

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Algeria Clarifies Halal Requirements

Country: Algeria

Post: Algiers

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News, Dairy and Products

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Report Highlights:

On June 9, FAS received communication from the Algerian government clarifying that the Grand Mosque of Paris (GMP) halal certification requirement for imports to Algeria apply only to product originating from France, or from another European market where the GMP operates a halal certifying office. The clarifications on halal certification requirements were issued after reports of widespread confusion among food importers and brokers as to whether GMP certification was required for non-EU origin product.

On June 9, FAS Algiers received correspondence from the Algerian government clarifying halal certification requirements for animal-origin product imports into Algeria. The correspondence indicates that the December 2022 internal note issued by Algeria's Ministry of Trade and Export Promotion mandating halal certification by the Grand Mosque of Paris (GMP) applies only to product originating from France, or from another European market where the GMP operates a halal certifying office. The correspondence further states that all other markets exporting products to Algeria must ensure halal certification by appropriate halal certifying bodies (HCBs) in their respective countries.

Several weeks earlier, the local press had reported that the General Directorate of Customs had issued a similar message to regional directors of customs and border officials. Per the Algerian newspapers, communication from Customs indicated that certification by non-GMP HCBs for products originating outside of Europe was accepted temporarily.

The Algerian government's updated halal certification guidance comes after reports of widespread confusion among food importers and brokers as to whether GMP approval was required for non-EU origin product. The confusion reportedly stemmed from a series of internal instructions and notices issued in May and June 2023 by the Algerian government. The instructions referenced the December 2022 agreement between the GMP and the Ministry of Commerce on halal certification for EU-origin product. FAS understands that some importers were under the impression that all animal origin product – regardless of geographic origin – must now have a GMP-issued halal certificate.

Notably, in June 2023, the Algerian government also expanded roster of products subject to halal certification from meat and poultry, to include:

- Meat and products of animal origin and animal products
- Animal oil and fats
- Confectionaries including chocolate
- Cookies & biscuits
- Food additives of animal origin and/or composed of elements likely to be non halal because of the way they were obtained, pre-packaged and intended for resale as is or intended for the food industries.
- Milks and derivatives including caseinates
- All cheeses intended for processing or food industries
- Infant formulas and follow-on formulas
- Rennet

*Note that milk powder was removed from this list, then brought back to the list in November 2023.

Background on Halal Regulation in Algeria

Algeria is a Muslim country. The main regulations providing specifications regarding halal food products and the requirements were implemented through the following orders:

[March 17, 2014, Order](#), published in JO. No15 on March 19, 2014, describes the technical requirement for halal food, non-halal food, halal food processing requirements, and international standards used as well as the commercialization requirements of halal food related to packaging, labeling, storage, and transportation. The decree also covers halal slaughtering and sanitary control requirements.

As of June 2017, the halal markings on the labeling for some food products are mandatory. June 14, 2016, [Interministerial Order](#), published in the JO. No 70 on December 8, 2016, prescribes the conditions and procedures for affixing the word "halal" for the related foodstuffs, pursuant to the provisions of Article 12 (point 14) of November 9, 2013, [Executive Decree No 13-378](#), published in the JO. No 58 on November 18, 2013. The 2013 decree guarantees the consumer's right to information and describes the components related to labeling and the ingredients labeling.

The National Committee for Halal Certification is chaired by the Ministry of Commerce. This national committee is composed of several Ministries, including Agriculture, Health, Industry, and Religious Affairs as well as public bodies and institutions such as the High Islamic Council and the Algerian Center for Quality Control and Packaging (CACQUE). The committee continues to update requirements for imported products, including on the roster of products subject to halal certification, as well as what type of halal certification is accepted.

The Algerian Institute for Standardization (IANOR) is the certifying body for local products. IANOR website: <https://www.ianor.dz/normalisation/normes-ctn/> references Algerian standards related to all sectors. The catalog of Algerian Standards contains more than 11,000 references for the first Algerian standards provided by seventy-two (72) national technical committees set up starting in 1989. These committees are specialized by field of activity and sectors. Algerian standards are classified by technical committees. In this case, the National Technical Committee (CTN) for Halal established the standards for halal, which are summarized in document (CTN No 70 "Halal" complying with the resolution of the meeting No 01 of January 25, 2018).

Attachments:

No Attachments.