

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Egypt Publishes General Requirements for Halal Food

Country: Egypt

Post: Cairo

Report Category: Special Certification - Organic/Kosher/Halal

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Report Highlights:

On August 6, 2023, the Egyptian Organization for Standardization published the Egyptian standard -- ES: 429/2023 General Requirements on Halal Food According to Islamic Shariya. This standard covers the general requirements, during all stages of the production process, for halal food, in accordance with Islamic Shariya.

BACKGROUND

On December 1, 2021, the Government of Egypt notified the World Trade Organization's Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee of proposed new requirements for halal-certified products imported into Egypt ([G/TBT/N/EGY/313](#)) (WTO Notification 313).¹

After many requests from trading partners for a more explicit standard, the Egyptian government updated ES 2429/2014. On February 16, 2022, the Egyptian Halal Standard Committee at the Egyptian Organization for Standards & Quality (EOSQ) completed the first draft of the Halal standard. Nearly a year and half after finalizing the draft, the standard has now been [published](#) (and is available for purchase). The purpose of creating a modified version of the standard was to provide clear guidance on the products requiring halal certification. However, and unlike WTO Notification 313, the standard does not include products lists or HS codes.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE OF THE PUBLISHED HALAL STANDARD

Notably, this standard does not include milk and dairy products, which implies that dairy shipments are not required to be accompanied by a halal certificate. However, the Egyptian General Organization for Veterinary Service (GOVS) still has such a requirement on hold. On August 8, 2023, and after the publication of this standard, a new WTO notification (i.e., [G/TBT/N/EGY/313/Add.6](#)) was issued to extend the period during which dairy products that are not accompanied by a halal certificate are permitted to enter Egypt. This extension is granted "until December 31, 2023 (date of arrival at the Egyptian ports) as a trade facilitating measure."

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This standard from the EOSQ is not mandatory in its nature, and only serves as a general guidance document for the relevant applicators.

The standard is still missing a list of food additives derived from animal origin that would require halal certification. FAS/Cairo's industry contacts have noted that a committee from the National Food Safety Authority (NFSA) will be responsible for establishment of such a list.

Attachments:

No Attachments

¹ The new requirement proposed imported milk and dairy products be certified as Halal by a sole Halal certification body approved by Egypt (i.e., ISEG). The notification referenced an unpublished standard on halal from 2014 (ES 2429/2014).