



Halal Certification Terms & Conditions **Product Sector**

HALAL ASSESSMENT COUNCIL (GUARANTEE) LIMITED
26 B, Retreat Road, Bambalapitiya, Colombo 04, Sri Lanka

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Stages of Halal Certification

INQUIRY

- Inquiry for Halal Certification through the following Channels
 - Phone Call - (94) 117 425 225
 - Email - info@hac.lk
 - Web - www.hac.lk



APPLICATION SUBMISSION

- Submission of letter of Intent by applicant
- Issue of Halal Certification Terms & Conditions and application by HAC
- Handover the completed application documents to HAC by applicant



PROCESSING

- Processing & Verification of the application
- Conducting Certification Audit at the premises



CERTIFICATION

- HAC Certification Decision Committee approval
- Issuing Halal Certificate upon approval



POST CERTIFICATION

- Conducting announced / un-announced periodic audit(s) as surveillance
- Updating HAC on any changes in the current application by the Halal certificate holder



RENEWAL

- Submission of renewal request/application by the Halal certificate holder before expiry of the Halal Certificate

0.0 REVISION HISTORY AND APPROVAL

Rev.	Nature of changes	Approval	Date
01	Original	CEO	2014-01-01
02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove clause no. 1.3, 1.4, 6.3.3, 6.3.5, & 7.7 from previous Terms & Conditions - Add clause 1.3 on HAC's certification scheme - Add Clause 1.5 on exclusion, Amend Clause 2.1.7 with wording audited & approved by HAC - Add clause 2.1.8 on brand name - Add Clause 2.1.10.III on labeling on Not Certified products - Add Clause 2.2.2 on reference to 'General Guidelines for Handling and Processing of Halal Food' - Add clause 4.2.V on reason for major non-conformity - Add clause 6.1.10 on analysis of customer complaints - Add Clause 6.1.12 on management review - Add clause 7.3 on reproducing of halal certificate - Add clause 7.4 on translation of halal certificate - Add clause 8.4 on verification on the implementation - Add clauses 1.4, 2.2.3, 2.2.9, 3.2.1, 3.9, 3.10, 6.2.2, 6.3.2, 6.3.4 & 7.6 on GSO standard requirements 	CEO	2017-10-10
03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clause 1.4, product categories are changed. - Remove Clauses 3.2.1, 3.2.2 and add 3.2.(I) and 3.2.(II) 	CEO	2022-02-07
04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appendix A - Change the process flow chart for payment and agreement steps. 	CEO	2022-03-09

These Terms & Conditions shall be known as the 'Halal Certification Terms & Conditions' for the Product Sector of Halal Assessment Council (Guarantee) Limited (hereinafter referred to as 'HAC')

1.0 APPLICABILITY / SCOPE

- 1.1 These Terms & Conditions apply to Halal certification of any applicant under the Product Sector.
- 1.2 Product Sector category includes products which are fully or partially manufactured/processed / packed in Sri Lanka or any other country, and will include manufacturers, producers, sub-contract manufacturers, re-packaging agents, etc.
- 1.3 The Product Sector certification programme is of two types as follows;
 - a) HAC General Scheme
 - b) GSO Standard Scheme (Applicable to export to GCC countries)
- 1.4 The product range for certification under [GSO standard scheme](#) is listed in the table below:

Cluster	Category		Subcategories		Examples of Included Products
Food and Feed Processing	C	Food Manufacturing	CI	Processing of perishable animal products	Production of animal products including fish and seafood, meat, eggs, dairy and fish products.
			CII	Processing of perishable plant products	Production of plant products including fruits and fresh juices, vegetables, grains, nuts and pulses.
			CIII	Processing of perishable animal and plant products (mixed products)	Production of mixed animal and plant products including pizza, lasagne, sandwich, dumpling, ready-to-eat meals.
			CIV	Processing of ambient stable products	Production of food products from any source that are stored and sold ambient temperature, including canned foods, biscuits, snacks, oil, drinking water, beverages, pasta, flour, tea, spices, noodles.

- 1.5 The applicant may exclude products or range of products from Halal certification, provided the certified product(s) is/are meant solely for export.

2.0 CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 The process of obtaining the Halal certification and maintaining compliance throughout the certification is summarised in **Appendix A**.
- 2.1.2 Halal certification process commences upon the submission of a completed application form issued by HAC.
- 2.1.3 The application form shall be completed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the application form. Those applicants who have not completed in accordance with the guidelines or unsupported by necessary documents or without the application fee will be rejected.
- 2.1.4 The top management of the applicant shall clearly understand the Halal Certification Terms & Conditions mentioned herewith in and communicate the same to all levels of staff.
- 2.1.5 Strict confidentiality regarding all matters shall be maintained by HAC at all times.
- 2.1.6 The names of all the products applied for Halal Certification by the applicant must be consistent with the names printed on the packaging label.
- 2.1.7 If any of the applied products are outsourced, then the OPM (Original Product Manufacturer) has to be Halal Certified or audited and approved by HAC.
- 2.1.8 All the consumer products produced and marketed under the same brand name shall be halal certified by HAC.
- 2.1.9 If the applicant manufactures the same product under the same brand in different plants, then the products manufactured in all the plants have to be Halal certified by HAC.
- 2.1.10 If the applicant produces same type of Halal and non-Halal products in the same brand, then the applicant has to fulfil the following requirements in order to process the application;
 - I. All Halal products / raw materials / ingredients shall be transported, stored, handled, processed, used etc. with no cross contamination with non-Halal items.
 - II. Brand name shall be different for meat and meat based products
 - III. Non meat products shall be clearly labelled as NOT CERTIFIED by HAC
- 2.1.11 HAC shall not certify any Halal foods / products that are named or synonymously named such as ham, bacon, beer, rum, and any such other names that might create confusion among Halal consumers.
- 2.1.12 The applicant shall maintain a file marked 'Halal' that includes updated documents / records mentioned in the Clause No. 2.2.5 for all the raw materials along with the relevant approvals from HAC. This file shall be made readily available to the official(s) from HAC at the audit(s).

2.2 Halal Requirements

- 2.2.1 HAC reserves the right to decide on what constitutes Halal and matters connected to the ingredients / raw materials, products and processing methods / procedures of the applicant.
- 2.2.2 The applicant/ certificate holder shall adhere all the requirements detailed in HAC's "**General Guidelines for the Handling and Processing of Halal Food (HAC/STD/03)**"
- 2.2.3 In addition to the above requirements applicant shall adhere the requirements detailed in the standard **GSO 2055-1 Halal Products - Parts 1: General Requirements for Halal Food (Applicable for GSO Standard Scheme)**

- 2.2.4 Non-Halal products / ingredients / raw materials shall not be handled, stored, used, sold, or brought under any circumstances inside the premises to which Halal Certificate is applied.
- 2.2.5 All raw materials / ingredients / processing aids used, brought, stored in the premises shall be halal and their halal status confirmed with supporting documents mentioned below:
- I. Halal Certificates from Halal certifying bodies recognized by HAC.
 - II. Product specification / Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) with complete breakdown of the Ingredients, including those items that may be used as catalysts or processing aids that have a chemical base.
 - III. Process flow chart of the ingredients / raw materials
 - IV. Laboratory analysis report.
 - V. Any other document required by HAC
- 2.2.6 All ingredients / raw materials / processing aids brought, stored or used inside the premises must be properly packed and clearly labelled with the product description, date of manufacture, date of expiry, batch number, manufacturer's name and plant address for tracing purposes.
- 2.2.7 An analysis report from a laboratory recognized by HAC may be required upon notice by HAC to confirm that the product or raw material or ingredient does NOT contain any non-Halal items (e.g. pig, pig derivatives, ethanol etc.). The product sample(s) for testing shall be taken by HAC personnel only and sealed with the respective security seal. The applicant shall bear all costs of such laboratory test/s.
- 2.2.8 Hygiene, sanitation and product safety are prerequisites in the preparation of Halal products. It includes the various aspects of personal hygiene, clothing, utensils, machinery & processing aids and the premises for processing, manufacturing & storage of products.
- 2.2.9 Applicant shall establish a Food/Product Safety Management System in the concerned processing plant. [\(Applicable for GSO Standard Scheme\)](#)
- 2.2.10 During preparation, handling, processing, packaging or transportation, the products must be in clean condition and no cross contamination with any non-Halal ingredients / raw materials / products according to Halal requirements.
- 2.2.11 All production lines, equipment, machineries, appliances, processing aids, cookeries, kitchen utensils, cooking places, stores, chillers, freezers, cold-rooms, etc. shall be washed and cleansed under the instruction and supervision of HAC official(s) if it had been contaminated with non-Halal items before certification.
- 2.2.12 Halal products shall be suitably packed. Packaging materials shall be Halal and food grade and shall not contain any materials that is considered hazardous to health.
- 2.2.13 No other operator shall be allowed the usage of Halal Certified premises without prior written approval from HAC.

2.3 Staffing Requirements

- 2.3.1 The applicant shall establish a Halal Assurance Team (HAT) of 3 to 5 persons, comprising a leader (preferably Quality Assurance Manager / Production Manager) appointed by the management, a relevant officer who is aware of Halal and Haram concept and other relevant personnel from multi-disciplinary background, to ensure that the Halal Certification Terms & Conditions of HAC are adhered to at all times.
- Note: In a small business entity, the team may be made up of the owner and one or two other persons.*
- 2.3.2 The applicant shall ensure that at least three members of the Halal Assurance Team (HAT) participate in the induction meeting conducted by HAC.

- 2.3.3 HAC shall station a supervisor, if it deems necessary, who will be responsible to supervise the whole place and process. The supervisor shall be solely responsible to HAC and shall be allowed free access at all times to all required areas.

3.0 CERTIFICATION / RECERTIFICATION AUDIT

- 3.1 The applicant **shall first start operation** before any certification audit can be conducted by HAC official(s).
- 3.2 Certification Audit shall be done in two stages as follows:
I. Stage I Audit ([Applicable for GSO Standard Scheme](#))
II. Stage 2 Audit
HAC shall carry out onsite audit for both stages of audit.
- 3.3 The scope of certification audit covers the following:
I. Receiving of raw materials and storage
II. Processing of product(s) including packaging
III. Equipment, appliances, machinery and processing aids
IV. Cleanliness, sanitation and food safety
V. Storage and dispatching of finished goods
VI. Warehouse and logistics
VII. Overall premises
VIII. Documentation
IX. Interview of staff in different levels
- 3.4 HAC will conduct the certification audit(s) with advance notice. If the proposed date is not agreeable by the applicant, the requested date by the applicant will be based on the availability. Repeat audit(s) will be conducted when necessary.
- 3.5 The applicant shall fully co-operate with the HAC officers at all times by providing all relevant information. All original documentation and records, including the documents listed per **Appendix B** shall be produced on request.
- 3.6 The certification audit process shall be as follows;
I. Opening meeting
II. Site audit
III. Check back audit trail and verify further documentation
IV. Evaluation of findings by HAC official(s) in preparation for the closing meeting
V. Closing meeting
- 3.7 Those who are attending the opening and closing meetings on behalf of the applicant shall be members from the management and the Halal Assurance Team (HAT) who have been authorized to ensure that corrective actions shall be taken, if non-conformities are found.
- 3.8 A report will be issued, if necessary to the applicant within five working days upon completion of the certification audit. If the applicant fails to respond to the report within the given time frame the processing of the application further will be stopped without any prior notice. The processing of the file will be rescheduled to the queue in a first come first serve basis where the applicant who had not responded within the time frame will fall into the next available slot. In this regard HAC will not be responsible for any delays of the certification process of the applicant who defaulted responding to the report on time.
- 3.9 The results of the Stage 1 audit may lead to postponement or cancellation of Stage 2 audit. ([Applicable for GSO Standard Scheme](#))

- 3.10 The Interval between Stage 1 and 2 audits shall be no longer than six months. In the event that the interval between Stage 1 & Stage 2 audits exceeds six months, the Stage1 audit shall be repeated ([Applicable for GSO Standard Scheme](#))

4.0 NON-CONFORMITY

Failure to meet any of the Terms & Conditions mentioned herein will be considered as a **Non-Conformity**.

There are 3 levels of non-conformities:

4.1 Minor Non-Conformity:

- I. Failure to meet the requirements in the storage
- II. Lapse in the cleanliness of premises, equipment, employees or surrounding environment and a lapse in general sanitation, hygiene or pest control.
- III. Failure to maintain the Halal file mentioned in the Clause No 2.1.12.

4.2 Major Non-Conformity:

- I. Change in ingredients and / or suppliers / manufacturers without the consent of the HAC.
- II. Use of HAC Halal Logo for products where the certification is yet to be provided.
- III. Change / relocation of premises / factory / stores / machinery / additional production lines etc. without prior consent of HAC.
- IV. Failure to meet with staffing requirements, mentioned in section No. 2.3.
- V. Failures in Food Safety Management System

4.3 Serious Non-Conformity:

- I. Failure to meet the Halal requirements mentioned in Section No. 2.2
- II. Sufficient physical evidence exists to indicate the storage / usage / production of non-Halal items raw materials / products. such as pork & pork based products, non-Halal meat or alcoholic beverages.
- III. Altering or tampering any information on the HAC or any other recognized Certification Bodies' Halal Certificate, or any other relevant documents.
- IV. Forgery or reproduction of HAC Halal Certificate
- V. Failure to meet post certification requirements mentioned in Clause No. 6.1.1 and 6.1.2
- VI. Not co-operating with the official(s) of HAC to carry out their duties.

4.4 Corrective Actions

- 4.4.1 In case of a new applicant; the applicant will be requested to take remedial measures recommended by HAC.
- 4.4.2 In case of an existing certificate holder; the following measures shall be taken.
- I. A report will be issued by HAC for correction / corrective action to be made immediately or within a stipulated period.
 - II. Follow-up audit(s) shall be carried out to verify the effectiveness of correction/corrective action if deemed necessary.
 - III. If no action was taken before the given time frame by the certificate holder the certificate shall be **suspended** or **withdrawn** without any further notice.
- 4.4.3 Suspended party may request for a review following the suspension period, which will be considered on its merits.

- 4.5 In any case if any non-Halal items such as pork, non-Halal meat or alcoholic beverages are found to be stored, used or processed in a HAC certified premises the certification will be withdrawn.**
- 4.6 In the event of cancellation of the certificate, actions will be taken as per **Clause No 8.2.**

5.0 APPROVAL

- 5.1 Halal Certificate shall be issued to the applicant only after the HAC officials have satisfactorily completed the certification process and has been approved by the Certificate Decision Committee of HAC.
- 5.2 The applicants will be notified regarding the status of the application via a letter or an e-mail.
- 5.3 Successful applicants will be informed to collect the Halal Certificate(s) from the HAC Office.
- 5.4 Unsuccessful applicants may re-apply via the same procedure following which, HAC will conduct another round of certification process.

6.0 POST CERTIFICATION

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 The Halal Certificate holder shall comply with all the Halal Certification Terms & Conditions of HAC at all times.
- 6.1.2 HAC will conduct announced / unannounced periodic audits(s) / inspection(s) as surveillance following the award of certification and the applicant shall provide full co-operation by providing easy passage and any relevant information required. Repeat audits and inspections shall be conducted when necessary. HAC's official(s) shall be allowed free access at all times to all required areas.
- 6.1.3 The Halal certificate holder shall be entitled to change or add raw material(s) / ingredient(s) and processing aids (i.e. brand, manufacturer, suppliers etc.) only after obtaining the approval of HAC in writing. All new raw materials / ingredients and processing aids shall be substantiated with documents as mentioned in Clause No. 2.2.5.
- 6.1.4 The Halal certificate holder shall obtain the prior written approval from HAC to include new products.
- 6.1.5 Any changes to the information given in the application form regarding particulars of Halal Assurance Team (HAT), contact details, etc., shall be submitted to HAC prior to change.
- 6.1.6 If a Halal Certificate (as in Clause No. 2.2.5) submitted for a raw material is expired, the Halal certificate holder shall submit the renewed Halal Certificate to HAC soon after expiry.
- 6.1.7 Any change to the location of the certified premises without prior written approval will invalidate the Halal Certificate and a new application has to be submitted for the new location.
- 6.1.8 Prior written approval from HAC shall be obtained if the premises / machinery is to be used by any other operator(s).
- 6.1.9 The Halal Assurance Team (HAT) of the certificate holder shall conduct an Internal audit to review compliance with the Halal certification requirement at least once a year and the Audit Report shall be made available for review by HAC officials.

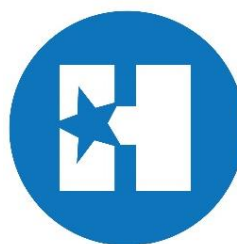
- 6.1.10 Halal certificate holder shall analyse all the complaints received from its customers with regard to its halal certified products.
- 6.1.11 In the event of any complaint against the Halal certificate holder with regard to compliance with the HAC's Halal Certification Terms & Conditions by a consumer HAC may call for a written explanation from the Halal certificate holder who shall provide the same.
- 6.1.12 Halal certificate holder shall conduct a Management Review to review the adequacy and effectiveness of maintaining the halal certification requirements, at least, once a year.

6.2 Halal Logo and Publicity

- 6.2.1 The Halal Certificate holder shall use one of the following HAC Halal logo (s) in readable format according to exact specification. The detail specification will be given after certification approval.



Arabic Halal logo



H - Halal logo

- 6.2.2 Any products intended for export to GCC countries shall exhibit the Arabic Halal Logo on the product packaging. [\(Applicable for GSO Standard Scheme\)](#)
- 6.2.3 However, if the products are marketed locally the Halal Certificate Holder may print any one of the above HAC Halal Logo.
- 6.2.4 HAC's Halal Logo and / or any part of it are the property of HAC. All parties interested to use or reproduce the HAC's Halal Logo and or any part of it in any kind, shall get prior written approval from HAC.
- 6.2.5 Usage of HAC logo in any published materials, posters, advertisement and signage shall be done in an ethical manner. Instructions shall be always obtained from HAC in this regard.
- 6.2.6 The Halal certificate holder shall use the Halal logo only in packaging material as long as its certification remain valid and in force. Halal certificate holder shall not use the logo where its certificate is withdrawn or suspended or expired.

6.3 Renewal / Re-certification

- 6.3.1 The certificate holder shall monitor the expiry date of the Halal certificate and shall submit the renewal request in writing minimum 45 days prior to the date of expiry to avoid any delay in renewal.
- 6.3.2 The certificate holder shall monitor the expiry date of the Halal certificate and shall submit the renewal application at least six months prior to the date of expiry to avoid any delay in re-certification. [\(Applicable for GSO Standard Scheme\)](#)
- 6.3.3 Any proposed changes to the current application details during the renewal period shall be submitted with the renewal request / application.

- 6.3.4 HAC shall carry out renewal audit(s), and decision on renewing certification shall be based on the outcome of renewal audit. [\(Applicable for GSO Standard Scheme\)](#)
- 6.3.5 If a Halal certificate holder who failed to renew its halal certificate, HAC Halal Logo and all stocks of packing material(s) with the HAC Halal Logo shall not be used in the products in the premises or on the manufactured products.

7.0 HAC HALAL CERTIFICATE

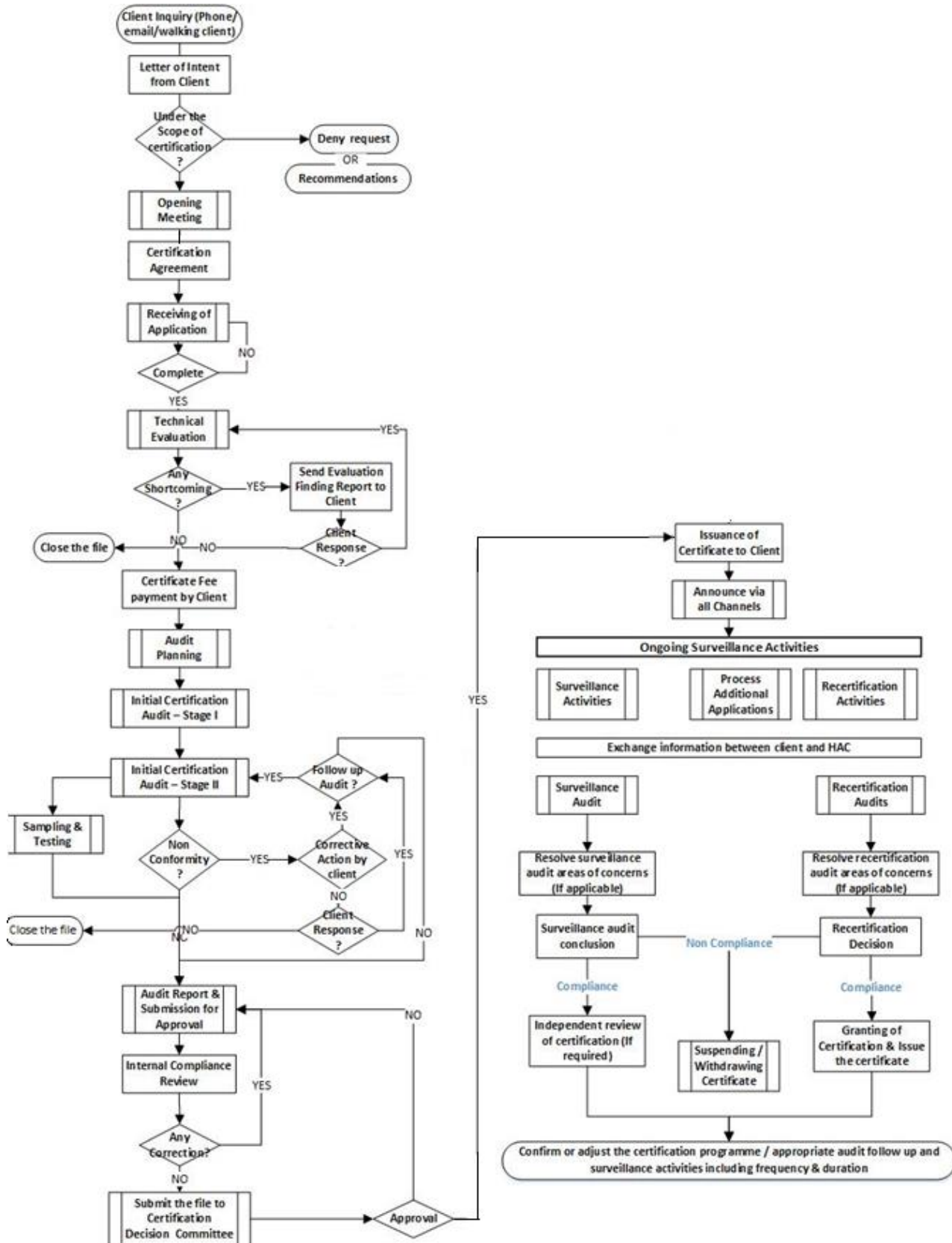
- 7.1 The Halal Certificate issued to the applicant certifies that the products have been processed / packed / stored and transported according to Halal requirements and are therefore fit for Halal consumers.
- 7.2 The Halal Certificate and / or any part of it are the property of HAC. The Halal Certificate holder will be held responsible for the Halal Certificate(s) issued to them. The certificate and / or any part thereof are NOT TRANSFERABLE.
- 7.3 The certificate holder shall not reproduce the HAC issued Halal Certificate in part and/or in a way that would hinder the legibility, nor tamper with the original or copies of the Halal certificate.
- 7.4 Halal certificate holder shall not translate the certificate in other languages without the control and prior consent of HAC in writing.
- 7.5 The Halal Certificate issued will be valid for one year from the date of issue, which is renewable annually.
- 7.6 The Halal Certificate issued under the GSO Standard scheme will be valid for three years from the date of issue, thereafter it will be subject to recertification. [\(Applicable for GSO Standard Scheme\)](#)
- 7.7 The valid original certificate issued may be prominently displayed and shall be shown on demand to the customer. Any copy and / or expired Halal Certificate(s) shall NOT be displayed.
- 7.8 The Halal Certificate holder may request for a 'Certified Copy' of its Halal Certificate from HAC which will be issued in the name of a specific entity for a valid reason. This will be subject to a stipulated administrative fee.
- 7.9 In case of any loss or damage to the Halal certificate the Halal certificate holder shall immediately inform in writing to HAC.
- 7.10 The Halal Certificate holder shall ensure that the Halal Certificate issued is well kept and not abused in any manner.

8.0 OTHER CONDITIONS

- 8.1 The applicant / Halal Certificate holder shall at all times keep HAC and its employees indemnified fully and completely against all claims, damages, expenses or costs (including those asserted by third parties) arising directly or indirectly from acts, commissions or omissions of the applicant / Halal certificate holder and its servants, agents, employees, invitees or licensees.
- 8.2 In the event of a breach of any Terms and Conditions mentioned herein by the Halal Certificate holder or its servants, agents, employees, invitees, licensees etc.
- I. HAC reserves the right to withdraw or suspend the Halal Certificate and prevent the use of its Halal Logo and to recall all products bearing its logo (i.e. packaging materials in stock or with printers). These shall be surrendered to HAC upon request. HAC is at liberty to destroy the packaging material and no refund shall be due from HAC for the said material.
 - II. In addition, HAC, also, reserves the right to make a public announcement of the withdrawal of Halal Certification and such costs shall be borne entirely by the Halal certificate holder.
- 8.3 HAC may, from time to time, change / review its Halal Certification Terms & Conditions and requirements that effect the certificate holder and such changes shall be communicated issue directives to its Halal Certificate holders.
- 8.4 HAC reserve the right to verify the implementation of the changes made by certificate holder and take actions required by these Terms and Condition.
- 8.5 HAC reserves the right to review the application even after certification.
- 8.6 The decision of HAC in respect of all matters shall be final and conclusive.
- 8.7 In the event of any uncertainty or ambiguity or in the event of any provisions not hitherto made, the interpretation and ruling of HAC shall be final and binding on the applicant/ Halal Certificate holder.

For ease of reference the clauses relevant and applicable to GSO Standard Scheme have been highlighted in blue color fonts in this document and also listed separately in Appendix C.

APPENDIX A – Certification and Auditing Procedures



APPENDIX B - Documentation and Records Required for HAC Halal Certification

1. Company profile
2. Business Registration Certificate
3. Particulars of the Directors
4. Name and brand(s) of all the product(s) manufactured
5. Details of the product(s) applied for certification with their raw materials
6. List of raw materials / ingredients / processing aids with manufacturer and supplier details and supported with the documents mentioned in Clause No. 2.2.5
7. Good Receiving Note, Material Requisition Note, Purchase Orders, Delivery Note, Purchase Invoice, Stock record etc. for all the raw materials/ingredients/processing aids.
8. Appointment notification of Halal Assurance Team (HAT)
9. Detailed floor plan of the processing plant
10. Process flow chart of the products
11. Licenses issued to the applicant by local and environmental authorities.
12. Quality / Hygiene standard certificates
13. Documentary evidence of implementing Food Safety Management System
14. Samples of approved product packaging material(s)
15. Complete operations schedule of processing per day with shift times
16. Company Logo and Brand Logos
17. Any other relevant documents

APPENDIX C – The clauses applicable ONLY for GSO Standard Scheme

1. Clause 1.4
2. Clause 2.2.3
3. Clause 2.2.9
4. Clause 3.2. (I)
5. Clause 3.9
6. Clause 3.10
7. Clause 6.2.2
8. Clause 6.3.2
9. Clause 6.3.4
10. Clause 7.6