

HALAAL FOOD



By

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EGEIRO 
AWAKENING AND EMPOWERING HIS CHURCH

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What is halaal food?

Halaal foods are products carrying the halaal label, thereby indicating that it may be consumed by Muslims. The opposite of halaal is haraam, which means that it may not be consumed by Muslims.

Some of the more well-known **controlling bodies** for halaal labelling and certification in South Africa are:

- [The Muslim Judicial Council.](#)
- [National Independent Halaal Trust \(NIHT\).](#)
- [South African National Halaal Authority \(S.A.N.H.A\).](#)
- [Islamic Council of South Africa \(ICSA\).](#)
- [South Africa Halaal.](#)

Compensation for halaal certification:

Manufacturers who want to display a halaal logo or label on their food products have to enter into a contract with controlling bodies for a specific period. Such contracts contain a clause of secretiveness which makes it very difficult to obtain sufficient information from manufacturers. However, available information indicates that manufacturers have to compensate controlling bodies for the following certifying services:

- An original application fee.
- Licencing fees after certification and accreditation have been awarded.¹ These fees are levied in accordance with the turnover of halaal products produced by an enterprise.
- Fees for regular audits carried out by trained inspectors from the controlling bodies. Depending on the risk factors involved such inspections may be carried out on a daily, weekly or monthly basis.²
- Substantial salaries for Muslims whom manufacturers are compelled to employ for the sole purpose of keeping an eye on the processing or production process in order to ensure that all halaal requirements are conformed to.³

1SANHA

2Muslim Judicial Council South Africa: **Halaal Services**

3Muslim Judicial Council South Africa: **Halaal Services**

In order not to miss out on potential licencing fees contracts stipulate that the certification body must have unlimited access to the financial records of the enterprise that has received halaal certification.

Who pays for certifying services?

Manufacturers recover certification fees indirectly from the consumer by means of a surcharge or royalty added to the price of their products. Controlling bodies are quick to give the assurance that surcharges levied on individual items will be insignificant and that the consumer will not feel it. However, for the millions of South Africans who live below the breadline and can only afford to buy the most basic of foodstuff this argument does not carry any weight.⁴ Our government does not tax the poor and unemployed, but Islam sees it fit to do just that.

The surcharges on individual items may be considered insignificant, but if the number of certified enterprises and their total turnover of halaal products are taken into consideration the various controlling bodies receive huge sums of money from consumers just by certifying food, cosmetics and other products as halaal. SANHA alone received an income of R11 221 289 for the tax year ending on 28 February 2011.⁵ In this way the insignificant becomes significant. It should be noted that as non-profit organisations these controlling bodies do not pay any tax.

For what purpose is halaal money being used?

The 'halaal-tax' which is exacted from the Christian consumer in South Africa is employed for various purposes such as the construction of mosques and for Dawah (Islamic propaganda and evangelism). It may not be too far-fetched to assume that some of the South African 'halaal money' has already been used to finance terrorist organisations such as Hamas and ISIS' unholy war against Christians and Jews. Using halaal money for terrorising and persecuting Christians in our own country may even become a reality much sooner than we may expect.

⁴According to *the Children's Institute* at UCT more than half of South Africa's children lived in households with monthly earnings of R800 or less in 2005. The Institute regarded a poverty line of R800 a month per household as an 'ultra poverty line' or under the breadline (Kassiem).

⁵Kiroglu

What products are covered by halaal certification?

Although halaal certification was originally limited exclusively to the meat industry; modern production, processing and preservative techniques have opened the door for Islam to look much wider for possible haraam products which need to be made fit for consumption by means of halaal certification. For instance the presence of gelatine or amino acids can make products unacceptable to Islam, also baked products now have to be certified because of the possibility of baking pans being lined with lard.

Currently a very wide range of diverse products are already covered by halaal certification, such as olive oil, sugar and artificial sweeteners, salt, spices, fruit juices and soft drinks, bread and other baked products, cereals, potato chips, tinned vegetables and a variety of pharmaceutical and cosmetic items, with the number of products added to the halaal market increasing on an almost daily basis.

The extent of the halaal trade in South Africa:

Expressed as a percentage of the total population South Africa holds the world's smallest Muslim community. Notwithstanding this fact South Africa has developed a highly advanced halaal certification programme and is considered one of the five largest producers of halaal products worldwide.⁶ Around 60% of all products on display at outlets in South Africa were already halaal certified during 2012.⁷

The hospitality industry in South Africa is now also making provision for the halaal needs of the Muslim consumer. Of all the countries outside the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation South Africa, together with Thailand, is ranked third among Muslim-friendly destinations after Singapore and Bosnia-Herzegovina respectively. South Africa is a popular tourist destination among Muslims, since unlike the West Muslim tourists are not seen as potential terrorist threats.⁸

We can expect an even greater increase of halaal-certification in the future making it all the more difficult for the South African consumer to obtain halaal-free food and other items.

⁶Smith

⁷Smith

⁸Mkhiza

Why are so many manufacturers keen to have their products halaal certified?

Various methods are used by the controlling bodies to convince manufacturers of food products to have their products certified as halaal, from which intimidation may not be excluded. However, as can be expected increased profits are the most persuasive argument for certification. Although the Muslim market in South Africa is rather limited many South African manufacturers are being convinced that excellent opportunities for halaal trade do exist in the rest of Africa and especially the northern part of the continent. The halaal tourism market serves as another enticement for having products halaal-certified. Halaal tourism is seen as a potential gold mine for South Africa.⁹

Controlling bodies' stranglehold on manufacturers:

If a manufacturer has once committed himself to the processing of halaal products it will become extremely difficult to process non-halaal products by means of the same production process. If the requirements for halaal certification¹⁰ are interpreted correctly the following logistical arrangements become a reality:

- No haraam products or ingredients may be present during the manufacturing, storage and transportation of halaal products since this will result in the contamination of the halaal products
- An Islamic cleansing ritual and prayers are required if an enterprise (building and site) and/or equipment were used for the manufacturing or processing of non-halaal products.¹¹
- The production process of halaal products will have to be brought to an end and the halaal products have to be stored on a separate site before the production of non-halaal products may be commenced. Subsequently the manufacturing of non-halaal products will have to be stopped, such products have to be removed to a separate site and the enterprise and equipment have to be ritually cleansed before the manufacturing of halaal products may be commenced again.
- The problem may be solved by manufacturing everything under halaal conditions and then packaging some of it with a halaal label and some without it at the end of the production process. However, chances are good that this arrangement will not be

⁹North-West University

¹⁰Muslim Judicial Council South Africa: **Halaal Services**

¹¹Muslim Judicial Council South Africa: **Halaal Services**

acceptable to Islam since the non-halaal packaging will change the halaal-packaged products into haraam products as a result of contamination on the same production line and within the same production area.

Apart from being a logistical nightmare the above requirements will increase production cost to such an extent that it will be virtually impossible to manufacture halaal and non-halaal products on the same premises.

Islam is currently taking possession of South African products, production processes and enterprises for Allah one by one and it seems that they will not rest until all products, production processes and enterprises which may in one way or another qualify for halaal certification (however slim the grounds for such certification may be) are taken possession of. It is clear that this aggressive approach is not only of a symbolic, but also of a physical nature and that the production of non-halaal products is actually being thwarted by means of this process.

The ultimate goal:

By means of halaal certification the Muslims are currently endeavouring to claim South Africa for Allah symbolically and the success they are achieving with halaal certification is therefore seen as a huge psychological and spiritual victory over the Christians of South Africa. In this way the name of God is being dishonoured. Given enough time this conquest through halaal certification may not remain a mere symbolic matter. Dr. Daniel Shayesteh, a Muslim convert from Iran and expert on Islam, commented on the halaal trade in South Africa by saying: *'with the Halal trade firmly established in South Africa, and the Christian church not actively campaigning against it, it will take Islam less than 30 years to declare the country Islamic.'*

The audacity of halaal certification:

If one thinks clearly about the whole situation you can only wonder how it is possible for 2-4 per cent of the population to force 96-98 per cent of the population to buy halaal products and thereby contribute financially to their own downfall and the downfall of humanity and a civilised world in general, not to mention the persecution of Christian and Jewish believers worldwide.

What can we do about the Halaal trade?

Each and every Christian believer in South Africa should ask him or herself if by buying halaal certified food he or she is willing to contribute to the building of more mosques and the

persecution of fellow believers and to allow the name of God to be dishonoured. It is time to awaken from our ignorance and indifference and start raising objections against halaal certified food by contacting manufacturers, producers, suppliers and chain stores.

A coordinated awareness campaign regarding the Muslim agenda for South Africa, with special reference to halaal certification is of crucial importance. Organisations such as [Egeiro Ministry](#), [Christian Friendly Products](#) and [INcontext Ministries](#) and may be approached for seminars and lectures for this purpose. Awareness-raising may also be done by means of e-mail networks or the social networks.

Options for protesting against halaal certification:

Option 1: 'Neutral' products:

- Insist that manufacturers, producers and shops provide 'neutral' products without any halaal labels.
- Insist that no surcharges be levied on the neutral products and that the neutral products should therefore be less expensive than the halaal products.
- In accordance with the extent of the South African Muslim market and the real local need for halaal products urge manufacturers and producers to reduce their halaal products for the local market to 4 per cent of their turnover plus the volume of halaal products needed for export.
- Insist that all halaal products (limited to 4% of stock) be displayed in special halaal sections in shops in order make it easier for the non-Muslim consumer to obtain neutral products and for the Muslim consumer to obtain halaal products. One of the requirements for halaal certification is that manufacturers or producers may not store or transport any haraam products together with halaal products.¹² If the certification bodies want to be consistent in applying this requirement halaal and haraam products will also have to be separated on the shelves of shops.
- The weakness of this option is that there can be no guarantee that the non-Muslim consumer will not continue contributing to the licensing fees. As a so-called concession to Christian consumers halaal products may be marked up somewhat while the largest part of fees transferred to the certification bodies may still be recouped by means of surcharges on neutral products without the consumer being aware of it. However, this approach will still ensure a psychological and symbolic victory for the Christian consumer

¹²Muslim Judicial Council South Africa: **Halaal Services**

since neutral products will now be seen as the norm and halaal products as the exception.

- This approach can be implemented by means of petitions and individuals sending complaints to manufacturers and chain stores electronically or via standard mail.
- Due to the large number of producers, manufacturers and outlets involved it may be difficult to coordinate and synchronise individual complaints. It may also be difficult to sustain interest and to prevent such protest campaigns from coming to a sudden end after an initial surge of enthusiasm.
- A standard petition aimed at all relevant manufacturers and stores seems to be the best option. The same petition can then be sent to individual manufacturers and shops.

Option 2: Christian products

- Products with a Christian label or logo are to be provided as a Christian alternative to halaal labels. The organisation *Christian Friendly Products* provide such a trademark.¹³
- The income derived from royalties levied on such products is to be used for Christian ministries which may even include outreaches to Muslims.
- Unlike the Muslim and Jewish religions the Christian religion has no rules and regulations with regard to food thanks to our freedom in Christ. From a religious point of view there is no need for certifying food items as Christian products. The sole purpose of such a certification will be to counter the halaal emblem and to voice our objection to the halaal emblem and surcharges being imposed on us.
- This approach can be applied in the following ways:
 - We can insist that manufacturers and suppliers who already supply halaal products also display the Christian trademark on their products. The Christian and Muslim trademarks should however not be displayed on the same packaging. Two product lines will therefore be needed – a Christian line and a Muslim line. Trademarks should be clearly visible in order to be able to plainly discern between the two lines.
 - The Christian emblem is exclusively limited to Christian products who according to a decision made by the Christian supplier or manufacturer will never display a halaal emblem on any of his products. In this way Christian manufacturers and suppliers will have to take a definite stand for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and against halaal certification. If manufacturers want to make use of the Christian



¹³Christian Friendly Products.

emblem in such cases a condition should be the signing of an undertaking that they will not allow halaal certification for any of their products.

- A combination of these two applications.
- Christian manufacturers' and producers' products and produce should be introduced to the public. *Christian Friendly Products'* website can be used for this purpose. Local churches can also be asked to support local Christian manufacturers and producers.
- Chain stores and dealers are to be requested to make Christian products and produce, carrying the Christian emblem, available in their stores.

A Christian approach to protesting against halaal products:

As point of departure all objections should be raised in the spirit of Christian love. Although coercing non-Muslims into buying halaal certified products is not acceptable at all, all people, including Muslims, should be treated with dignity since they are also created in the image of God and since they are entitled to receive the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. Islam (religion) should be condemned not Muslims (people). Offensive and abusive remarks must rather be avoided.

It may be expedient to start any objection in a positive and diplomatic manner. Thank the specific chain store, manufacturer or suppliers for the excellent service they are providing to the public. Mention that you would like to make a suggestion on how they can improve their service even further. Mention that you have also noticed that they are providing for the needs of the Muslim community of South Africa since all their products or a large part of their products are halaal certified. The needs of the Christian community however are being overlooked and you would therefore like to make suggestions on how to rectify the matter.

Although one should act courteously you should never create the impression that you are apologising for being a Christian. Indicate in a courteous but firm manner that the rights of Christian consumers are being ignored since they are being forced to contribute to the Muslim cause by means of surcharges. You are also not prepared that the honour of your Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, should be desecrated. All discrimination is unacceptable including discrimination against Christians.

Identifying halaal certified products

In many cases consumers may not be aware that a specific product has been halaal certified by a specific controlling body since the halaal logo on the product may be rather small. So it may be good to know what to look for. Here is an example:



**Crosse & Blackwell
Tangy Mayonnaise
Manufactured in
South Africa**

--- Tiger Brands ---

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