

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Voluntary _ Public

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Canada

Post: Ottawa

New Canadian Halal Labeling Requirements Come Into Force

Report Categories:

Policy and Program Announcements

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Report Highlights:

As of April 4, 2016 all halal claims on food labels, packaging and advertising materials will need to be accompanied by the name of the organization or person that certified it as halal. This regulatory change provides consumers with the information they need to make informed decisions and purchase the food that meets their needs.

General Information:

Effective April 4, 2016, the new Canadian halal labelling and advertising requirements came into force. The related amendments to the Food and Drug Regulations were published in Canada Gazette, Part II on April 23, 2014.

As of April 4, all halal claims on food labels, packaging and advertising materials will need to be accompanied by the name of the organization or person that certified it as halal. This regulatory change supports a consistent approach to halal claims on food products in the Canadian marketplace and provides consumers with the information they need to make informed decisions and purchase the food that meets their needs.

Halal claims on food are voluntary. However, if a halal claim is made on a product label, packaging or in advertising, then it must follow the regulatory requirements. Specifically, the new provision requires that:

In the labelling, packaging and advertising of a food, the Food and Drug Regulations prohibit the use of the word "halal" or any letters of the Arabic alphabet, or any other word, expression, depiction, sign, symbol, mark, device or other representation that indicates or that is likely to create an impression that the food is halal, unless the name of the person or body that has certified the food as halal is indicated on the label, package, or in the advertisement for that food.