Control Office of Halal Slaughtering and
Halal Quality Control BV Netherlands

مكتب مراقبة الذبح حسب الشريعة الإسلامية
مكتب مراقبة جودة الحلال

Open Announcement Letter
Reference: HQC.N.2024.008 – 8 pages
18 September 2024

Subject: Important Updates Regarding Halal Certification and Saudi Arabia's New Platform

To Whom It May Concern,

Introduction:

This urgent newsletter is intended for companies exporting their food or beverage products into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Major updates will take effect as of **1 October 2024**, and more newsletters related to this topic will follow.

We kindly ask you to read this message thoroughly to ensure that you understand the new requirements.

For further assistance, please contact HQC Headquarters or any of our branches, or send your inquiry to **saudi@halalqualitycontrol.com.**

The Halal Quality Control Group wishes to inform you of an important update from the Saudi Halal Center, the Halal authority under the Saudi Food and Drug Administration, based on their Circulation Letter Number 255 (attached separately).

Effective 1 October 2024, all Halal Shipment Certificates for products entering Saudi Arabia must be issued via the new Saudi Halal Center platform.

As HQC will be managing the platform, it is essential to highlight additional critical updates associated with this launch.

Fee Structure:

Halal Shipment Certificates: A fixed fee of 1000 Saudi Arabian Riyal (SAR) (approximately 240 EUR) will apply for each shipment weighing up to 27 tons (27,000 KG).

For shipments exceeding this weight limit, an additional charge will apply for every increment.

Halal Facility Certificates (new): This new certificate is required for any company with Halal certification by an accredited body (such as HQC) that wishes to export to Saudi Arabia.

A fixed fee of 3750 SAR (approximately 900 EUR) will be charged annually.

If obtained before 1 October 2024, the first year is complimentary.

Note: The Halal Facility Certificate is in addition to the mandatory Halal Shipment Certificate for all exports.

HS Codes and Applicable Categories:

The Saudi Halal Center has introduced a broader scope for mandatory Halal certification, categorizing products into groups linked to specific HS Codes.

A full list of the products and their corresponding codes can be found at https://halal.gov.sa/hs-code

These codes will be reflected on the Halal Shipment Certificates issued by HQC.

Applicable Categories:

If your type of products does not have an HS code, we will link your products to the most identical HS code.

This means that even if your products do not have an HS code, it is still mandatory to obtain a Halal Facility Certificate and subsequently request a Halal Shipment Certificate for export to Saudi Arabia.

Update in HS Codes and Applicable Categories:

In short, **all types of foods and beverages** are now required to be Halal certified and receive a Halal Facility Certificate. Failure to do so may result in export stoppage by border control starting 1 October 2024.

Restrictions for Specific Categories:

All customers considered as **Slaughtering Facilities** or **Meat Processing Facilities** are subject to specific restrictions. Your Halal Certificate must be issued by an SFDA-approved body that is registered in the same country as your facility. This requirement also applies to Meat Processing Facilities. For all other unclassified categories, no restrictions on cross-border certification apply.

Registering Products:

Your products, as mentioned within your HQC Certificate, will be transferred to the Saudi Halal Center Platform for approval, after which a Halal Facility Certificate can be issued for your company. If you have multiple appendices or separate appendices listing your products, you are required to gather all products together so that we can input the data in one go.

Product names must be provided in both Arabic and English.

If you cannot provide the product name in Arabic, this will be handled by HQC.
If you wish to add products in the future and update your Halal Facility Certificate, you may send us a request to **saudi@halalqualitycontrol.com**.

Legal/Commercial Registration Details:

As mandated by the Saudi Halal Center, HQC is obliged to upload a copy of the legal/commercial registration certificate for each manufacturing site of its customers. More details and upload options are available on our Registration Page (see **How to Register** section below).

Halal Quality Control Headquarters
Laan van Meerdervoort 53d | 2517 AE | The Hague | The Netherlands
International Tel. and WhatsApp: +31 70 346 97 95
info@halalqualitycontrol.com | www.halalqualitycontrol.com
Commercial Registration Number: 85104019 | VAT Nr: NL863510486B01
Document Reference No: HQC.N.2024.008

Minimum Requirements for Product Adding:

HQC will provide general data in the platform; however, there are some required fields that must be filled in by the customers to avoid mistakes. Such details include, but may not be limited to:

- Product Brand details (in both English and Arabic)
- Product Name(in both English and Arabic)
- Net Weight(for each type of packaging or product code)
- Drain Weight (optional)
- Other similar details

We refer to our Registration Page for filling in the required data.

HQC E-Portal Update:

Our E-Portal is being updated to align with the new Saudi Halal Center requirements for requesting Halal Shipment Certificates.

Further details on the new system will be shared in our upcoming newsletter.

How to Register:

If your company exports or plans to export products to Saudi Arabia, it is essential to register through our website in advance.

This allows us to upload your data to the new platform before 1 October 2024.

HQC Approval by Saudi Halal Center

HQC is approved in 6 countries and growing:

The Netherlands, Germany, France, Italy, Austria, and Greece.

Please note that cross-border restrictions only apply on Slaughtering Facilities and Meat Processing Plants.

As we are considered the **world's most expanded** and accredited Halal certification body, we aim to add more of our branches in the near future.

Halal Quality Control Headquarters
Laan van Meerdervoort 53d | 2517 AE | The Hague | The Netherlands
International Tel. and WhatsApp: +31 70 346 97 95
info@halalqualitycontrol.com | www.halalqualitycontrol.com
Commercial Registration Number: 85104019 | VAT Nr: NL863510486B01
Document Reference No: HQC.N.2024.008

Control Office of Halal Slaughtering and
Halal Quality Control BV Netherlands

مكتب مراقبة الذبح حسب الشريعة الإسلامية
مكتب مراقبة جودة الحلال

Important:

- Each manufacturing site or facility certified by HQC must be registered individually.
- Registration is open to customers of all HQC branches, not limited to HQC Headquarters in the Netherlands.
- Please note that if you are a group of companies or have multiple manufacturing sites, you may download the SFDA Template (Excel document), fill in your data, and e-mail it to **saudi@halalqualitycontrol.com**
- You can register online through this link: **https://www.halalqualitycontrol.com/saudi-arabia-registration**

Service Fees:

Registration, handling, portal management, and product registration fees are **500 EUR per registration per year**.

This covers the administrative tasks necessary to have your company listed as an approved facility by the Saudi Halal Center.

How to Request HQC Halal Shipment Certificates (HSC):

If you have never requested an HSC with HQC before, please contact us so that we can provide you the guidelines on how to request a Halal Shipment Certificate.

Halal Quality Control Headquarters
Laan van Meerdervoort 53d | 2517 AE | The Hague | The Netherlands
International Tel. and WhatsApp: +31 70 346 97 95
info@halalqualitycontrol.com | www.halalqualitycontrol.com
Commercial Registration Number: 85104019 | VAT Nr: NL863510486B01
Document Reference No: HQC.N.2024.008

Control Office of Halal Slaughtering and
Halal Quality Control BV Netherlands

مكتب مراقبة الذبح حسب الشريعة الإسلامية
مكتب مراقبة جودة الحلال

Open Webinar:

We understand that this might be a lot of information coming at once, and we therefore wish to invite you to a Zoom webinar organized by HQC Headquarters on **24 September 2024 at 11:00 AM (GMT +2).**

Webinar Registration Link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DRQAW0rqQEiQyLqke6AoeA

Conclusion:

As of this moment, it is most important that you start registering your data so that we can register your details and receive your Halal Facility Certificate by 1 October 2024. Halal Shipment Certificates (when doing any exports) will be handled as usual through the HQC E-Portal.

Customer Support:

We are available by phone and email for assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Yours Truly,
Wasim al Shaman, Interim Chief Executive Officer
HQC Management Board | HQC Quality Department

Halal Quality Control Headquarters
Laan van Meerdervoort 53d | 2517 AE | The Hague | The Netherlands
International Tel. and WhatsApp: +31 70 346 97 95
info@halalqualitycontrol.com | www.halalqualitycontrol.com
Commercial Registration Number: 85104019 | VAT Nr: NL863510486B01
Document Reference No: HQC.N.2024.008