Facts about Halal and Haram in Food, Cosmetics, Drugs, Health and Skincare Products

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حقائق حول الحلال والحرام في الأطعمة والأدوية، ومستحضرات التجميل، ومنتجات العناية بالصحة والبشرة.

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باحث، معهد الكويت للأبحاث العلمية
دولة الكويت

@AzkaHalal

2012-02-29، مسجد الدولة الكبير، دولة الكويت
"O those who believe, eat of the good things We have provided you."

(2:172)
Prohibited to you are dead animals, blood, the flesh of swine, and that which has been dedicated to other than Allah, and killed by strangling or by a violent blow or by a head-long fall or by the goring of horns, and those from which a wild animal has eaten, except what you slaughter, and those which are sacrificed on stone altars (5:3).
O you who have believed, indeed, intoxicants, gambling, [sacrificing on] stone alters [to other than Allah], and divining arrows are but defilement from the work of Satan, so avoid it that you may be successful. (5:90)
My references in this lecture are the documents collected over 32 years in a book of 4 volumes that list what have actually happened with regard to Halal services and I entitled it: A guide to official documents with regard to food and slaughter according to Islamic rites.
Some believe that prohibition involves only what Muslim consume of **Food** but it also involve what he/she used or consume as a drug or cosmetics and skin & health care products so as not to be the source of its ingredients forbidden.
It was narrated that Jabir bin Abdullah, may Allah be pleased with him: that he heard the Messenger of Allah peace be upon him at the year of the conquest of Mecca he said:

"Allah and His Messenger have forbidden the sale of alcohol, and dead, pork and idols. " It was said, O Messenger of Allah, what do you think of fat of dead animals (i.e. of eaten meat), they applied to the ships, and varnishing the hides, and used as a source of lighting for the people? He said: “No. It is forbidden“.
On the subject of Halal and Haram

In Food, Cosmetics, Drugs, Skincare & Health Products.

I will be focusing on some of the misconceptions in this topic
We have a Crisis in Halal awareness

Halal has one meaning!

But with consumers

Halal

Has a confused meaning
There is no interest in Halal

In practice, most governments in Muslim countries and Muslim consumers are not serious or even interested in Halal!!
The Confused meaning of Halal is due to:

1) the lack of necessary information about the integrity of the complete Halal chain of many products used by Muslim ranging from Food to Cosmetics, Drugs, Skincare & Health Products.
2) The spread of rumors and a spectrum of controversial religious opinions issued by Mufties who made their Fatwas based on assumptions due to the lack of knowledge of events.
The following facts are in agreement with all Halal services provider:
1) Products that are made in Muslim countries are not necessarily Halal.

Because it is universally known to put on the label the name of the country that is last packaged the product.
Think with me:

We buy English tea! But does Britain grown tea?

And isn’t there a Mango juice made in many Gulf states like Kuwait? Where did the mango comes from? Does any of the Gulf States grow Mango on a mass scale for the manufacturing of Mango juice?

So, the country that is last packaged the product put its name on the label.
**Question:** Is the raw meat used by famous local companies for example in Kuwait to manufacture processed meat products like hot dogs and sausages are from locally slaughtered meat??

**The Answer:**
All locally processed meat products are imported from non-Muslim countries with the exception of one: Nife.
Q: Are imported raw meats really Halal?

I.e., Was the meat **stunned** or came into contact with forbidden materials!
But, what is stunning? What's wrong with it?

All cows stunned mostly with percussive captive bolt stunning on their heads and if left without slaughtering it will not go back to life.

In France as well as in many European countries birds are stunned to death at low frequencies (50Hz). For the purpose of fast lost of consciousness (i.e. death)*.

Many variables decide the quality of Stunning (in term of death and living of the stunned animals), and the most important ones are:

Current (mA) and Frequency (Hz)

But

Frequency (Hz) is the parameter most causative of killing the animal during stunning.
Accordingly, chicken carcasses, which comes to all the GCC and Middle East countries from Europe, America and Brazil, that is accompanied with a Halal certificate and is stunned with a frequency of 50 Hz and an electric strength of:

- 75 mA the percentage rate of killed poultry prior to slaughter is 61%.
- 90 mA the percentage rate of killed poultry prior to slaughter is 81%.
- 150 mA the percentage rate of killed poultry prior to slaughter is 100%.

These are the facts that are missing from the fatwa on the permissibility of the use of stunning and the fatwa wished that the percentage rate of killed poultry prior to slaughter is low, we say: These fatwas is on the astray way.
At higher stunning frequencies (1500Hz) chickens recover back to clear signs of life after slaughtering (after 57 seconds)**.

But stunning at the high frequency, the slaughtering process of stunned chickens is much faster than the time chickens recover back to clear signs of life stunning.

So, what is the verdict?

In the Muwatta, Imam Malik said: With Mawqoozah and similar cases, if the animal/bird can not live with, it is not permissible to eat its meat even if it was slaughtered before death*.

He also put a condition for the Zabiha, he said: if the animal/bird at the time of slaughtering has an ongoing breathing and it is in a disturbance state, then its meat after slaughtering can be eaten.*
The Answer to my earlier question is: All imported raw meat to GCC for processing are stunned.

I. e.: the meat that is coming from Australia to make sausage or hamburger in any Gulf country, it is by law allowed to put on the labels of finished product: Made in that Gulf country and not in Australia and it is taken by the consumer in GCC that the actual slaughter was done by that Gulf country, while the meat came from Australia from an animal that was stunned before it was slaughtered.
Where do you stand with Chicken soups, or Maggi/Al-Alalli-Beef/Chicken Cubes?

Is the starting meat material *Halal*?

I do not know, so I avoid using them.
I have personally detected traces of pork in locally manufactured minced lamb meat sold in one of the GCC market.

This lead me to the next question:
Q: Is the complete manufacturing chain of imported raw food in the country of origin Halal?

To answer this question I have to put forward this fact:
Do you know that some western commercial orange juices are filtered using animal gelatin (bovine, or pig), and this hidden ingredient is allowed not to be written on the food label.

And then we get surprised why do they writes the word **Halal** on orange juice.
Surprisingly some Muslim countries put word Halal on bottled Water.

Because water over there could possibly be filtered, before being bottled, using fine animal bones !!
What about food additives like:

**E470-E479**

These are **emulsifiers** of unknown fat origin, even if it say of vegetable origin it must be verified by a third party.

**E542**

Is a bone phosphate that is used sometimes in powdered products like chocolate, coffee, and so on
What follows are these facts:

2) Products like soaps (all types) bars, hand washing liquid, shampoo, detergents and toothpaste that are manufactured by Muslim countries are not necessarily Halal. Because these factories do not necessarily start with Halal raw materials or they just pack what they receive from the mother company.
Examples:

A Siwak and Miswak toothpastes produced in two Gulf countries one (Siwak) in Saudi Arabia that do not use fat (Glycerin) the other in UAE that use Glycerin of unknown source.

Which one you choose?
Examples:

Most of the famous Soap brand names made in Saudi Arabia are made from Animal fat of unknown origin. Surprisingly, these soaps are will spread in Malaysian markets and thought by the consumers as Halal because it came from Saudi Arabia, so it must be Halal!!

Will you go for these brands for your next shopping or will you be looking for alternative brands that are made of 100% pure vegetable oil?
Go for

The Halal Soap from India that need to be verified by a third party
Also, what follows:

3) Products that are sold in shops owned by Muslims are not necessarily Halal.

4) Products that its ingredients written in Arabic are not necessarily Halal.
4) Products that some of their ingredients refer to be from vegetable sources are not necessarily Halal.
Also:

5) Products written on there label: free of animal fats does not necessarily mean it is **Halal**.
6) Products written on their label: Does not contain fat or meat from pig are also not necessarily **Halal**.
Why?

Because it may also contain undeclared hidden forbidden components.

The allegation also need a third party to confirm it (i.e., a Halal Accredited Muslim body).
What do you know about Aspartame or E951?

Do you now it is made from two amino acids of unknown sources and its synthesis is catalyzed by an enzyme called Acylase that come from pigs kidney.

But what is Aspartame?

It is the sweetener used in all diet drinks and food.
What do you know about Rennet in cheese?

This enzyme convert milk into cheese, but what is the source of this enzyme?

Mostly comes from animal sources of unknown animal or status of the slaughter.

Our best go would be microbial rennet.
What follows: Is to avoid all cheeses, cheese burger, pizzas, Kenafa, and spread cheeses unless the cheese made from microbial rennet.

If it came to our attention that the microbial rennet is from a starting Haram material then we should avoid it.
What do you know about Gelatin E441

It is the animal (Bovine or Pig) protein that is used to hold orcapsulate medicine.

Also found in many food products such as Jell-O.
Many Mufties mad a wrong Fatwa on Gelatin and gave it the Halal verdict based on the transformation theory (Istihala).

However, many who thought that Gelatin transformed based their verdicts on the assumption that it is transformed.

Another example of transformation Mufties always give is Soap! Soap defined as the salt of fat.

**Q:** But does Fat transform in Soap making?

**A:** I do not think so.
7) Meals (or airline flight meals) that are intended for Vegans consumption (100% of vegetable sources) are not necessarily Halal.
8) Jewish kosher meals are also not necessarily Halal.
Because there is a kosher wine, a vegetarians wine, and there is also a kosher porcine gelatin that may enter kosher diets.

Porcine = Pig/Pork
9) And the phrase: slaughtered by hand, and fed with 100% Pure Vegetable feed is not necessarily Halal.
Why?

Because slaughtering by hand does not negate stunning before or after slaughter.
10) Products that are printed on their packages with the word Halal are not necessarily Halal.

Again

The allegation need a third party to confirm it (i.e., a Halal Accredited Muslim body).
There is no interest in Halal
Officially, most Islamic countries have a law with the following statements:

“All imported meat shipments Must be accompanied by a Halal certificate."

But in practice

There is no law regulate Halal certificates
It has come to one of the Arabian Gulf countries a Halal Certificate from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) where a non-Muslim employees within that department declare that the meat shipment is Halal.
A Halal Certificate issued by a Christian Officials named Ed Jones

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**A Halal Certificate issued by a Christian Officials named Ed Jones**

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**Halal Certificate**

This Certificate is issued for the meat or meat product specified herein and reported by Chemical Meat Company, Kansas City, Kansas, and consigned to Kirkland Meats, Inc., 2910 Clay St, Kansas City, Mo.

It is from animals that received both ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection and were found sound and healthy and that it has been inspected subsequent by law and the regulations of the Department and issued and evidenced...

**Shipping Name and Stand Number**

Kuwait

**Table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kind</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Description of Product</th>
<th>Packages</th>
<th>Amd</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Description of Product</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CS</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>Beef Brisket</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2400</td>
<td>Beef Thigh Meat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**By order of**

Secretary of Agriculture

**APRIL 8, 1981**

1. I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE BEEF DESCRIBED HEREIN IS FROM ANIMALS WHOSE AVERAGE AGE IS TWO YEARS, WHICH WERE EXAMINED WITHIN 12 HOURS BEFORE SLAUGHTER AND IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN OR BY AN INSPECTOR UNDER DIRECT VETERINARY SUPERVISION, AND WERE FOUND FREE OF DISEASE AND SUITABLE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

2. THE BEEF COVERED BY THIS CERTIFICATE WAS SLAUGHTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH MUSLIM PROCEDURES: IT WAS SLAUGHTERED BY MEANS OF A SHARP KNIFE, CUTTING THROUGH THE SKIN, JUGULAR VEIN, AND TRACHEA, TO RESULT IN THOROUGH BLEEDING OF THE CARCASS IN PREPARATION FOR DRESSING AND Evisceration. A DESENSITIZING TECHNIQUE WAS NOT USED. THE NAME OF ALMIGHTY GOD WAS MENTIONED AS THE ANIMAL WAS SLAUGHTERED: "BISMILLAH WA ALAHU AKBAR".

**Ed Jones, DVM**

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**Note:** The certificate includes a table with specific details about the meat product, including its weight and description.
Another Halal certificate issued by New Zealand meat factory where the plant manager who is also a non-Muslim declare that the meat is Halal.
**A Halal Certificate issued by a Christian organization**
(here it is the company)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consignor/Exporter</th>
<th>W. &amp; R. Fletcher (N.Z.) Ltd.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consignee</td>
<td>MUNKY STORES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>1217 GCS VI LAMB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter of Credit Number</td>
<td>M/C1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shipped per</td>
<td>AUSTR. STAR VI 1569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destination</td>
<td>KUWAIT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Weight</td>
<td>1344.11 KG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Weight</td>
<td>M/C1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We certify that this consignment of beef/mutton/lamb has been slaughtered with a sharp knife after the manner of the Islamic way.

Signature, Company Management

[Image of a certificate with a signature and stamp]
And as long as the shipment is accompanied by a piece of paper [says] it is Halal it is accepted by the authorities in the imported Islamic countries
Therefore, we find that some slaughterhouses in the Western countries willing to do anything to get certificates from a Fake Halal supervisors (i.e., they are forging Halal certificates and Halal seals), and put the Halal word written in Arabic.

For example:
The original Seal and fake one of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils
The original seal and fake one of the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand

The original seal

The fake seal
Therefore, we find that the International Islamic Fiqh Academy warned Islamic countries not to count much on the Halal seals signs on imported meat. Why? Because producers in the countries of the West do not care for the requirements of Islamic rites.
It is indeed disturbing that the embassies of the Arabs or the Arab Gulf states put behind Halal certificates their stamped declaring the authenticity of the seals on the certificate without incurring any responsibility for the content of the certificate.
The seal of an Arab Embassy or of an Islamic country is on the back of Halal slaughtering certificate witnessing the authenticity of seal on the certificate with a statement that said: the embassy is not responsible for the contents of that certificate.

In conclusion, the embassy here does not mean that the meat covered by a certificate is Halal.
Another example: in the absence of attention to Halal

The existence of an administrative decision in some GCC countries stating: it is necessary that importer put the word “Halal" on the packaging of meat products and the words "beef" or "fish" on the packaging of products containing gelatin, of course with a certificate from the issuing company from the country of origin!! So as to allow entry of these products to this country of the Gulf and these statements are taken to be Halal.

These statements and testimony may be misleading.... Why?
Because in most of these cases and in other similar cases these statements and certificates have not been verification by a third party

An approved Accredited Islamic Body
In some cases, Halal services is being offered by a group claimed to be Muslim, and by virtue of Islam are not Muslims.

An example of this: Halal certificates issued by Qadiani in Western Australia.
Certificate of Islamic slaughter Qadiani
Dr. Hani Mansour Al-Mazeedi
With brother Amjad Mahboob
in Australia in 1981