



Mr. Olivier Peyrat,
Director General AFNOR,

General Secretariat of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) presents its compliments to the French Standardization Association (AFNOR) and has the honor to address to your esteemed organization regarding the issuance of experimental AFNOR Standard on Halal.

SMIIC, as an affiliated institution of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and a sound mechanism for harmonization of standards among the OIC Member States and for preparation of new ones as per the needs of member states and all related parties, SMIIC has issued standards on halal issues and continue to issue halal standards through its technical committees on food, cosmetics, tourism, textile, supply chain, management systems...etc. by taking into account the views of all related stakeholders in compliance with the international practices of standardization. SMIIC has been recognized and mandated by OIC as the technically competent and authorized platform for the halal standards issues and halal since its establishment. And the basic standards on halal is a product of an intense work with contribution of 40 OIC Member States and related OIC institutions and some others:

- OIC/SMIIC 1: 2011, General Guidelines on Halal Food,
- OIC/SMIIC 2: 2011, Guidelines for Bodies Providing Halal Certification,
- OIC/SMIIC 3: 2011, Guidelines for the Halal Accreditation Body Accrediting Halal Certification Bodies.
- OIC/SMIIC FDS 4, Halal Cosmetics-General Requirements
- OIC/SMIIC 5: 2017, General Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)

We have recently received several letters of concern from the Muslim community organizations in Europe regarding the issuance of an experimental standard on halal (XPV06-001) by AFNOR. The claims were mostly focused on the lack of involvement of Muslim communities during the development of the said standard which considerably could have been the main stakeholders in this study.

Halal standards should not be considered as technical standards only and lack of Muslim religious experts in the standardization process would cause serious reactions of the community and from the standardization point of view, would not be a good practice.

With this regards, we would kindly like to underline that SMIIC is the competent body to issue standards to be used internationally – especially halal standards and is open to cooperate with any relevant organization who is interested and if AFNOR has any projects to issue halal standards, it can either adopt OIC/SMIIC Standards or can contribute to the technical work of the relevant technical committees of SMIIC or include all relevant stakeholders in its technical work for reaching consensus of all stakeholders. Therefore, the duplication of efforts, the existence of many standards on same subjects would cause a conflict of interest in future and further technical barriers to trade.

General Secretariat of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the esteemed AFNOR the assurances of its highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,


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Secretary General, SMIIC

SMIIC General Secretariat