

The UAE Scheme for Halal Products

Part One - Halal Foods

Article (1)

Terms and Definitions

- a. The following terms and phrases shall have the meaning set against each, unless required otherwise by the context:

UAE:	The United Arab Emirates,
ESMA:	The Emirates Authority for Standardization & Metrology,
Board:	ESMA Board of Directors,
Director General:	ESMA Director General,
Scheme:	The UAE scheme for Halal Products,
Competent Authority:	All those federal and local governmental authorities of the country who have been authorized to implement the requirements of this scheme.
Approved UAE Standard:	A document approved by the Board setting the properties, descriptions, features, quality, dimensions, sizes or safety requirements of a commodity, material, service or each measurable item, including terminology, symbols, testing methods, sampling, packaging and labeling. It is indicated as a United Arab Emirates standard (and Schemed as UAE.S),
Mandatory UAE Standard: (Technical Regulation)	Approved UAE standard which shall be mandatorily applied as per the resolution is issued by the Cabinet,
Supplier:	▪ The product manufacturer, if domiciled in the UAE, or any person presenting himself as product manufacturer by naming the product after its name or by appropriate commercial description and any person renewing the product.

	▪ The manufacturer's agent in the UAE, if the manufacturer is domiciled outside the UAE, or the importer in case there is no manufacturer's agent in the UAE. ▪ Any person from the supply chain whose activity has an impact on the product properties.
Conformity Assessment:	The process that verifies the fulfillment of the approved scheme or technical regulations or standards. The subject field of conformity assessment includes activities such as inspection, testing, certification or any other related activities.
Approved Assessment Body:	The body approved by ESMA to do certain tasks such as referential laboratories and grant of conformity certifications,
Accreditation:	Getting official recognition, that the conformity assessment body is qualified and competent to assume certain tasks, from an ESMA recognized body,
Accreditation Body:	A body whose accreditation activities are recognized by ESMA through the body seeking recognition of the international organizations concerned with accreditation or signature of mutual recognition conventions between the body and ESMA. In this Scheme, it is the Accreditation department of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).
Requirements:	The criteria that shall be fulfilled by conformity assessment bodies in order to get accredited, registered or appointed,
Emirates Conformity Assessment Scheme (ECAS):	The UAE scheme that verifies the fulfillment of the approved standard/mandatory UAE standard and includes activities such as inspection, testing and/or calibration, certification.
Conformity Assessment Form (ECAS-H) - Total Quality	A form describing the procedure whereby an establishment operates a recognized food safety Scheme. This form includes the product examination, assessment of food safety Scheme,

Assurance:	periodical inspection and picking samples from the market, establishment or both to ensure the continuation of conformity,
Islamic Shariah:	Allah's ordinance to Muslims, derived from the Holy Quran, Sunnah and unanimous view of Islamic scholars (after the death of Prophet Muhammad, PBUH)
Halal Products:	The products permissible in accordance with Islamic Shariah and meeting the requirements hereunder.
Halal Foods:	The foods and beverages permissible in accordance with Islamic Shariah and meeting the requirements hereunder,
Halal Certificate:	A document certifying that the product, service or their respective schemes are Shariah-compliant. This includes Halal slaughtering certificates, Certificates of establishments, farms, slaughterhouses and facilities sorted as 'Halal', Certificates of food raw materials, food additives, ingredients with meat derivatives, extracts, as well as animal smells, gelatin, fats, oils and their derivatives.
Halal National Mark:	The mark approved by ESMA in the form attached hereto, to be granted to a certain product to confirm the conformity of a product, service and production system to the requirements hereof,
Licensing of Halal National Mark:	A certificate granted by ESMA to allow the use of the Halal National Mark on products compliant with the requirements hereof,
Consignment:	A certain quantity of a foodstuff of the same type or classification, including one or more batches, covered in the same certificate or other documents, imported by a sole importer via the same means of transportation, subject to the same customs declaration.

Food Chain:	All phases which a product undergoes from primary production to delivery to consumer, including importation, exportation, manufacture, preparation, processing, packing, transportation, distribution, submission, offering and sale.
Establishment:	Any mobile or immobile entity or facility which is authorized to circulate Halal foods and products in any phase of the food chain.
Food:	Any prepared, semi-prepared or unprepared material for human consumption, including beverage, gum or any other material used in the manufacturing, preparation or processing of foodstuff, excluding cosmetics, perfumes, tobacco or any materials only used as drugs.
Food Additives:	Any material which is not usually used as food on its own, or as a basic element in food ingredients whether or not it has a nutrition value. It is intentionally added to food for technological purposes (including sense properties such as color, taste and smell) during manufacture, preparation, processing, packaging, transportation or circulation of foodstuff, until this material becomes directly or indirectly an element of impact on the properties of this food.
Label:	Any statement, brand, mark, pictorial or any other descriptive written, printed /impressed or stuck on the container of foods thereto, in such a manner as not to be removable.
Services:	Food-related activities such as transportation, storage, packaging and production of food contact materials.
Production systems:	An integrated set of elements related to food and designed to perform together a task or set of tasks specified in advance.

- b. The terms and definitions in the approved UAE Standards shall constitute an integral part of this scheme, unless mentioned otherwise.



Article (2)

Scope

This scheme shall apply to locally manufactured and imported food products, their primary ingredients and food additives, or services and production systems declared as 'Halal'.

Article (3)

Responsibilities of Implementation

3.1 ESMA:

- a. To issue, approve and update the UAE standards related this scheme.
- b. To supervise the verification of conformity of the products, services or systems to the requirements of hereunder.
- c. To apply 'Conformity Assessment Bodies' Operation Regulation' Scheme.
- d. To agree with Arab, regional, international organizations for mutual recognition of certificates and marks of Halal.
- e. To check the metrological verification of the products covered hereunder, when necessary.

3.2 Accreditation Body:

- a. To accredit the conformity assessment bodies for the purpose(s) of this scheme.
- b. To take necessary action(s) to get recognized by Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), in coordination with ESMA.

3.3 Approved Conformity Assessment Body:

- a. To adhere to the approved standards issued by ESMA in connection with this scheme.
- b. To grant Halal certificates in coordination with the accreditation body and recommend ESMA's grant of the Halal national mark.

- c. To fulfill the requirements of Standard No. UAE.S OIC/SMIIC 2 (Annex 1) and the requirements of 'Conformity Assessment Bodies' Operation Regulation' Scheme issued by ESMA.
- d. To furnish necessary facilities to competent authorities to make field visits, when necessary.

3.4 **Competent Authority:**

- a. To monitor products, services or systems to verify the compliance with this Scheme and with the requirements provided in the approved UAE Standards.
- b. To monitor the product consignments of this scheme at all entry points of the UAE, and make sure they have approved Halal certificates in accordance with this scheme, and take necessary action in case(s) of violating consignments .

3.5 **Supplier:**

- a. To comply with this scheme and within the scope of its responsibility through the food chain.
- b. To present all documents including the test reports to the competent authorities, when necessary, as an evidence of compliance with this scheme and the approved UAE standard(s).
- c. To make sure that all products, services or systems holding Halal certificate/mark are in conformity with the requirements of this scheme and other related approved UAE standards.
- d. To maintain continuous conformity of products, services or systems to all the requirements hereunder.

This scheme is not applicable to any noncompliance which takes place after sales due to improper storage or transportation or third party acts which are/is in contradiction with the supplier's instructions.

- e. To apply a food safety management Scheme such as UAE.S GSO ISO 22000 or HACCP besides an efficient scheme to ensure the fulfillment of the requirements hereunder or other ESMA accepted food safety management systems in respect to the requirements of food chain establishments and submit supporting documents issued by an ESMA recognized authority.

Article (4)



Technical Requirements of Halal Foods

4.1 General Requirements:

- a. To comply with Islamic Shariah, the products, services or systems shall meet the requirements provided in the respective approved UAE Standards.
- b. To verify the conformity of Halal foods, through necessary examinations, to approved UAE Standards or in accordance with GCC, regional or international standards or any other standards with proven scientific evidence and accepted by ESMA.
- c. To ensure conformity of the products to the requirements hereunder and attainment of Halal certificate or Halal national mark.
- d. To adhere to the accredited mandatory UAE standard No. UAE.S OIC/SMIIC 1.
- e. To apply efficient controls to ensure that implemented products, services or systems are 'Halal' and Shariah-compliant. Supporting documents shall be kept for inspection and auditing purposes.
- f. To meet any other regulatory requirements issued by the official authorities of the UAE.
- g. The products prohibited by a resolution of the Ministry of Environment and Water due to the outbreak of an infection or any other causes as set under the ministry's respective resolution shall not be supplied.

4.2 Special Requirements of Slaughterhouses:

- a. They shall meet the requirements of Article 4.1 of this scheme.
- b. The slaughterhouse personnel shall have the Certificate of Professional Competency.
- c. All the raw materials used in production shall meet the requirements of Article 4.1 of this scheme
- d. They shall pay particular consideration to good health practice (GHP), according to the Approved Mandatory UAE Standard Nos. UAE.S GSO 1694; UAE.S GSO 21 and UAE.S OIC/SMIIC 1 (Annex 1).

4.3 Special Requirements for Establishments:



- a. They shall meet the requirements of Article 4.1 of this scheme.
- b. All the raw materials used in production shall meet the requirements of of Article 4.1 of this scheme.
- c. They shall pay particular consideration to good health practice (GHP), according to the Approved Mandatory UAE Standards stated in 4.2 (d) and as per UAE.S GSO CAC RCP 58.
- d. They shall apply a food safety management scheme such as UAE.S GSO ISO 22000 or HACCP besides an efficient Scheme to ensure the fulfillment of the requirements hereunder or other ESMA-accepted food safety management systems in respect to the requirements of food chain establishments and submit supporting documents issued by an ESMA recognized authority.
- e. The requirements of transportation, storage and circulation as stated in the respective approved UAE Standards shall be met.

4.4 Requirements of Accepted Conformity Assessment Bodies:

- a. Halal conformity assessment bodies shall be registered with ESMA and approved by the accreditation body after satisfactory fulfillment of the requirements provided in UAE.S OIC/SMIIC 2.
- b. They shall adhere to and consider the Approved Mandatory UAE Standard No. UAE.S OIC/SMIIC 1 as a reference for assessment, inspection, certification and grant of Halal national mark operations. No other standard(s) shall be used as reference for the application of this scheme.

4.5 Requirements of Accreditation Bodies

- a. They shall adhere to the requirements of UAE.S OIC/SMIIC 3.
- b. To supervise the implementation of UAE.S OIC/SMIIC 2 by the accepted conformity assessment bodies .
- c. They shall be registered with ESMA.

4.6 Halal Certificate/Halal National Mark:



- a. ESMA shall set the Halal national mark and Halal certificate form and shall be the exclusive proprietor of intellectual property rights.

Article (5)

Labeling Requirements

- 5.1 Labeling shall comply with the requirements stated in approved mandatory UAE Standard Nos. UAE.S GSO 9 (in general); UAE.S OIC/MIIC 1 and other standards which are specifically applicable to the given food/ food product.
- 5.2 The label shall also carry National Halal Mark or any other Halal Mark which is approved by ESMA based on mutual agreement with the given country.

Article (6)

Market Monitoring

1. Any product or food violating this scheme must not be manufactured, sold, stored, offered, marketed, promoted, distributed for free or otherwise circulated.
2. Any products bearing any other sign ,slogan, label, mark, symbol, illustration or any other descriptive information indicating conformity with Islamic Shariah or express 'Halal' that is not in accordance with this scheme, shall be strictly prohibited.
3. Any unauthorized use of halal certificate or halal mark, other than its intended purpose, is strictly prohibited.
4. Necessary samples are picked up from all supply points and outlets for necessary examinations to ensure their conformity with the requirements hereof. If any nonconformity is detected, necessary action shall be initiated against the supplier and/or the issuer of the Halal certificate of such products.

Article (7)

Conformity Verification

1. Product(s) under the scope of this scheme shall be subjected to H Conformity Assessment Form, Total Quality Assurance, of the ECAS.
2. A Halal product shall meet all the metrological requirements of the approved UAE Standard UAE.S GSO: 2007 - OIML R87 regarding the quantity of product in the packet.

Article (8)

Violations and Penalties

1. In case of any violation of this scheme, the person involved or held accountable for the violation shall be subjected to all the procedures, measures and penalties provided in the Federal Law No. (28) of 2001 for Establishing the Emirates Authority for Standardization & Metrology (ESMA) and its amendments, without prejudice to the right to impose any severer penalty under other laws.
2. In case of any violation of this Scheme, following actions shall be taken by the competent authority to remove the violation and its consequences from the market:
 - The violating entity which is held accountable for offering the noncomplying product shall be directed to withdraw the noncomplying product from the market(s) for rectification, repatriation to the country of origin or destruction within a fixed period of time.
 - All necessary actions are taken for withdrawal, retention or destruction of these products or any other necessary measures for removal of the violation. The violating entity shall bear all emerging expenses.
3. Necessary actions apply to any one that use of Halal product certificate or Halal national mark without obtaining official permission, or if continued to use of Halal product certificate or Halal national mark or declaring its use through means of media despite the issuance of a decision to stop or suspend or cancel or fortifying the license is subject to penalties prescribed in the Penal Scheme and without prejudice to penalties contained in any other law.
4. If any conformity assessment body does not comply with the requirements of this scheme then the competent authority shall take appropriate action, including the suspension or revocation of accreditation or license. The violating entity shall bear all emerging expenses .



Article (9)

General Provisions

- a. Necessary actions which ensure health, safety shall be taken, such as withdrawal of the product. Such actions shall not constitute any breach of confidentiality.
- b. The conditions implying a Shari'a suspicion shall be referred to the official Efta'a opinion authority in the UAE, There shall be complete coordination with the Efta'a authority in the cases of visits to the establishment or certification body.
- c. Any case that cannot be handled by this scheme, or any conflict in respect to its construction or application, it shall be referred to the Director General for the appropriate decision.
- d. If the source of in nonconformity cannot be identified, the entity at which the violation has been detected shall be held accountable for the nonconformity

Article (10)

Any previous resolution issued by the Cabinet or the Board of Directors in contradiction with this scheme shall be repealed.

Annex I

List of approved UAE Standards applicable to this scheme*

No.	Standard Title	Standard No.
1	General requirements on Halal food	UAE.S OIC/SMIIC (1)



2	Requirements for bodies providing Halal certification	UAE.S OIC/SMIIC (2)
3	Requirements for the halal accreditation body accrediting Halal certification bodies	UAE.S OIC/SMIIC (3)
4	Labelling Of Prepackaged Foodstuffs	UAE.S/ GSO 9
5	Hygienic Regulations For Food Plants And Their Personnel	UAE.S/ GSO 21
6	General Principles Of Food Hygiene	UAE.S GSO 1694
7	Scheme of hygienic practice for meat	UAE.S/GSO CAC RCP 58
8	Food safety management system – Requirements for any organization in the food chain	UAE.S GSO ISO 22000
* Always refer/use the latest version of the standard(s).		