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Halal Certification Service

What is Halal Certification Service?

Halal (/həˈlɑːl/; Arabic: حلال, *ḥalāl*) is an Arabic word that translates to "permissible" in English. In the Quran, the word *halal* is contrasted with *haram* (forbidden). This binary opposition was elaborated into a more complex classification known as "the five decisions": mandatory, recommended, neutral, reprehensible and forbidden. Islamic jurists disagree on whether the term *halal* covers the first two or the first four of these categories. In recent times, Islamic movements seeking to mobilize the masses and authors writing for a popular audience have emphasized the simpler distinction of *halal* and *haram*.

The term *halal* is particularly associated with Islamic dietary laws and especially meat processed and prepared in accordance with those requirements.

In the Quran

The words *halal* and *haram* are the usual terms used in the Quran to designate the categories of lawful or allowed and unlawful or forbidden. In the Quran, the root h-l-l denotes lawfulness and may also indicate exiting the ritual state of a pilgrim and entering a profane state. In both these senses, it has an opposite meaning to that conveyed by the root h-r-m (cf. *haram* and *ihram*). In a literal sense, the root h-l-l may refer to dissolution (e.g., breaking of an oath) or alighting (e.g., of God's wrath). Lawfulness is usually indicated in the Quran by means of the verb *ahalla* (to make lawful), with God as the stated or implied subject.

Foods

A *halal* sign in Chinese (清真 qīng zhēn) at a restaurant in Taipei, Taiwan

Islam generally considers every food halal unless it is specifically prohibited by the Hadith or the Qur'an. Specifically, halal foods are those that are:

1. Made, produced, manufactured, processed, and stored using machinery, equipment, and/or utensils that have been cleaned according to Islamic law (Shariah).
2. Free from any component that Muslims are prohibited from eating according to Islamic law.



The most common example of *haram* (non-halal) food is pork. While pork is the only meat that categorically may not be consumed by Muslims (the Quran forbids it, Surah 2:173 and 16:115) other foods not in a state of purity are also considered *haram*. The criteria for non-pork items include their source, the cause of the animal's death and how it was processed. The majority of Islamic scholars consider shellfish and other seafood halal. Vegetarian cuisine is *halal* if it does not contain alcohol.

Several food companies offer *halal* processed foods and products, including *halal* foie gras, spring rolls, chicken nuggets, ravioli, lasagna, pizza and baby food. *Halal* ready meals are a growing consumer market for Muslims in Britain and America and are offered by an increasing number of retailers.

Opinions on GMO foods are mixed, although there is no widely accepted prohibition from consuming them. Some clerics and scholars have expressed support, arguing that such food production methods are halal because they contribute to human well-being. Voices in opposition to GMOs argue that there is no need for genetic modification of food crops because God created everything perfectly and man does not have any right to manipulate anything that God has created. Some others have raised concern about the theoretical consumption of specific GMO foods produced using genes from pigs.

Halal meat

Main article: Dhabīḥah

Halal meat section at a grocery store in Canada

Halal meat must come from a supplier that uses *halal* practices. *Dhabīḥah* (ذَبِيْحَة) is the prescribed method of slaughter for all meat sources, excluding fish and other sea-life, per Islamic law. This method of slaughtering animals consists of using a sharp knife to make an incision that cuts the front of the throat, oesophagus and jugular veins but not the spinal cord. The head of an animal that is slaughtered using *halal* methods is aligned with the qiblah. In addition to the direction, permitted animals should be slaughtered upon utterance of the Islamic prayer Bismillah.

The slaughter must be performed by a Muslim man. Animals slaughtered by non-Muslims are not halal. Blood must be drained from the veins. Carrion (carcasses of dead animals, such as animals who died in the wild) cannot be eaten. Additionally, an animal that has been strangled, beaten (to death), killed by a fall, gored (to death), savaged by a beast of prey (unless finished off by a human), or sacrificed on a stone altar cannot be eaten.

Business

The Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry estimated the global industry value of *halal* food consumer purchases to be \$1.1 trillion in 2013, accounting for 16.6 percent of the global food and beverage market, with an annual growth of 6.9 percent. Growth regions include Indonesia (\$197 million market value in 2012) and Turkey (\$100 million). The European Union market for *halal* food has an estimated annual growth of around 15 percent and is worth an estimated \$30 billion, approximately \$8 billion of which are accounted for in France.

The halal food and beverage industry has also made a significant impact on supermarkets and other food business such as restaurants. French supermarkets had halal food sales totalling \$210 million in 2011, a 10.5% growth from five years prior. In France, the market for halal foods is even larger than the market for other types of common foods. For example, in 2010, the market for halal foods and beverages in France was nearly twice that of organic foods. Auchan, a large French supermarket chain, now sells 80 certified halal meat products, along with 30 pre-cooked halal meals and 40 frozen halal products. Upscale restaurants and catering services have also added halal foods to their menus. In addition, many beverage companies such as Evian have taken the effort to add a halal stamp on their products to show that their water and other beverages are pure and not haram or forbidden under Islamic law.

Non-food applications

Main articles: Halal tourism and Islamic banking and finance

In addition to food and diet, *halal* lifestyle can include travel, finance, clothing, media, recreation, cosmetics. *Halal* lifestyle can even involve professional practices ranging from industrial and manufacturing logistics to supply chains.
