

# INTERPRETATION OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR HALAL COMPLIANCE

Doniyor Abduazizov  
Teacher of Business Law Department  
Tashkent State University of Law

## Abstract

On February 1, 2025, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted Decision No. 57, establishing the "Regulation on the Procedure for Certifying Products and Services in Compliance with Halal Requirements." This commentary aims to interpret the decree and highlight the importance of the resolution as a significant step in formalizing the process of Halal certification, aligning Uzbekistan's certification practices with international standards and Islamic principles. The regulation aims to ensure that products and services meet Halal requirements and are suitable for Muslim consumers, creating a legal framework to regulate the certification process and the use of the Halal certification mark.

## Introduction

The regulation was introduced to address the growing need for standardized Halal certification, which plays a critical role in ensuring that products, particularly in food production and consumer goods, adhere to Islamic law. With Halal certification becoming an increasingly important aspect of global trade and consumer choice, Uzbekistan's new regulatory framework will provide clear guidelines for certifying products and services, as well as mechanisms for periodic assessments to ensure ongoing compliance.

This regulation is not only a vital step in promoting transparency and trust in Halal products but also a key factor in facilitating international trade by ensuring that Uzbekistan's Halal certification is recognized globally. The decision to formalize these processes aims to provide businesses and consumers with a reliable and effective certification system that aligns with international Halal standards set by organizations such as the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC).

By establishing a well-structured certification process, the regulation contributes to the growing demand for Halal-certified products, both within Uzbekistan and in international markets. It also aims to support the expansion of Uzbekistan's economy by fostering stronger trade relationships and ensuring that Halal-certified products and services can be confidently marketed and used worldwide. The implementation of this regulation reflects the country's commitment to upholding Islamic values while promoting economic growth and global trade. The regulation governing the certification procedure for products and services in accordance with Halal requirements establishes a comprehensive voluntary certification process based on regulatory documents within the field of technical regulation. This regulation defines the key



legal norms and procedural requirements essential for ensuring compliance with Halal standards, which are recognized both domestically and internationally.

In the context of this regulation, an applicant refers to an individual or legal entity seeking certification of their products or services to verify their compliance with Halal requirements. The certification process is facilitated by an information system, a digital platform that manages the issuance of conformity certificates and maintains an electronic registry of certified products and services. Additionally, an appeals commission, established within the Uzbek Agency for Technical Regulation, is responsible for reviewing complaints from applicants who dispute the assessments or decisions made by the certification authority.

The certification of products and services for Halal compliance involves verifying that manufactured goods or provided services adhere to the established standards as set forth in regulatory documents related to technical regulation. The certificate of conformity serves as an official document confirming that a product or service meets the Halal requirements. This certification process is carried out by an accredited certification authority that has received accreditation from international organizations, ensuring its credibility and alignment with globally recognized standards.

Halal requirements, as referenced in this regulation, are derived from international standards developed by the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) and other relevant regulatory documents. These standards are designed to ensure that products and services comply with Islamic principles, particularly in relation to food production, processing, and consumer-related sectors. The certification framework plays a crucial role in enhancing consumer trust, facilitating international trade in Halal-certified products, and promoting adherence to recognized Halal standards.

The certification procedure follows a structured scheme, as outlined in Appendix 1 of the regulation. Applicants must submit an electronic application to the certification authority using the designated form specified in Appendix 2. The application must contain detailed information and supporting documents, including production-related technical instructions, product composition details, packaging and labeling descriptions, test reports confirming safety and compliance with Halal standards, and documentation proving the implementation of a management system that ensures stable production. Additionally, the applicant must provide evidence of employees' knowledge and skills related to Halal certification and any previously obtained conformity certificates, if applicable.

The certification authority is responsible for reviewing the application and accompanying documents within three working days. A decision on whether to accept or reject the application must be made within one working day following the review. If the application is accepted, the certification authority proceeds with further verification procedures. If rejected, the applicant is promptly informed of the reasons for rejection and has the right to resubmit the application after addressing the identified deficiencies. Notably, applications can only be rejected on specific grounds, such as non-conformity with the required format, incomplete documentation, or submission of falsified or incorrect information. Arbitrary or subjective rejections are strictly prohibited.



### **On-Site Assessment of Halal Compliance**

The regulation further establishes the legal norms for conducting on-site assessments to verify compliance with Halal standards. These assessments are carried out under contractual agreements, with applicants required to make payments for the evaluation services. Importantly, such payments are non-refundable regardless of the assessment results. The assessment process is conducted at the production or service location based on an evaluation program developed and approved by the head of the certification authority. If an applicant operates multiple branches, assessments must be conducted at all relevant locations.

Upon completion of the assessment, a report is prepared within one working day in two copies, one for the applicant and the other for the certification authority. The report is signed by both the certification authority representatives and the applicant. If the applicant disagrees with the assessment results, they may express their concerns within the report.

If there are doubts regarding the composition of a product during the assessment, samples are collected in the presence of the applicant and tested in accredited laboratories in accordance with technical regulations and Halal requirements. The results of these tests are documented in an official report, which must be completed within one working day and signed by both the certification authority and the applicant.

### **Issuance or Denial of the Certificate of Conformity**

Following the assessment, the certification authority compiles all relevant documentation within five working days and decides whether to issue or deny the Halal conformity certificate. If approved, a formal agreement is signed between the certification authority and the applicant, outlining the terms of using the Halal compliance certificate and the Halal conformity mark. The certificate is then registered in the official registry and issued to the applicant within three working days.

The certificate is granted for a period of three years and cannot be transferred to another legal entity. The agreement between the certification authority and the certificate holder specifies the rights and obligations of both parties, conditions for using the Halal conformity mark, and provisions for periodic assessments to ensure continued compliance.

### **Periodic and Unscheduled Compliance Assessments**

Periodic assessments are conducted in accordance with a predetermined schedule outlined in Appendix 4 of the regulation. The first periodic assessment must be conducted within twelve months of the certificate's registration, with subsequent assessments occurring annually. Additionally, an unscheduled assessment is required within six months of the certificate's registration to ensure compliance. If consumer complaints regarding certified products or services arise, an immediate unscheduled assessment is conducted to verify continued adherence to Halal standards.

### **Confirmation, Suspension, or Termination of the Certificate**

The certification authority has the power to confirm, suspend, or terminate the validity of a Halal conformity certificate. Suspension may occur under specific circumstances, including the certificate holder's request (for up to thirty days), detection of non-conformities during a



periodic assessment (which must be rectified within thirty days), or unnotified changes in production, suppliers, or service processes. If the required corrections are not implemented within ninety days, or if there is evidence of gross violations of Halal standards or fraudulent certification, the certificate may be permanently revoked.

Decisions to confirm, suspend, or terminate a certificate take effect from the date of the certification authority's decision and must be communicated to the certificate holder within three working days. Once a certificate is suspended or terminated, the certificate holder must immediately cease using the Halal conformity mark. Any continued use of the certification mark after suspension or termination subjects the certificate holder to legal liability under applicable regulations.

### **Conclusion**

The regulatory framework for Halal certification establishes a structured, legally binding process for assessing and ensuring compliance with Halal standards. By defining strict procedural requirements, accreditation criteria, and enforcement mechanisms, the regulation aims to uphold consumer confidence, facilitate trade in Halal-certified products, and promote transparency in the certification process. The legal norms governing the issuance, periodic verification, and potential suspension or termination of Halal conformity certificates play a critical role in maintaining the integrity of the Halal certification system, ensuring that products and services bearing the Halal label truly meet the established religious and technical standards.

### **References**

1. Regulation on the Procedure for Certifying Products and Services in Compliance with Halal Requirements. Qonunchilik ma'lumotlari milliy bazasi, 01.02.2025-y., 09/25/57/0100-son)

