

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

Voluntary Internal

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Malaysia

Post: Kuala Lumpur

Post Secures Release of Detained Dairy Products

Report Categories:

Export Accomplishments - Other

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Report Highlights:

Post recently convinced local authorities to release a \$50,000 shipment of frozen yoghurt that had been held due to halal certification questions. Post resolved local officials' concerns about the halal status of the product, thereby securing the release of the product sourced from a plant in California and destined for a local frozen yoghurt retail sales outlet.

General Information:

Post recently convinced local authorities to release a \$50,000 shipment of frozen yoghurt that had been held due to certification questions. The container had been held in port for about a month because local authorities were questioning the veracity of the halal certification and were insisting that the California plant where the product was produced be inspected for halal. In meetings with both Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) officials and Department of Islamic Development halal specialists, Post convinced the authorities to accept the halal certificate issued by the appropriate U.S. halal certifying body. DVS had insisted on conducting on-site inspections of the plant from which the product came prior to allowing release of the product. Hopefully, this will set a precedent and subsequent frozen yoghurt shipments will be accepted absent on-site plant audits.

The local importer of the product recently opened a series of frozen yoghurt outlets under the Sweet Chills franchise. Demand for this type of product has been growing rapidly in Kuala Lumpur and in other urban areas in Malaysia. The successful release of this shipment will ensure that the importer will continue to have opportunities to buy more product from this U.S. dairy processing plant, Scott Brothers, located in Chino, California.