

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Highlights:

On January 17, 2023, the Indian government issued Notification No. 25/2022-23) proposing draft guidelines to streamline the halal certification process for export of meat and meat products from India. Stakeholders are invited to submit comments on the proposed guidelines. India has yet to notify to the World Trade Organization (WTO) the proposed draft guidelines. This GAIN-INDIA report provides an update to FAS New Delhi's GAIN-INDIA | IN2022-0005 | India Halal Overview - 2022 report.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

This GAIN-INDIA report updates FAS New Delhi's India Halal Overview – 2022 report (see, [GAIN-INDIA-IN2022-0005-India Halal Overview - 2022](#)).

On January 17, 2023, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI)/Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) issued **Notification No. 25/2022-23 – Streamlining of Halal Certification Process for Meat and Meat Products**. The 137-page long notification proposes draft guidelines to streamline the halal certification process for export of meat and meat products from India. Stakeholders are invited to submit comments on the proposed guidelines. India has yet to notify to the World Trade Organization (WTO) the proposed draft guidelines. The notification indicates that comments should be sent to moc_epagril@nic.in by February 17, 2023.

Halal Monitoring in India: Halal monitoring in India has been a subject of discussion for several years. Due to changing consumer perceptions, the halal market now not only attracts India's Muslim population, but also finds growing receptivity among non-Muslim consumers.¹

The Indian government's publication of the new halal certification guidelines is understood by FAS New Delhi (Post) meant to promote India's export of meat and meat products to other countries. The [Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority](#) (APEDA), an agency of the MOCI, has been designated as the overall monitoring agency.² It is

¹ India with a population of over 1.389 billion (Central Intelligence Agency – 2022 estimate), has an Indian Muslim populace numbering nearly 200 million, or about 14.2 percent of the national population based on the 2011 census. India currently has the world's third largest number of Muslims (trailing Indonesia with 231 million and Pakistan with 212.3 million), despite Islam being the second largest religious grouping in this Hindu-majority country. India's Muslim inhabitants are projected to grow to 236 million by 2030, narrowing the gap with Indonesia at 238.8 million and Pakistan 256.1 million (see, <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2011/01/27/the-future-of-the-global-muslim-population/>). Projections put India's Muslim population surpassing 310 million by 2050, making India's Muslim population the largest in the world with 11.2 percent of the world's Muslim population (see, <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2015/04/02/muslims/#:~:text=The%20number%20of%20Muslims%20around,nearly%202.8%20billion%20in%202050.>

² The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was established by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act passed by the Parliament in December 1985. The Act (2 of 1986) came into effect on February 13, 1986, by a notification issued in the Gazette of India: Extraordinary: Part-II [Sec. 3(ii): 13.2.1986]. The APEDA replaces the Processed Food Export Promotion Council (PFEPCC). For the APEDA's functions, structure, and its mission, see https://apeda.gov.in/apedawebsite/about_apeda/about_apeda.htm.

charged with ensuring that "All meat and meat products to be exported as 'halal certified' only if it is produced, processed and packed under a valid certificate issued by a certification body duly accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies ([NABCB](#)), Quality Council of India.

Indian Buffalo Meat Products, Halal Certified



Source: Allansons Private Ltd., and Al Kabeer Exports Pvt. Ltd.

There is neither a mandatory halal certification system in India regulated by the national government, for example by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/[Food Safety and Standards Authority of India](#) (FSSAI), nor a FSSAI specific labeling requirement for halal food products imported to India.

Halal certification is today undertaken through private organizations which have been accredited/ recognized by the importing countries. The local press reports that the global halal market reached a \$1.98 billion in 2021. By 2027, this market is projected to reach \$3.91 billion.

The proposed draft guidelines key points include:

- (i) **The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority** is the designated agency for the overall monitoring of Halal certified products exported from India. As a monitoring body for halal meat and meat products, APEDA will ensure that the certification and export of halal products is in conformity with i-CAS requirements.
- (ii) All meat and meat products exported by India should be **“Halal Certified”** only if it is produced, processed, and packed under a valid certificate issued by the Certification body duly accredited by the National Accreditation Board for

Certification Bodies (NABCB), Quality Council of India (QCI) under India Conformity Assessment Scheme (i-CAS)-Halal.

- (iii) The Certification Bodies will follow the procedures outline in the i-CAS-Halal.
- (iv) Products covered under the Halal Certification process are:

S. No.	HS Code	Commodity
1.	0201	MEAT OF BOVINE ANIMALS, FRESH AND CHILLED
2.	0202	MEAT OF BOVINE ANIMALS, FROZEN
3	0204	MEAT OF SHEEP OR GOATS, FRESH, CHILLED OR FROZEN
4	0206	EDIBLE OFFAL OF BOVINE ANIMALS, SHEEP, GOAT, FRESH CHILLED OR FROZEN
5	0207	MEAT AND EDIBLE OFFAL OF THE POULTRY OF HEADING NO.01.05, FRESH CHILLED OR FROZEN
6	0210	MEAT/EDIBLE MEAT OFFAL, SALTED, IN BRINE, DRIED/ SMOKED; EDIBLE FLOURS AND MEALS OF MEAT/MEAT OFFAL
7	1601	SAUSAGES AND SIMILAR PRODUCTS OF MEAT, MEAT OFFAL, FOOD PREPARATION BASED ON THESE PRODUCTS
8	1602	OTHER PREPARED OR PRESERVED MEAT, OFFAL

- (v) For export consignments to those countries that have halal regulations in place, but i-CAS-Halal scheme is yet to be recognized, the producer/supplier/exporter will meet the importing country's requirements/regulations, as applicable, and shall hold a valid certificate(s) issued by Halal certification bodies approved by the national Halal system of the importing country. The i-CAS-Halal shall be voluntary on the part of producer/supplier/exporter.
- (vi) All existing Halal certification bodies and export units have six months from the date of issue of the final notification to registered with the Accreditation Body and APEDA under the proposed i-CAS scheme.
- (vii) The export of meat products outlined in table above is subject to the Foreign Trade Policy, as issued/amended by Ministry of Commerce and Industry/[Directorate General of Foreign Trade](#) (DGFT) from time to time.

The full text of **Notification No. 25/2022-2323 – Streamlining of Halal Certification Process for Meat and Meat Products** is available on the Directorate General of Foreign Trade website located at <https://www.dgft.gov.in/CP/>. The guidelines are attached herein as separate document.

Attachments:

[DGFT Trade Notice No 25 HALAL CERTIFICATION.pdf](#)