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**Email:** [alirfan@mul.edu.pk](mailto:alirfan@mul.edu.pk)

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## **An Analytical study of Pakistani law regarding assurance of halal production and consumption**

**Dr Noor Wali Shah**

Assistant Professor Department of Islamic Thought and Culture NUML Islamabad  
[noor.walishah@numl.edu.pk](mailto:noor.walishah@numl.edu.pk)

**Dr. Nisar Akhtar**

Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies Iqra University, Karachi

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### **ABSTRACT**

The term Halal is booming day by day. The entire world is in competition to boost it in order to add in the economy of their countries. Pakistan is an Islamic country and has designed its constitution in the light of Shariah.

Halal laws were first adopted by Thailand a non-Islamic country and Malaysia. After the formation of PSQCA in 1996 Shariah Standards for slaughtering were drafted by government. Then they were reviewed in 2010. Since then more than ten halal standards are approved by NSC PSQCA. In 2015 a bill by the name “Pakistan Halaal Authority PHA 2015” was approved by National Assembly and Senate, and for the last some years it has started its functions.

Reviewing the local laws and regulations and the efforts being made on government level regarding Halal industry is of great significance to tackle the flaws and gaps and to improve the whole system. To get accurate information primary sources like the acts, regulations, institutions official websites and notifications were studied. Using qualitative approach the data obtained was analyzed. The finding of this paper concludes that in Pakistan we have a complete system for Halal Management comprising of Halal Standardization at PSQCA, Halal Accreditation at PNAC, Halal Certification at HCB’s and Halal Testing at PSQCA and HEJ and Halal regulating bodies at federal and provincial level, but still there is room for bringing improvement and development on the level of legislation, documentation, standard’s uniformation and administration.

### **Keywords:**

Halal, Halal Certification, Halal Standardization, Halal Production and consumption, Halal Regulatory System in Pakistan, Pakistani Laws, History of halal certification.

## **Definition of the term Halal and haram:**

Halaal is an Arabic word which means permitted; it is the opposite of Haram.<sup>1</sup>

The definition of Haram is:“Haram is that which Allah The Almighty has absolutely prohibited.<sup>2</sup>

## **Work done by other Muslim and non-Muslim States**

The term halal and haram are used for 14 centuries. The things permitted in Quran and Sunnah are described as Halaal and the things prohibited are considered as Haram. Both the terms are mentioned by every Jurist. After the industrial revolution the world and its business became more complicated. It became difficult to differentiate between a Halaal and haram product due to its containing various ingredients derived from various Halaal, haram or doubtful things. It was the time when Shariah Scholars started evaluating the issues in the light of Shariah and describing Shariah rules for products.

## **History of halal rules in Thailand**

Thailand and Malaysia are supposed as Pioneers in Halal. The history of halal in Thailand can be divided into four stages

### **Stage 1: before 1949**

Before 1949 Sharia scholars used to guide people about products and services. There was not any proper procedure for halal certification and authentication.

### **Stage 2: from 1949 to 1997**

In this era Halal certification was started by local Muslim. The ever first halal certificate was handed to nursing centers by Shiekh ul Islam office.

### **Ever first halal standard**

Halal standardization was also started in Thailand for the first time. It was 1971, when Thai Islamic Center Committee introduced its first Halal Food Standard and then the remaining world started copying its procedure and drafting their own halal standards.

### **Stage 3: from 1997 to 2016**

This stage begins from 1997 to 2016 with the launching of Thailand’s Halal Standard Institute. In 2002, Thailand government approved the establishment of a halal food hub located in the southern side of Thailand. In 2003 at Chulalongkorn University,

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(1) Qradawi, Sheikh Yusuf,(1960), the lawful and the prohibited in islam, Al Falah foundation, P: XXV

(2) Qradawi, Sheikh Yusuf,(1960), the lawful and the prohibited in islam, Al Falah foundation, P: XXV

The Halal Science Centre was founded. This center pushed the halal industry in Thailand toward. In 2009, Halal Management Rules were issued in order to regulate quality assurance of halal products.

#### **Stage 4: from 2017 until now**

It begins from 2017 until now. In this stage halal logo will be considered the second brand for halal products and services. Thailand is striving to link halal certification with IOT, e-commerce, cloud and others.(1)

#### **Halaal in Malaysia**

The Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM) came into ground to regulate halal food industry in **1974**, when it was given permission from the prime minister office to issue halal certification.

#### **Beginning of One Halal Logo**

in September 2002 it was decided by the government of Malaysia that the whole industry will be regulated by JAKIM, Later on in April 2nd 2008 it was decided that management of halal certification would be managed by halal industry development corporation, but it was for a short duration of one year and the Cabinet meeting on July 8, 2009, decided to return halal certification management to JAKIM to settle all halal certification problems within and outside the country.(2)

#### **Halaal certification in Saudi Arabia**

Saudi Arabia introduced halal food controls in 1967. It was the time when KSA started testing food products in laboratories to stop importing pig products. For the above purpose two laboratories was established at that time, one in Jeddah and the second in Damman.

#### **Establishment of SASO**

The Saudi Arabian Standards Organization (SASO) was established in 1972. The first Saudi Standard was issued in 1972. In 1978, Saudi Arabia along with other Muslim countries signed an agreement for halal animal slaughtering methods. Since 1990 halal certification has become compulsory for all types of food products.

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(1) Jenatabadi, Hashem Salarzadeh, Jasimah, Che wan, Halal Food Industry in Thailand: History, Prospects and Challenges, IHMC 2017, Sejong University, South Korea, August 2017, P: 17-18 [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/319531544\\_Halal\\_Food\\_Industry\\_in\\_Thailand\\_History\\_Prospects\\_and\\_Challenges](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/319531544_Halal_Food_Industry_in_Thailand_History_Prospects_and_Challenges) Last access 11 December 2023)

(2) (HALAL MALAYSIA OFFICIAL PORTAL, <http://www.halal.gov.my/v4/index.php?data=bW9kdWxlcY9uZXdzOzs7Ow==&utama=ann&ids=corporate> last access 5 January 2019)

## **Banning on Non-Muslim Halal Certifying Bodies**

In 2005, Saudi Arabia announced a new Regulation and announced that Halal Certification bodies must be owned and supervised by Muslim.(1)

## **Halaal in Singapore**

In Singapore the very first halal standard was issued in 1978 by The Islamic Center of Singapore MUIS full supported Muslim organization by the Singapore government. If any product is labeled Halal, then it is mandatory to have full proof of its halalness or it may face prosecution. The hotels, restaurants and other food outlets serving halal food face frequent auditing and raids to ensure the availability of halal food for the local Muslims. MUIS has got extra power to regulate and promote halal in the country.(2)

## **Contribution of OIC for Uniformity of Halaal Standards**

In order to unite Muslim Countries on one Standard OIC established a sub organization with the name of SMIIC.

## **History of SMIIC**

To uniform standards among Muslim countries in 1985 the standardization expert group was formed. This group prepared SMIIC act which was presented in the 14<sup>th</sup> COMCEC meeting in 1998. The next year in its 15<sup>th</sup> meeting it was submitted to member Islamic countries to approve it.

It took eleven years to give power to SMIIC and it was established in august 2010. Since that it works under OIC as an affiliated organization.(3) From its Headquarter at Istanbul Turkey, SMIIC has published several standards.(4)

## **HALAL IN PAKISTAN**

### **Local laws before the introduction of Halal in Pakistan**

Pakistan is an Islamic country. It has a valuable place in all the Muslim countries. The above research clarifies that the term halal and halal certifications were introduced in late 70s and 80s. Malaysia and Thailand were the pioneers in halal. In Pakistan these

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(1) Alharbi, Yousif, (2015)Halal Food Certification, Regulations, Standards, Practices, in the Netherlands. Halaal food in Saudi Arabia, Wageningen University and Research Center, LAW-80430,P: 19, 20, 22.

(2) Abdul Aziz Mohamad, An Overview of Halal Industry in Singapore, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281272919\\_An\\_Overview\\_of\\_Halal\\_Industry\\_in\\_Singapore](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281272919_An_Overview_of_Halal_Industry_in_Singapore)last access on 11 December 2023.

(3) History of SMIIC, <https://www.smiic.org/en/history-of-smiic> Last access 11 December 2023.

(4) SMIIC official website, standard catalog, <https://www.smiic.org/en/all-projects> Last access 11 December 2023.

rules were introduced first in 1996 AD, although pure food acts were initiated from 1960. The first food act is known as West Pakistan pure food ordinance 1960.

### **WEST PAKISTAN PURE FOOD ORDINANCE, 1960**

It was the first ordinance to provide pure food and drinks to consumers. It was enforced in the then West Pakistan (1). There were various fines, imprisonments and penalties for various offences like Mixing and Selling Mixed Food, Preparation, Sale, Import or Export of harmful food for human consumption, Unlabeled Sale of Banaspati, Butter and tallow and Food Poisoning etc.(2)

### **CANTONMENTS PURE FOOD ACT, 1966**

This act was introduced in 1966 with the name of **Cantonments Pure Food Act, 1966**

Its jurisdiction was limited to the cantonment areas of Pakistan to ban food products of the following descriptions. Like the previous act it has also various penalties and imprisonment if these rules are violated: this act had copied almost all sections of the previous act, like: False Warranty, Mixing and Selling Mixed Food, Preparation, sale, Import or Export of harmful Food products, Unlabeled Sale of Vanaspati, Margarine and tallow and Food Poisoning etc.(3)

### **PAKISTAN HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS ACT, 1976**

In 1976 another act was introduced to regulate rates and standards of services at hotels and restaurants. The section 22(2) of this act is also related with the sale of contaminated food and beverages, the food that is not prepared according to hygienic rules and the unclean and non-hygienic utensils.<sup>4</sup>

### **PAKISTAN PENAL CODE, 1860**

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(1) Before 1971 Pakistan consisted of two parts: West Pakistan and East Pakistan that separated in the war of 1971 and is now known as Bangladesh.

(2) Khan, Mohammad Sarwar, Abrar Hafeez, (1999), Consumer laws in Pakistan, Consumer Rights Commission of Pakistan, P: 65, 66.

(3) Khan, Mohammad Sarwar, Abrar Hafeez, (1999), Consumer laws in Pakistan, Consumer Rights Commission of Pakistan, P: 70,71.

<sup>4</sup> Khan, Mohammad Sarwar, Abrar Hafeez, (1999), Consumer laws in Pakistan, Consumer Rights Commission of Pakistan, P: 75.

Along with the above acts there is another law with the name of PAKISTAN PENAL CODE, 1860. Section 272 and 273 consist of adulterated food and drinks and the punishments and penalties for their committers. (1)

Beside these rules and laws there are some other acts as well, like Islamabad consumer protection act, 1995 and NWFP consumer protection act, 1997. These acts also consisted sections related to food industry, its production and trade.

### **Over all analysis of this era**

In WEST PAKISTAN PURE FOOD ACT Besides lacking of rules regarding Halaal there were several problems, like lack of uniformity and variation of penalties between the provinces. Like the previous act CANTONMENT PURE FOOD ACT also doesn't have rules regarding consumer's compensations and damages if he suffers any, which is considered a basic and core rule in laws for consumer's protection.

In all the above acts and laws there are some similarities like

- Taking care of consumer's rights
- Food hygiene and cleanliness
- Improving the quality of food and beverages
- Lack of the term Halaal

### **Pakistani laws after the introduction of the term Halaal and their critical study**

The term Halaal was first introduced in Pakistan in 1996 when PSQCA stepped ahead and drafted some slaughtering rules in the light of Shariah. It was the initiative of Halaal in our country. Let's see it in detail:

#### **Pakistan standards and quality control authority act 1996**

This act was introduced in 1996 and its aim was to control and maintain quality and standards for various products by issuing licenses and certificates. Its jurisdiction was the whole territory of Pakistan.(2)

The first Halaal standard was drafted after the establishment of PSQCA in 1996, when the ever first rules for animal slaughtering were drafted. Due to lack of interest from government, this draft was nothing but a bunch of papers for the coming 14 years.

#### **Trade Policy 2008/2009**

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(1) Khan, Mohammad Sarwar, Abrar Hafeez, (1999), Consumer laws in Pakistan, Consumer Rights Commission of Pakistan, P: 80.

(2) Khan, Mohammad Sarwar, Abrar Hafeez, (1999), Consumer laws in Pakistan, Consumer Rights Commission of Pakistan, P: 46

Later on the trade policy of financial year 2008/2009 facilitated halal and encouraged it. In the trade policy speech, under the title of Export of Halal food products it was mentioned that:

“Muslim consumers in other countries are also conscious about Halal method of slaughtering and Halal ingredients in other processed food products, for which Halal Certification is essential. It has therefore been decided to establish a Halal Certification Board, under the Ministry of Science and Technology, to devise and enforce Halal Standards and certification mechanism for export of Halal food products.”(1)

After the trade policy of financial year of 2008/2009 PSQCA took the issue of halal standardization seriously and arranged a series of meetings. The later attention to halal slaughtering draft of 1996 was initiated in 2010 again fourteen years after the establishment of PSQCA.

### **Standardization committees at PSQCA**

In the field of Halaal the responsibility of PSQCA is to draft Halaal standards for various aspects of this vast industry. PSQCA has set up various technical committees to draft standards in harmonization with OIC standards, ISO guidelines and directives and other international standards. The draft finalized in technical committee is passed to the National Standard Committee of PSQCA and after the approval of NSC it is sent to Secretariat. Until now halal standards are finalized by PSQCA and are listed on its official website (2)

As PS 3733, PS 4992 and PS 5214 are often practiced, we will have a brief study of them.

### **PS 3733**

This standard applies to manufacturers that work in the field of production of any kind of edible products. It comprises all stages from production to consumption. In Pakistan this standard is used by Halal certifying bodies to issue halal certification to their clients. It is not compulsory but optional and voluntarily and applied to those who want to adopt halal production.(3) In the light of this standard a certificate is issued by the relevant HCB after examining the plant, ingredients, the process and machinery.

### **PS 4992**

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(1) Trade policy speech 2008/2009, Export of Halal food products, P: 10, 11.

(2) PSQCA official website, <https://www.psqca.com.pk/standardization/division/halaal-division/> Last access 11 Dec 2023

(3) At the beginning it was voluntarily, but after the establishment of Pakistan Halal Authority it has become mandatory for any Food production company to get halal certification from PHA registered HCB.

Pakistan Standard for General Criteria for the operation of halal Certification Bodies. This standard is designed to regulate Halal certification bodies. It consists of rules and regulations for HCBs. HCBs in some countries work as government organizations like JAKIM of Malaysia, but in Pakistan all the HCBs work privately except PHDA which is owned by government. PNAC Pakistan National Accreditation council is responsible to regulate these bodies in the light of this standard drafted and finalized by PSQCA Halal Technical and National committees.

**PS: 5400**

### **Pakistan Standard Guidelines for the Exchange of Information between Countries on Rejections of Imported Food**

This standard solves the disputes between importing and exporting countries in food items and provides basis for structural information exchange on import rejections.

### **The Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC)**

It was established in 1998 under the charge of the Ministry of Science and Technology. It works to accredit conformity assessment bodies like certificate issuing bodies and laboratories. It started functioning in 2001.

### **Role of PNAC in Halal**

PNAC plays a vital role in promoting halal. Its work is to accredit halal certification bodies under PS 4922. Although accreditation was not compulsory for halal certification bodies until now, they could certify their clients under PS 3733 without being accredited from PNAC, but after establishment of Pakistan Halal authority it has been compulsory to be accredited first from PNAC.

### **Accreditation process of PNAC**

PNAC gives accreditation to Halal Certification Bodies. It also provides trainings to HCBs and hosts awareness programs on halal accreditation and certifications. PNAC charges fee for its accreditation process. It includes application fee, Assessment fee per man day, Annual license fee, Renewal and Scope Extension Fees.(1) PNAC has accredited several HCBs, it has suspended some bodies as well after the expiration date and for violating its rules. It has suspended SGS as it was non-Muslim HCB which cannot issue Halal certifications. According to PNAC accreditation conditions, the Halal

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(1) Fee Schedule for Accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies CABs, <https://pnac.gov.pk/publications> Last access on 11 December 2023.



Certification Body (HCB) should be a Muslim entity.(1)Currently 11 certification bodies are accredited by PNAC (2)

### **Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR)**

Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) has been functioning since 1953. There are 11 Laboratories, and 5 HRD Centers running under the supervision of PCSIR across the country. These Laboratories are supported by 870 technical and 1125 non-technical staff.(3)

### **PCSIR in promoting Halal**

#### **Establishment of Halal Authentication Laboratory**

PCSIR has established Halal authentication laboratory in Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar to guide local food and cosmetic industries. The regulatory authorities also get assistance from PCSIR in importing and exporting halal products.(4)

#### **Training and programs about halal awareness**

PCSIR also trains Human resources of HCBs, industry and personals related to halal in Pakistan. It organizes various programs, seminars and workshops to give awareness to halal industry regarding halal (5)

### **Pakistan Halal Authority Bill 2015**

This bill is supposed as the turning point in halal history of Pakistan. It was presented on 25 Nov 2015 in National Assembly to establish Authority to promote halal in Pakistan and to boost international trade and commerce in Halal products.(6) This bill was proposed by Ministry of Science and Technology and the intention was good and pure to close the door for haram products whether are produced domestically or imported from other countries. But during drafting instead of getting help from PSQCA halal standards, OIC standards were kept as a part of the bill that have several controversies with PSQCA halal standards.

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(1) Accreditation conditions for Halal certification body, Part: 11, <https://pnac.gov.pk/publications> Last access on 11 December 2023.

(2) Halal Certification Bodies, <https://www.pnac.gov.pk/HalalCertificationBodies> Last access 11 December 2023.

(3) Official Website of PCSIR, <http://www.pcsir.gov.pk/?pg=1003> Last access 11 December 2023.

(4) PCSIR, Successful stories, <http://www.pcsir.gov.pk/?pg=10242> Last access 4 January 2019.

(5) . (PCSIR Official Website, <http://www.pcsir.gov.pk/?Page=Slider&pg=1028> Last access 4 January 2019)

(6) (Bill, to establish the Pakistan halal authority to promote trade and commerce in halal articles and processes, [http://www.na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1438261676\\_954.pdf](http://www.na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1438261676_954.pdf) Last access 11 December 2023)

When this bill was presented in National Assembly, JUI Chief Maulana Fazl Ur Rehman expressed deep concerns about it. He encouraged the efforts to establish PHA but the aim of his concern was to establish a strong PHA working in the light of shariah and in the favor of Pakistan and its citizens. (1)

After the approval of PHA act, there were some controversies on shariah related matters. Mufti Yousaf AR and Justice Khaleel Ur Rehman had arranged series of meetings with Ministry of Science and Technology and the points raised by them were acknowledged by MOST. Mufti Yousaf AR writes that the below mentioned points were mutually agreed upon during these meetings.

1. PHA will follow PSQCA halal standards. It is not forced to follow OIC standard as it is. If there is any controversy between PS and OIC standards we will follow PS. Like mechanical Slaughtering, Stunning and sharia status of aquatic animals etc.

2. The import policy was added to the act

3. The definition of Shariah Scholar was added to stop entrance of so called scholars.

4. Along with PHA the authority to issue halal certificate was also given to HCBs authorized by PHA and accredited by PNAC

5. Like Malaysia, only one halal logo will be issued to products and it will be the logo of Pakistan halal Authority. If it is certified by any private halal certifying body, its registration code can be written below the PHA logo. (2)

### **The amended bill in national Assembly and senate**

After adding the above amendments to the bill it was re-presented to the parliament, the amended sections were read out on behalf of the JUIF and all the members agreed to each amendment. Afterwards, the remaining sections were read out to which the entire house agreed and, thus, the historic Halaal Authority Bill of 2015 was unanimously passed.”(3)

This amended bill was later on presented in Senate and was approved from there as well.(4)

### **Current situation of PHA**

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(1) (Yousaf A.R, PHA 2015, an introduction and synopsis of our efforts in the world of Halal, <http://www.sanha.org.pk/pakistan-halal-authority-bill-report/> Last access 11 December 2023)

(2) (Yousaf A.R, PHA 2015, an introduction and synopsis of our efforts in the world of Halal, <http://www.sanha.org.pk/pakistan-halal-authority-bill-report/> Last access 11 December 2023)

(3) (Yousaf A.R, PHA 2015, an introduction and synopsis of our efforts in the world of Halal, <http://www.sanha.org.pk/pakistan-halal-authority-bill-report/> Last access 11 December 2023)

(4) (As passed by national assembly, bill, to establish the Pakistan halal authority to promote trade and commerce in halal articles and processes)

[http://www.senate.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1450080211\\_348.pdf](http://www.senate.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1450080211_348.pdf) last access 6 January 2019)

Pakistan halal Authority has started its functions for the last some years under PHA act 2016 with the mandate to promote halal industry in Pakistan. It registers halal certification bodies working inside Pakistan and regulate halal industry. It is its responsibility to monitor the local market and import and export of halal articles.(1)

### **Government bodies on provincial level in halal industry**

To administrate and supervise halal industry on provincial level, Punjab and Kpk also established their halal authorities and agencies.

In Punjab there are two institutions in the field. Punjab food authority and its work is to maintain the safety and hygiene of products bought and sold in the limits of Punjab province. PFA also plays its role in banning haram items in Punjab. Presently it banned food items contained carmine E: 120 food color.

The second organization is named Punjab halal development agency, which is chaired by Justice R Khalil Ur Rehman that played a vital role in Pakistan Halal Authority act as well. Its work is to direct halal industry in the limits of Punjab. They both are in cooperation with one another, due to which they gain much publicity in all Pakistan.

### **Introduction to Punjab food authority PFA**

It was established under PFA act 2011.(2)

It was launched on 2 July 2012 with aim to enforce food hygiene and quality standards as described in the Punjab Food Authority Act 2011 and the Punjab pure Food Regulations 2018.(3)

### **PFA in halal industry**

Although it is not a halal authority, it was intended to regulate food hygiene and quality and its role in its field is appreciable. However it has started implementing halal laws as well. PFA follows Punjab pure food regulations 2018. These laws are meant to assure halal production in the province. The word halal is used 75 times in these regulations which clarify the pure intention of PFA in promoting Halal in Punjab. Carmine E-120 and Shellac E-904 are also prohibited and banned. Alcohol is not allowed

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(1) Pakistan Halal Authority, <https://pakistanhalalauthority.gov.pk/intro.aspx> Last access on 11 december 2023

(2) (Punjab food authority act 2011, <http://punjablaws.gov.pk/laws/2460.html>-Last access 11 december 2023)

(3) (Punjab food authority website, <http://www.pfa.gov.pk/overview/>Last access on 11 December 2023)

to be sold to Muslim and it should be labeled as non halal. Food additives, Milk and meat should be from halal sources. Same should be gelatin and glycine. (1)

According to Dawn newspaper: PFA DG retired Capt Usman said that we have directed federal ministry to ban importing and exporting of non halal items.(2) In its raids on markets it removes the items contain haram ingredients. It has removed a flavor of Frutien juice from market after finding E: 120 color which is extracted from carmine insect and is not allowed according to Punjab pure food regulations 2018 and PS 3733.(3) Same is the situation with harmful food items like meat and ice-cream etc. as these are unlawful by Punjab pure food regulations 2018 and PSQCA halal standards as well.(4)

### **Punjab halal development agency PHDA**

Punjab halal development agency was established under PHDA ACT 2016 that was passed by the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab on 1 December and approved by Punjab governor on (5) December. <sup>5</sup>Its core objectives are: Halal Auditing and certifications, Capacity Building Courses, Connecting International Halal Agencies, Halal branding & Marketing, Shariah Advisory Services.

### **KP FOOD SAFETY & HALAL FOOD AUTHORITY**

The KP Food Safety & Halal Food Authority (FS&HFA) has been established in 2014. The aim of its establishment was to ensure availability of safe, halal and healthy food for human consumption. This act was first named as THE KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY ACT, 2014.(6)

Later on the act was amended in 2017 and the word Food Safety Authority was replaced by Food Safety and Halal food Authority.(7)

(1) (Punjab pure food regulations 2018, Punjab Food Authority, Government of The Punjab, June 2018)

(2) (PFA suggests ban on import of prohibited food color, date: 9/13/2018, [https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailImage.php?StoryImage=13\\_09\\_2018\\_002\\_006](https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailImage.php?StoryImage=13_09_2018_002_006) last access 11 december 2023)

(3) (<https://pfa.gop.pk/category/news/> last access on 11 December 2023)

(4) (Punjab food authority official Facebook page, [https://web.facebook.com/PunjabFoodAuthority/?\\_tn=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARDNOTuxfZkjEZf3oNVXbDpaLt7skUNmn1FTBq4\\_rAiznjB2kTNPZIZvokUDQNYbhxKLUdHrO83twBRq](https://web.facebook.com/PunjabFoodAuthority/?_tn=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARDNOTuxfZkjEZf3oNVXbDpaLt7skUNmn1FTBq4_rAiznjB2kTNPZIZvokUDQNYbhxKLUdHrO83twBRq) Last access 3 January 2019)

(5) (THE PUNJAB HALAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY ACT 2016, <http://punjablaws.gov.pk/laws/2674.html> Last access on 11 December 2023)

(6) (THE KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY ACT, 2014, [http://kp.gov.pk/uploads/2016/03/3\\_Food\\_Safety\\_Authority\\_Act\\_2014.pdf](http://kp.gov.pk/uploads/2016/03/3_Food_Safety_Authority_Act_2014.pdf) last access 2 January 2019)

(7) (Amendment, Act, 2017 Sec 2, Authority Act <http://kpfsa.gov.pk/assets/img/download/act.pdf> last access 3/1/019)

## Launching of the Authority

The authority was launched on 5th March 2018 and its First DG Riaz Mahsud talked the media about its functions and responsibilities.

He said: “that the basic purpose of the authority is to lay out standards for food articles and monitor and regulate their manufacturing, storage, distribution, sale and import.”(1)

## Laboratories under supervision of FS&HFA

According to information from its official website, three types of Food Laboratories have been established under the supervision of KP FS & HFA:

- 1-Scientific Laboratory
- 2- Appellate Laboratory
- 3-Mobile Laboratory (2)

## FS&HFA and its role as halal authority

FS&HFA is the first government authority that started taking strict actions against Haram items and ingredient and banned them in the limits of KPK province. Several products were banned due to bearing various haram ingredients in them like Carmine E: 120, White wine, Oyster insect, Wine, and non Halal Gelatin. The authority also took a step forward and banned self-claimed halal products as well.

## Baluchistan Food Authority

This authority was established in 2020 with the aim to aims to ensure halal, safe and quality food items and products.(3)

## Sindh Food Authority

Like all the previous provincial authorities the purpose of this authority is to ensure food safety and halal integrity in the jurisdiction of Sindh province.(4)

## Conclusion:

Although the journey towards regulating halal industry in Pakistan started in 2010, that is supposed to be a step taken too late, but due to the sincerity and hardworking of various halal stakeholders the industry grew up fast. Now along with different halal certification bodies, Halal testing labs, standardization and accreditation bodies, there are

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(1) (The News, 6th March 2018, <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/288931-khyber-pakhtunkhwa-food-authority-launched> last access 2 January 2019)

(2) (FS&HFA Appointment and conditions of services Regulations, 2017, <http://kpfsa.gov.pk/assets/img/download/regulations.pdf> last access 3/1/019)

(3) (BFA Official Website, <https://bfa.gob.pk/about-bfa/> Last access on 11 December 2023)

(4) (SFA Official Website, <https://sfa.gos.pk/about.php> Last access on 11 December 2023)

regulating bodies on federal and provincial level. Their mission is to regulate the industry. Almost all the institutions compulsory for the halal industry are established in Pakistan but still we need to improve the system in term of legislation, documentation, standard's uniformation and administration that is in the best interest of industry. Now we need to focus on the challenges faced by the industry here, that need to be tackled in order to accelerate the pace of growing.

### **Findings and Recommendations:**

In the light of this analysis we can say Halal management system of Pakistan has reached a satisfactory level but in order to shape Pakistan as Halal Kitchen for the world, taking care of the below points is must:

#### **1-Empowering Pakistan Halal Authority**

The core role in the propagation of Halal in Pakistan can be played by PHA. It is the responsibility of all the stakeholders of halal to assist PHA in regulating halal industry.

#### **2-Not neglecting Sharia Experts in PHA and provincial halal bodies**

As halal is a complete shariah matter. It should have been given to Ministry of Religious Affairs in the first place, not to ministry of Science and Technology. If it is given under the ministry of science and technology, now it becomes the core responsibility of them to add a complete Mufti panel and to make it a permanent part of PHA, regretfully until now there is no post advertised for sharia experts. Same is the situation of provincial halal regulating government bodies.

#### **3-One halal logo in the country**

Like Malaysia it is necessary to uniform halal logo in Pakistan by applying PHA logo along with the sub code of HCB that has issued halal certification as suggested by Yousaf AR to PHA.(1)

#### **4-Stopping self-claimed halal**

It is a great problem for halal industry and Muslim Consumers. They don't know whether the product they are eating is certified halal by shariah Scholars or is self-claimed. PHA acts describes that Pakistan halal authority has the power to stop self-claimed items in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The provincial halal bodies are responsible to ban self-claimed halal products in their provinces. It will be a challenge for the federal and provincial government halal bodies to stop self-claimed halal items.

#### **5-Entrance of Halal Tourism in Pakistan**

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(1) (Yousaf A.R, PHA 2015, an introduction and synopsis of our efforts in the world of Halal, <http://www.sanha.org.pk/pakistan-halal-authority-bill-report/>Last access 19 January 2019)

The region of Pakistan is an attractive destination for tourists. Its beautiful valleys, snowy mountains, historical cities attract millions of tourists every year from all over the world. Being a Muslim country, Islamic rules are often practiced by Pakistani citizens and it is easy to start halal tourism industry. It will boom the economy, if we switch tourism industry to halal tourism industry as it has become the name of quality and safety in tourism industry.

## **6-Halal standardization at PSQCA**

PSQCA halal division has been working hard since 2010 in drafting, reviewing and publishing halal standards. Until now one dozen halal standards are finalized and listed on the official website of PSQCA. But as the industry spreads, halal standards become compulsory to regulate it. Leather and textile industry have various issues regarding halal and pure wearing accessories.

It becomes responsibility of PSQCA technical committees to finalize halal standard for leather industry as soon as possible. Same is the situation of halal tourism industry, As if government takes this industry serious, it will be functionalized under tourism department but halal standards and rules for it will be drafted and finalized by PSQCA technical and national committees.

## **7-Uniformation of halal standards with international bodies**

Pakistan halal standards are prepared after a deep study of other international halal standards. We follow them but till a specific limit, due to which we have some controversies with OIC halal standards, Malaysian Standards and other international halal bodies. These controversies are a part of different understanding of Islamic fiqh, according to different schools of thought which are not new and will remain till the Day of Judgment. In these controversies, the stance taken by Pakistani shariah and halal experts is solid due to which several countries have started following our viewpoints like stunning, which is now banned in Saudi Arabia and UAE as well. This controversy is not dangerous as it is practiced in all other shariah rules as well.

What our responsibility is in this situation is that, to try our best to uniform our standards with other international standards and the controversial parts should be made a part of import policy of Pakistan so that the goods imported into Pakistan must follow Pakistan halal standards, not the international standards only. Currently Pakistan has adopted various SMIIC standards and has replaced PS standards with taking care of the controversies and the schools of thoughts being followed inside Pakistan.

## **8-Halal import and export policies**

To make Pakistan a halal hub and kitchen for halal, it is necessary to amend import and export policies of the country. Pakistan standards must be included in both import

and export policies. Authorization from CB or directly by PHA should be made mandatory to import and export products.

### **9- International conferences and Expos**

To promote halal in the country and advertise it as halal hub in the world, various government bodies should arrange international conferences on halal issues. The research produced for these conferences can give new ways to halal Pakistan. Through Halal expos we can attract halal certified companies and businessmen to invest in Pakistan.

### **10-Halal education departments**

After the activation of PHA, halal industry will need human resources. In order to have well educated and trained employees in the field we need to establish halal education departments in universities and design various BS, MS and PhD programs in various halal related topics.

