

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Bahrain Requires GAC-accreditation to Continue Issuing Halal Certificates

Country: Bahrain

Post: Riyadh

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report

Prepared By: Hussein Mousa

Approved By: Chris Frederick

Report Highlights:

On December 13, 2025, the Kingdom of Bahrain's Animal Health Directorate (AHD) within the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture implemented a new requirement that all imports of poultry, livestock meat, and related products be accompanied by Halal certificates issued by Halal certification bodies (HCBs) accredited by the GCC Accreditation Center (GAC). Even though December 13 has passed, U.S. HCBs should consider using the link contained in the report below to register with the Government of Bahrain; it is possible that HCBs that begin the registration process will be granted a four-month grace period, even if they are not currently GAC-accredited. The U.S. Government is currently working with Bahrain to gather more information about this new development.

On December 13, 2025, the Kingdom of Bahrain’s Animal Health Directorate (AHD) of the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture (MMAA) announced the implementation of an integrated national Halal system. The new system was established by Cabinet Decision No. 61 on December 12, 2024, laying out a comprehensive legal framework for regulating Halal products in the Kingdom of Bahrain, with particular emphasis on poultry, livestock meat, and related products covered under the new Halal certification requirements. For more information, please see the [MMAA website on the National Halal System](#). The Cabinet Decision stated that all concerned entities must comply within one year of its publication in the Official Gazette (i.e., by December 13, 2025), after which the Decision will enter into force.

Bahrain is now requiring [GCC Accreditation Center](#) (GAC) accreditation in order to continue certifying products as Halal. GAC is an independent regional halal accreditation body headquartered in Saudi Arabia. GAC applies the following technical regulations and standards when evaluating and licensing Halal certification bodies:

Reference Number	Name of the Technical Regulation or Standard Specification
BH GSO 2055-1	Halal Product (Food)- Part 1: General Requirement
BH GSO 2055-2	Halal Product – Part 2: General Requirement for Halal Certification Bodies
BH GSO 993	Animal Slaughtering Requirements According to Islamic Rules
BH GSO 713	Hygienic Regulation for Poultry Processing Abattoirs and Their Personnel
BH GSO 21	Hygienic Regulation for Food Plant and Their Personnel
BH GSO 9	Labeling of Prepackaged Food Stuffs

For U.S. HCBs that are already accredited by GAC: You must use now register with the Government of Bahrain using [this link](#) (Bahrani portal) to ensure continued acceptance of your halal certificates.

For U.S. HCBs accredited by an entity other than GAC: It may be possible to obtain a four-month extension to make the switch to GAC accreditation. It is Post’s understanding that if an HCB not accredited by GAC applies through this portal, it will obtain a four-month grace period for the purpose of becoming GAC-accredited.

This new requirement does not apply to poultry, livestock meat, and related products shipped to Bahrain **prior to** December 13, 2025.

The U.S. Government is currently working with the Government of Bahrain to understand the new requirements and advocate for additional flexibility for U.S. exports.

Attachments:

No Attachments.