



DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT MALAYSIA
HALAL HUB DIVISION

CIRCULAR OF MALAYSIAN HALAL CERTIFICATION 3/2012

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOGNITION FOR FOREIGN HALAL
CERTIFICATION BODIES RECOGNISED BY JAKIM**

OBJECTIVE

1. This circular is intended to inform about the implementation of the recognition for the Recognized Foreign Halal Certification Bodies with reference to the Trade Description Act (APD) 2011 which come into force on January 1, 2012 concerning on the halal certificate for imported halal products.

BACKGROUND

2. Besides halal certification, JAKIM also recognized the foreign halal certification bodies to verify the halal status of raw materials and finished or semi-finished products produced in the country of origin for the purpose of importation.

3. The purpose of the recognition is to ensure that the Recognized Foreign Halal Certification Bodies perform their own obligation and responsibilities in halal certification and monitoring of the products produced in their countries. Thus, the recognition has been given to the foreign halal certification bodies by terms and condition.

4. However, lately, there are many issues and problems arose regarding the imported halal products which have been certified by the Recognized Foreign Halal Certification Bodies especially when the bodies also issued the halal certificates to the products manufactured outside their countries. This practice may cause confusion and anxiety on the quality and authenticity of the halal status of these products among the Muslim's consumers and industries.

5. In addition, the Trade Descriptions Act (APD) in 2011 has emphasized the issue regarding the imported products which will be marked as halal or any other markings that indicate as halal, shall be certified by the Recognized Foreign Halal Certification Bodies in the countries of the products being manufactured. Importer or manufacturer of any food and goods certified as halal by the Recognized Foreign Halal Certification Bodies shall be marked on the food and goods, with the halal logo or name of the body.

PROCEDURE FOR THE RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN HALAL CERTIFICATION BODIES

6. Generally, the Foreign Halal Certification Bodies applying for the recognition from JAKIM, shall be a registered organization which subjected to the laws of their countries. The Foreign Halal Certification Bodies shall have their own halal logo as an identity. The Foreign Halal Certification Bodies which seeking for recognition shall apply directly to Halal Hub Division, JAKIM by filling up the prescribed application form and attach all supporting documents required.

7. Subsequently, compliance audit will be conducted on the Foreign Halal Certification Bodies. Among the aspects that will be assessed during the compliance audit is the ability and capacity of the bodies to conduct halal certification. These include aspects of human resources, certification systems, standards or guidelines for halal, experts in the area of shariah and technical, reference of fatwa, management and control of the certification records and monitoring of the certified abattoir and food processing plants. Besides, witness audit will be conducted on the certified abattoir and

food processing plant to evaluate directly the process of auditing accomplish by the bodies.

8. Reports will be presented before the Panel Meeting of Foreign Halal Certification Bodies for decision. Letter of recognition will be given to the Recognized Foreign Halal Certification Bodies and the bodies will be listed on the website www.halal.gov.my. The Foreign Halal Certification Bodies that failed in the application, an official letter will be issued to notify on the matter and these bodies may reapply again after six (6) months from the date of the letter's issuance and after corrective actions are done.

9. The Recognized Foreign Halal Certification Bodies will be audited again after a period of two (2) years from the date of appointment has expired and the bodies will be notified in advance.

LIMITATION OF HALAL CERTIFICATION FOR RECOGNISED FOREIGN HALAL CERTIFICATION BODIES

10. In issuing halal certification, the Recognized Foreign Halal Certification Bodies are subjected to the following conditions:

- i. For Muslim countries, recognition given to the agency appointed officially by the government to certify the halal products;
- ii. For non-Muslim countries, recognition is given to the halal certificates issued by the Recognized Foreign Halal Certification Bodies that have complied to the recognition's terms and conditions imposed by JAKIM;
- iii. The halal certificates for the products shall be issued by the Recognized Foreign Halal Certification Bodies from the country of products' origin. However, exemptions are given to:

- a) The European Union members in which the halal certificates issued by the Recognised Foreign Halal Certification Bodies from the country of products' origin and throughout the European Union member are acceptable.
- b) the countries that do not have Recognized Foreign Halal Certification Bodies wherein halal certificates issued by the neighboring countries of the products being manufactured are acceptable.

TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

11. Imported products using the halal certificates which are not recognized and unacceptable by JAKIM, is given until December 31, 2012 to change to the recognized and valid halal certificates to comply with this circular.

EFFECTIVE DATE

12. This circular is effective from January 1, 2012.

INQUIRIES

13. Any questions regarding this circular should be directed to:

HALAL HUB DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT MALAYSIA,
GROUND FLOOR, BLOCK 2200,
ENTERPRISE BUILDING 3,
PERSIARAN APEC,
63000 CYBERJAYA,
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APPLICATION

14. This circular applies to all imported halal products intending to use the logo or any other markings to be used as raw materials in halal products or for the products which intend to be certified as halal by JAKIM and JAIN.

“BERKHIDMAT UNTUK NEGARA”



(DATO' HJ OTHMAN BIN MUSTAPHA)
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DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT MALAYSIA
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