The Hague Netherlands</p>	<p>Dr. Abdul Munim al Chaman (Chairman)</p> <p>Tel: +31 70 346 97 95</p> <p>Email: info@halaloffice.com</p> <p>Website: www.halaloffice.com</p>	
<p>Halal Correct Certification (TQHCC)</p> <p>Perzikweg 9B 2321GK Leiden PO. Box 179 2300AD Leiden The Netherlands</p>	<p>Mr. Abdulfatteh Ben Ali-Salah (Director)</p> <p>Tel: +31 71 523 5770</p> <p>Mobile: +31 64 211 3636</p> <p>Fax: +31 71 523 5771</p> <p>Email: info@halalcorrect.com</p> <p>Website: www.halalcorrect.com</p>	
<p>Halal Feed and Food Inspection Authority (HFFIA)</p> <p>Office Address: Neherkade 3140 2521 VX Den Haag The Netherlands</p> <p>Postal Address: P.O. Box 16786, 2500 BT - The Hague, The Netherlands</p>	<p>Mr. Omar Boedhoe (Director)</p> <p>Tel: +31(0)7036 49191</p> <p>Email: hffia@halal.nl application@halal.nl</p> <p>Website: www.halal.nl</p>	 <p>HALAL FEED AND FOOD INSPECTION AUTHORITY</p>



1.7 POLAND

Organisation & Address	Contact	Halal Logo
<p>Muslim Religious Union in Poland (MRU)</p> <p>ul. Piastowska 13F 15–207 Bialystok Poland</p>	<p>Mr. Tomasz Miskiewicz</p> <p>Tel: +48 605 612 137 +48 534 085 400</p> <p>Email: mzr@mzr.pl halalpoland@gmail.com projekt.mzr@gmail.com</p> <p>Website: www.halalpoland.pl www.mzr.pl</p>	
<p>Polski Instytut Halal (Polish Institut of Halal)</p> <p>Ul. Gronowa 22/1212 61-655 Poznań Poland</p>	<p>Dr. Eng. Abdelbasset Benzertiha</p> <p>Tel: +48 61 820 61 00</p> <p>Mobile: +48 509 895 028</p> <p>Fax: +48 61 820 61 00</p> <p>Email: a.benzertiha@halal.biz.pl halal@halal.biz.pl</p> <p>Website: www.institutehalal.com</p>	


1.8 PORTUGAL

Organisation & Address	Contact	Halal Logo
<p>Instituto Halal de Portugal (IHP)</p> <p>Av.Vila Amélia lote 172 2950-805 Quinta do Anjo Portugal</p>	<p>Mr. Azhar Mohamed Vali (President)</p> <p>Tel: +35 1937 8 0786</p> <p>Email: info@halal.pt</p> <p>Website: www.halal.pt</p>	

1.9 SPAIN

Organisation & Address	Contact	Halal Logo
<p>Estándar Global de Certificación Halal, S.L. (formerly known as The Halal Institute of Spain (Junta Islámica))</p> <p>Calle Claudio Marcelo 17 planta 1 - 14002 Córdoba Spain</p>	<p>Mdm. Mariam Isabel Romero Arias (General manager)</p> <p>Tel: +34 957634071 Fax: +34 957713203</p> <p>Email: info@institutohalal.com direccion@institutohalal.com international@institutohalal.com</p> <p>Website: www.institutohalal.com</p>	
<p>Halal Food and Quality, S.L (HFQ)</p> <p>Rda. de Narcís Monturiol Oficina A212 Paterna/Valencia Spain</p>	<p>Dr. Said Ratbi (Chairman)</p> <p>Tel: +34 961 039 443 +34 634 477 148</p> <p>Email: said@halalfoodquality.com</p> <p>Website: www.halalfoodquality.com</p>	

1.10 SWITZERLAND

Organisation & Address	Contact	Halal Logo
<p>Halal Certification Services GmbH</p> <p>Weidenweg 15, 4310 Rheinfelden Switzerland</p>	<p>Dr. Khaled Abou Hadeed (Chief Executive Officer)</p> <p>Tel: +41 61 813 30 64 Fax: +41 61 813 30 65</p> <p>Email: info@halalcs.org</p> <p>Website: www.halalcs.org</p>	

1.11 TÜRKİYE

Organisation & Address	Contact	Halal Logo
<p>Kas Uluslararası Sertifikasyon Ltd. Şti. (KASCERT International)</p> <p>Adalet Mah. Anadolu Cad. Tepekule Is Merkezi No:40 Ic Kapi No:611 Bayrakli Izmir Turkiye</p>	<p>Mr. Ugur Ekici (General Manager)</p> <p>Tel: +90 232 435 61 00</p> <p>Fax: +90 232 435 61 20</p> <p>Email: manager@kascert.com</p> <p>Website: www.kascert.com</p>	
<p>Association for the Inspection and Certification of Food and Supplies (GIMDES)</p> <p>Giyim Sanatkarları İş ve Ticaret Merkezi, 2. Ada, A Blok, Kat:7 No:701, İ.O.S.B. Başakşehir/İstanbul Türkiye</p>	<p>Dr. Huseyin Kâmi Büyüközer</p> <p>Tel: +90 212 438 33 18</p> <p>Fax: +90 212 438 33 19</p> <p>Email: hbuyukozer@hotmail.com irtibat@gimdes.org zafer.gedikli@gimdes.org external.affairs@gimdes.org</p> <p>Website: www.gimdes.org</p>	

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APPENDIX 2: FHCB RECOGNITION BY JAKIM MALAYSIA

2.1 RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN HALAL CERTIFICATION BODIES (FHCB)

- a. Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM) is the agency responsible for the Islamic affairs including halal certification in Malaysia. Therefore, JAKIM plays very important role to protect Muslim consumers in Malaysia and it is always being JAKIM’s responsibility to assure them to seek for halal products as urged by Shariah.
- b. For the purpose of halal certification, JAKIM has to ascertain the halal status of the product at every stage and at every process involved by carrying out an official site inspection on the plants purposely to examine on how the halal status of the raw material is maintained and monitored at all times.
- c. Based on these reasons, nevertheless, JAKIM requires a reputable and credible foreign halal certification bodies as JAKIM representatives to monitor/verify the halal status of these raw materials and products with responsibility and integrity.
- d. The recognition is based on the capability of the foreign halal certification bodies that comply with the Malaysian procedures & guidelines.

2.2 VALIDITY OF THE RECOGNITION

- a. The validity of the appointment is for two years.
- b. The appointed FHCB shall be listed on JAKIM’s website as the Recognised Foreign Halal Certification Bodies.
- c. The FHCB shall submit annual report to JAKIM.
- d. JAKIM shall carry out the review audit after the expiration of the appointment period.

2.3 THE IMPORTATION OF HALAL MEAT

All meat and meat-based products (including poultry) intended to be imported to Malaysia must be halal certified by the recognised Foreign Halal Certification Bodies. Also, the plants must be inspected and approved by JAKIM & Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) which shall in compliance with The Malaysian Protocol for Halal Meat and Poultry Productions and MS 1500:2009.



2.4 TRADE DESCRIPTIONS (CERTIFICATION AND MARKING OF HALAL) ORDER 2011

As stated in Para 5 (1) & (2) Certification of description of halal for imported food and goods:

- a. All imported food and goods marketed in Malaysia shall not be described as halal unless the imported food and goods comply with the requirements or certified as halal by the foreign halal certification body recognised by JAKIM.
- b. The importer or manufacturer of the food and goods which have been certified as halal by the foreign halal certification body recognised by JAKIM shall mark on the said food and goods, the name of the said certification body.

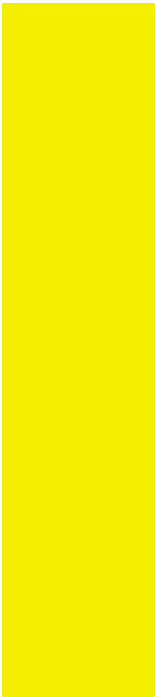


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For personalised assistance or detailed inquiries regarding your industry in light of the recent developments concerning your halal accreditation, we encourage you to contact us at Flanders Investment & Trade Malaysia. Our team is dedicated to offering guidance and support. Additionally, we can facilitate direct communication with relevant departments within JAKIM to discuss specific requirements. Your concerns and questions are important to us, and we're here to help you navigate this situation.



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