Issued by the Embassy of Paraguay

04 October 2021

Halal Certification for Food Products to Egypt

# Certification of Food Products to Egypt

1. Prime Ministerial Decree (No. 35/2020) established IS EG Halal [(www.iseghalal.com](http://www.iseghalal.com/)) as the state entity responsible for halal certification of all animal products imported and exported from Egypt. The intention is to establish IS EG Halal as the sole Halal certifier of all foreign food products being imported into Egypt.
2. The Embassy of Paraguay in Egypt was recently advised that all global food and beverage products imported into Egypt (not just those claiming to be halal) would be required to have halal certification issued by IS EG Halal from 1 October 2021.This advice has since been confirmed in writing.
3. The scope of food products deemed halal appears broad and based on [**Egyptian Standard ES**](https://piritahi.cohesion.net.nz/Sites/RG/_layouts/15/DocIdRedir.aspx?ID=RGID-25-1454)[**4249/2014 General Requirements for Halal Food According to Islamic Sharia.**](https://piritahi.cohesion.net.nz/Sites/RG/_layouts/15/DocIdRedir.aspx?ID=RGID-25-1454) (Unofficial Translation attached).
4. On 26 September, Egyptian officials provided a verbal update to foreign Embassy representatives based in Cairo. This advice included the following:

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| * + From 1 August 2021 all meat products exported to Egypt require halal certification issued by IS EG Halal. |
| * + From 1 October 2021 all dairy products exported to Egypt require halal certification issued by IS EG Halal. |
| * + It is likely, but yet to be confirmed, that from 1 January 2022 all other food products will require halal certification issued by IS EG Halal. |

1. The HALAL Certificate will be implemented, by product series, dividing the process into stages according to their category, as follows:

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| **Products** | **Time of Implementation** |
| Meat and Poultry and their products | **August 2021** |
| Milk, its products and its derivatives | **October 2021** |
| Food supplements | **Not declared yet** |
| Other products (such as juices) | **Not declared yet** |
| Chocolate, confectionary and snacking products | **Not declared yet** |

1. Clarity regarding the implementation dates referred to in 1(4) was sought from Egyptian authorities who advised these dates refer to the date the Import Licence is issued to the Egyptian importer. For dairy products, Import Licences issued from 1 October will state the requirement to have a halal certificate issued by IS EG Halal. Any dairy consignment with an Import Licence issued prior to 1 October 2021, even if it is shipped after 1 October, will not be required to have an IS EG Halal certificate.
2. The Embassy of Paraguay in Egypt understands that IS EG Halal labelling will be required on all food products requiring IS EG Halal certification imported into Egypt from 1 January 2022.
3. **GOVS authority will give three additional months as a “truce” during which the “current” labels will still be considered valid, which must be replaced by the new label, officially, as of January 1, 2022.**
4. After January 1, GOVS authorities will give companies that still have the old HALAL labels in stock some extra time, so that they can use them in their shipments, although on condition that they add adhesive labels of the NEW design by HALAL. That this task of placing the "new HALAL labels" can even be done in EGYPT.
5. HALAL Certificates will come in two formats, namely:
6. Halal certificates that will accompany each shipment, with their respective serial numbers for each of them.
7. Annual renewable Halal Certificate, which will be awarded to the exporting factory.
8. The certificates will be admitted in Egypt without the need for them to be legalized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Chambers of Commerce of the countries of origin.
9. **Because of the lack of clarity, the Embassy of Paraguay in Egypt recommends exporters liaise with their importers to ensure that any applicable halal requirements are met.**