

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: March 08, 2022

Report Number: IN2022-0005

Report Name: India Halal Overview - 2022

Country: India

Post: New Delhi

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report, Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the Economy, Agriculture in the News, Livestock and Products, Special Certification - Organic/Kosher/Halal, SP1 - Expand International Marketing Opportunities, FAIRS Subject Report

Prepared By: Radha Mani, Agricultural Assistant, and Mariano J. Beillard, Senior Regional Agricultural Attaché

Approved By: Mariano Beillard, Senior Regional Agricultural Attaché

Report Highlights:

This GAIN-FAIRS report provides an overview of halal in India (including certification) for food and agricultural products and for select non-food product categories (cosmetics and pharmaceuticals). India with the number of Muslim citizens totaling 209 million (14.2 percent of the national population) has the third-largest Muslim population in the world. In India, halal is a religious attestation. The government neither mandates halal certification, nor does it provide a unifying regulatory law. The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India's (FSSAI) standard certification is the requirement for consumer edible products. Halal certification in the form of an internationally recognized certificate is not necessary to obtain trade permission either for exports or imports. There are no specific labeling requirements for imports of halal food products. For all U.S.-origin meat and non-plant based food products shipped to India, halal certification is strictly voluntary.

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this report was retrieved in part from the websites of the Halal Council of India; Halal India; Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind Halal Trust; and Jamiat Ulama-E-Maharashtra. The U.S. Embassy in New Delhi – Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA), USDA and/or the U.S. government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity. The Government of India has not officially endorsed this report. Import approval for any product is subject to local rules and regulations as interpreted by Indian officials at the time of product entry. [Note: Use Google Chrome to access the links that do not open in Internet Explorer. Indian host sites will geo-block site access on a rolling basis].

GENERAL INFORMATION

GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF INDIA’S HALAL AND MARKET TRENDS

Under Islamic law, halal (an Arabic word that translates to “permissible” in English) is a term that designates an object the use of which is permitted or an action that is sanctioned. In the Koran, the word halal is contrasted with the word haram (meaning “forbidden” or proscribed by Islamic law). Certain products must be certified by an approved authority to be considered halal, based upon the content and/or process-based requirements.

With some 209 million followers, Islam is India’s second-largest religion after Hinduism (79.8 percent).¹ The Indian Islamic community represents over 14 percent of the total national population.² India today is also home to the third-largest Muslim population in the world, trailing only Indonesia (231 million) and Pakistan (212.3 million). Over 47 percent of India’s Muslims are concentrated in the states of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Bihar.

INDIA’S MARKET DYNAMICS AND SCOPE OF THE HALAL TRADE

India’s [large Muslim population](#), represents huge opportunities for halal-based entrepreneurs. While the concept of halal is often associated with food products, it is also applicable to all kinds of consumer goods and services.

An Islamic halal economy encompasses food products, cosmetics, banking and finance, travel, and pharmaceuticals, among others. However, in India, despite the large size of the Muslim minority population, the country’s halal industry is still in its infancy. Consumer demand for halal is muted, not often explicit. Food manufacturers producing authentically halal-certified products face accusations that halal certification is being imposed on the country’s majority Hindu population.³

Indian (observant) Muslim consumers until recently mostly sought halal certification for meat and meat products. Halal consumers demand that meat products’ ingredients do not include any prohibited products such as pork, pork intestine casings, or which would indicate non-halal animal slaughter practices. Domestic product

¹ India’s national population is estimated at over 1.339 billion and growing 1.04 percent (Central Intelligence Agency, July 2021 estimate). Religions: Hindu 79.8 percent, Muslim 14.2 percent, Christian 2.3 percent, Sikh 1.7 percent, other and unspecified 2 percent (2011 estimate).

² Ibid.

³ Halal certification is politically controversial. India’s [Hindu Janajagruti Samiti](#) (right-wing Hindu organization) questions the need for it – [Halal Certified Products Being Imposed on Hindus](#) and [Impose Immediate Ban on Religion-based ‘Halal’ Certification in Secular India](#).

halal certification labeling in India is driven by consumer demand, and not by an Indian government requirement.

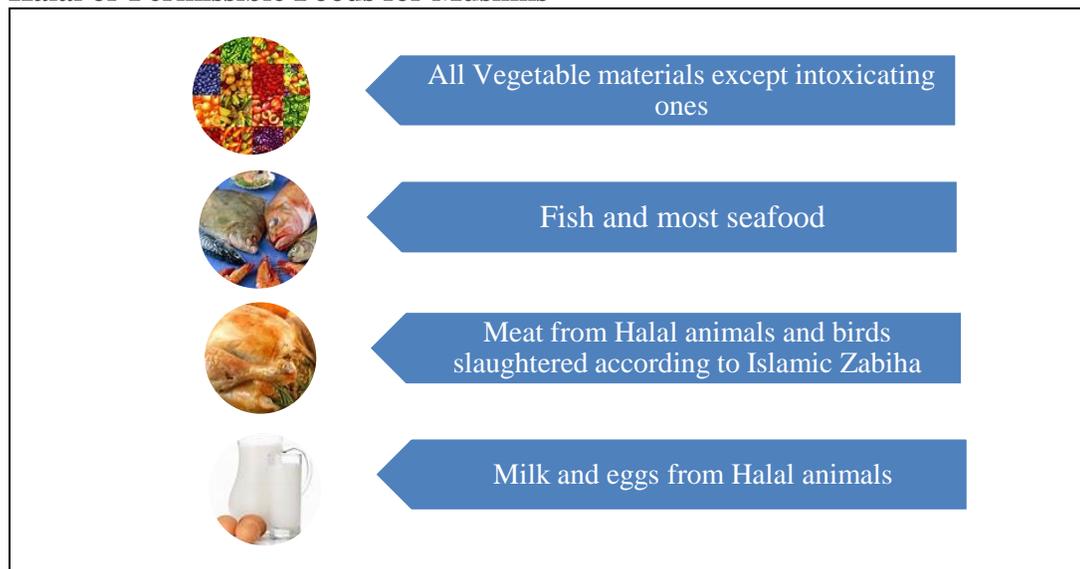
Among Indian food producers and manufacturers aiming to export to neighboring and regional markets, there is growing awareness of the need to diversify halal exports beyond meat.⁴ Market sources indicate that with Indonesia and Malaysia, two key export markets restricting their food and cosmetic product imports from India to only halal certified ones, Indian industry is being spurred to obtain halal certification to open and maintain access to key Muslim country markets.

HALAL OR PERMISSIBLE FOODS FOR MUSLIMS

While there is no internationally harmonized standard for halal foods, the *Codex Alimentarius* (Codex) Guidelines for Labeling (CAC/GL 24-1997[271]) provide a general overview of what is considered halal:

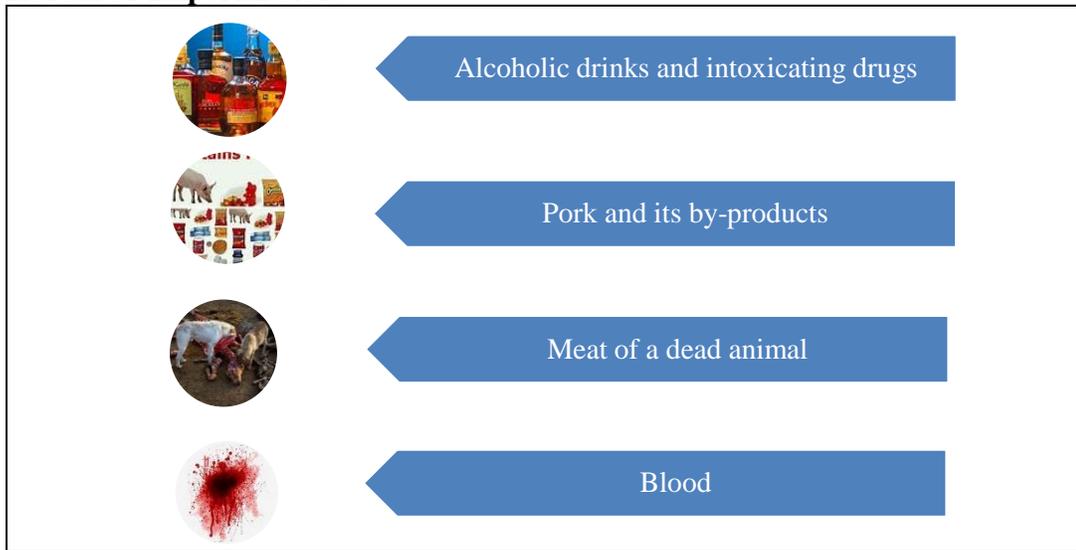
- Not consist of, or contain, any ingredients which are considered unlawful according to Islamic law (e.g., porcine-derived products or alcohol).
- If halal and non-halal goods are prepared, processed, or store using the same facilities and equipment, it is necessary to follow the proper cleaning procedures to prevent comingling.

Halal or Permissible Foods for Muslims



⁴ India is a supplier of *carabeef* (derived from Indian water buffalo – *Bubalus bubalis*) to the Middle East. India’s 2022 carabeef/beef exports are forecast to reach 1.5 MMT, up 125,000 MT and increasing by nine percent from the USDA official 2021 estimate of 1.3 million metric tons. In the past year, there has been an uptick in export volumes shipped to the Middle East (Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and United Arab Emirates), as well as to South Asia (Hong Kong, Philippines, and Malaysia). See, [GAIN-INDIA \(IN20221-0100\) Livestock Annual – 2021](#).

Haram or Impermissible



Examples of Halal Labeling in Indian Food Products:



Doubtful/Suspect (*Mushbooh*) Ingredients and Products: For all Muslims, there are certain ingredients that are considered doubtful or suspect. The following fall in this category: animal fat or proteins, antioxidants, dairy products, emulsifiers, flavorings, gelatin, glycerin, and vitamins. All these items are derived either from animal, plant, microbial or synthetic sources. If the product is of animal origin, it is necessary to know if the animal is halal (permissible) and, if so, was it slaughtered properly or not. If yes, or if the source is from a plant or a certified microbial, then the product can be consumed as halal. Islamic laws recommend that Muslims not consume *Mushbooh* foods to protect their religion.

Table 1: India, Products of Potential Concern for Halal Consumers

Products	Examples of <i>Mushbooh</i> (Doubtful) Ingredients
Bread	Lecithin, Mono/Diglycerides
Bagels	Cysteine hydrochloride, Enzymes, Folic acid, Niacin
Candy	Glycerin, Gelatin, Mono Glycerides, Whey, Natural & Artificial flavors, Stearic acid, Magnesium Stearate
Cereals	Artificial/Natural flavors, Vitamin A, B2, C, D
Chips	Cheese
Cookies	Folic acid, Thiamine
Granola Bars	Flavorings
Coffee Creamer	Artificial/Natural flavors, Mono/Diglycerides
Cakes	Artificial/Natural flavors, Mono/Diglycerides
Donuts/Pastries	Mono/Diglycerides, Flavors, Lard
Ice Cream	Whey, Artificial flavor, Mono/Diglycerides
Jell-O/Puddings	Gelatin, Artificial/Natural flavors
Cheese	Enzymes
Shortenings	Animal fat, Mono/Diglycerides
Peanut Butter	Mono/Diglycerides
Colas	Natural flavors
Ketchups	Natural flavors
Yogurts	Flavors, Gelatin, Whey
Gums	Glycerin, Stearic acid
Mouth Wash	Alcohol, Flavors, Glycerin
Nutritional Supplements	Gelatin, Magnesium Stearate
Soaps	Sodium Tallowate, Glycerin
Toothpaste	Sodium Lauryl Sulfate

Halal Animal Slaughter: Under the Islamic law *dhabīḥah* (also pronounced *zabiha*), there is a prescribed method for ritual halal slaughter. The method for the lawful slaughter of halal animals entails specific requirements.⁵ The *zabiha* prescribes a set of rules to ensure the health and wellbeing of the animal being slaughtered. It is in conformance with Islamic (religious) law, which is derived from the Koran and the hadiths.

In India for the purpose of meat, the terms halal and *zabiha* are often interchangeable.⁶ The meat of an animal not slaughtered according to Islamic *zabiha* as well as products that contain any of the prohibited items are also treated as haram items. Bovine slaughter is especially important to halal meat production, but it is effectively banned in many places across India due to Hindu religious beliefs.

⁵ The slaughtering butcher is required to call out the “the name of Allah” or in the name of Allah” (*bismillah*) upon slaughter of each animal individually. The cut must be a swift, deep incision with a very sharp (non-serrated) knife on the throat, cutting the windpipe, jugular veins, and the carotid arteries on both sides while leaving the spinal cord intact.

⁶ The difference, or distinction, is that *zabiha* meat is derived from an animal that was slaughtered by a sane Muslim adult across the throat (of the animal) without inflicting the feeling of any pain. The term halal is otherwise is used for anything allowed under Islamic law.

Most Indian states' legislation prohibits the slaughter of bovine cattle (*B. taurus* and *B. indicus*) of all ages, including both female and male calves.⁷ The states of Gujarat, Madya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, and Delhi (a union territory) all prohibit cattle slaughter, including the slaughter of bulls and bullocks of all ages.

The Indian states of Assam and West Bengal do permit cattle slaughter if the animal is at least 14-years of age and receives a 'fit-for-slaughter' certificate from the local state authorities. The state of Kerala also allows for cattle slaughter of animals that are unfit for work, cannot breed or are permanently injured and over 10-years of age. The states of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Lakshadweep (a union territory) have not enacted any regulations or laws that address or specifically prohibit cattle slaughter.

Indian carabeef (*Bubalus bubalis*) is locally sought out as it complements other meats (e.g., poultry, sheep/lamb, mutton/goat) well in combined meat offerings. It is used also as an ingredient in value-added products (e.g., sausage, salami, and hamburgers). Although most of India's Hindu-majority population forgoes carabeef and beef consumption (for religious reasons), the country's Muslim population does consume it in volume.

HALAL CERTIFICATION REGISTRATION AND REGULATIONS IN INDIA

Marketing Halal Certification: The Halal Council of India is a private certification organization that provides halal certification services to Indian food producers and agri-food product manufacturers, especially to those that aim to export or are already exporting. The Halal Council of India claims that halal certification benefits include:

- Improvement in brand image by fulfilling different consumer requirements.
- Enhancement of the marketability of products and services to over 1.8 billion halal consumers worldwide.
- Tapping into a quarter of world's population, providing a lucrative Indian export opportunity to the global halal market
- Halal trade that is estimated to be \$80 billion or 12 percent of the total trade in agri-food products.
- A competitive advantage over companies with no halal certification.
- Strict rules maintained related to sanitation of facilities in addition to other obligatory hygienic practices observed in the premises.
- A distinct halal logo on products that enhances a food product's marketability.
- The use of a halal logo which make the product more readily acceptable to halal consumers.
- Halal certified products that are viewed by Muslims as a mark of quality and an added religious safeguard.
- Halal products and services that are also consumed by non-Muslims.
- Improved advertisement and acceptance of products in Muslim countries/markets.

Halal Regulations in India - Exports/Imports: In India, halal is a religious attestation. The government neither mandates halal certification, nor does it provide a unifying regulatory law. The FSSAI standard certification is the requirement for edible consumer products. Halal certification, in the form of an internationally recognized certificate, is not necessary to obtain trade permission either for exports or imports.

⁷ Key physiological differences between *Bos (B) indicus* cattle and *B. taurus* cattle include a delayed age at puberty, higher circulating concentration of hormones (e.g., estradiol, progesterone, insulin, and IGF-I (insulin-like growth factor 1)).

There are no specific labeling requirements for halal food products imported into India. For all U.S.-origin meat and non-meat-based food products shipped to India, halal certification is strictly voluntary.

On January 5, 2020, India’s Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI)/Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, the Indian authority responsible for promoting farm product exports, removed the word ‘halal’ from its [Red Meat Manual](#) stating that “the animals are slaughtered according to the requirement of the importing country.” Until that point, halal had been an important pre-condition, which an Indian exporter had to meet to export to countries with mandatory halal import requirements.

Individual halal certification agencies are approved directly by the respective importing countries and no Indian government agency plays a role in issuing halal certificates. Certified halal food products are accepted domestically by Muslim and non-Muslim consumers; ‘halal certified’ is viewed as representing high levels of hygiene, cleanliness, safety, and nutrition. India’s Muslim consumers prefer that all meat and meat products be certified halal by one of the country’s (several) certifying (religious) bodies.

Examples of Indian Buffalo Meat and Meat Products Halal Certified Export Packaging:



India’s imports of food and agricultural products are subject to laws, rules, and regulations that govern food safety. The Food Safety and Standards Act (2006) is the parent law for food safety and standards. Rules (e.g., staff qualifications, fees, and laboratory and sampling protocols) derive from the core objective of the Food

Safety and Standards Act that governs certain actions and decisions of India's administrative authorities. Regulations (e.g., labeling and display requirements and food additive limitations) constitute implementing guidelines of the parent Food Safety and Standards Act for use by officials at the end-user level (see, [GAIN-INDIA - IN2021-0139 - FAIRS Annual Country Report Annual Report – 2021](#) and [GAIN-INDIA – IN2021 – FAIRS Export Certificate Annual – 2021](#)).

Exporters are strongly encouraged to read the latest [Food Safety and Standards \(Labeling and Display\) Regulations \(2020\)](#) before designing labels for products for export to India. The 2020 Regulation covers labeling requirements for pre-packaged foods and the conditions for displaying essential information, such as allergens and calorie information, as well as display prerequisites on premises where food is manufactured, processed, served, and stored. The implementation date of the labeling requirements for pre-packaged foods has recently been extended to July 1, 2022 (see, [GAIN-INDIA – IN2021-0130 – India's FSSAI Extends Implementation Date of the Labeling Provisions of Four Regulations – Including of the Labeling and Display](#)).

GETTING FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS HALAL CERTIFIED IN INDIA

Halal certification is a three-step process in India. While process procedures may vary somewhat among the different certifying bodies, the documentation required will be similar.

Step 1: The Application

Applications are submitted online. Applications need to be on official company letterhead and accompanied by the following documents:

- Approvals from the relevant health safety authorities of the state in which the product is to be sold.
- List of ingredients.
- Declaration by the company that the product is free from any ingredients containing alcohol and or pork derivatives.
- Copy of export license and a list of export markets.
- A specimen of the products in its original packaging.
- Layout of the production unit and storage facilities.

Step 2: The Audit

An audit will be carried of the production facilities. Sanitation and respect for Islamic practices relating to preparation and packaging of products will be observed. A team consisting of a religious scholar and a competent technical advisor will carry out the audit.

Step 3: The Certification

Based on the recommendation of the auditing team, a body of experts shall grant the product a halal certificate.

India's halal certification agencies are all private entities. In the absence of an official halal standards, the Indian government is not endorsing any of these bodies. Instead, halal certification agencies observe Islamic law to the letter. Halal certification is NOT compulsory for products intended to be sold in India.

HALAL CERTIFIERS IN INDIA

Name	Contact Details	Halal Logo
Halal Council of India	Shop No. 9/10, Ground Floor, the Patel and Sony Arcade, Nagpada, Mumbai – 400 008 Ph: +91-7977402547 Website: https://halalcouncilofindia.com/	
Halal India	Suite No. 7, 3 rd Floor, Hameedia Shopping Mall, No. 108, 109, Triplicane High Road, Triplicane, Chennai – 600005 Website: https://halalindia.co.in/	
Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind Halal Trust	1, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi – 110 002 Ph: 011-23322197 Website: https://www.jamiathalaltrust.org/	
Jamiat Ulama-E-Maharashtra	Imam Wada Compound, near Mughal Masjid, Imam Wada Road, Mumbai – 400 009 Branch Office: 242, Masjid Jheel Piyau, Opp. Link House, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg New Delhi – 110 002 Ph: 011-23213416/18 Website: Halal Committee Jamiat Ulama-E-Maharashtra (halalcommittee-jum.org)	

Halal Certification Services:

Foods/Pharmaceutical/Cosmetics: For observant Muslim consumers, all foods and especially processed foods, and pharmaceuticals, and non-food items such as cosmetics must be halal. Many of these products often are derived from, or contain prohibited animal by-products, or other ingredients that are not permissible. Halal certification provides assurances that there are no prohibited animal products or ingredients.

Restaurants: A restaurant processing halal certification from an authorized body helps its customers to identify the brand with products of the highest quality. Halal certification in India is the only certification which certifies the storage, ingredients, and process of production of final products.

Air Catering: Halal compliance is a growing must for air catering in the Indian subcontinent region; it is needed to meet the growing diversity and needs of travelers.

Halal Friendly Tourism: Travelers from the Middle East, East Africa, and South Asia are seeking halal certified accommodations, facilities, and services. Halal India certifies a number of these services.

Halal Friendly Medical Travel: India is benefitting from medical travel with a significant inflow of patients coming from the Middle East and neighboring Islamic countries. India is a medical hub, with hospitals at international standards, staffed by world class doctors, infrastructure, and advanced technology, offering treatment at highly competitive and affordable costs.

Halal Compliance in Logistics: Logistics is identified as a supply chain key risk for halal integrity. Companies need to be well familiarized with the handling, storage, and transportation of halal product to maintain ‘halal integrity’ of a food product.

Halal Training: The global market for halal products is evidencing annual growth of almost seven percent, which is greater than the general food sector. Estimates put the global halal market at \$4 trillion. Indian food and agricultural product manufacturers that export are being forced to take the necessary halal training and obtain certification to supply export markets such as those in Indonesia and Malaysia.

Attachments:

No Attachments.