



1. Purpose

Halal Safety Certification (HSC), as a Halal Certification Body (HCB), recognizes that impartiality is essential to ensure the credibility, integrity, independence and confidence of its Halal certification activities.

This policy establishes the formal commitment of HSC Top Management to impartiality and defines the principles and arrangements adopted by HSC to safeguard impartiality throughout all certification activities.

2. Commitment of Top Management to Impartiality

HSC Top Management is fully committed to impartiality in all Halal certification activities and certification decisions.

HSC shall undertake its certification activities impartially and shall be responsible for the impartiality of its certification activities.

HSC shall not allow commercial, financial or other pressures to compromise the impartiality, independence or objectivity of its certification activities or decisions.

Top Management shall provide the necessary resources, authority and controls to ensure that impartiality is maintained throughout the certification process.

3. Identification and Management of Risks to Impartiality

HSC shall identify, on an ongoing basis, actual, potential and perceived risks to its impartiality arising from its activities, relationships and personnel.

Such risks may arise from, but are not limited to, ownership, governance, management, personnel, shared resources, finances, contracts, marketing, branding, commissions, incentives, referrals or other relationships.

The identification of a risk to impartiality does not necessarily mean that the relationship or activity represents an actual threat; each situation shall be considered in the context of HSC's certification activities.

Where a risk to impartiality is identified, HSC shall take appropriate action to eliminate or minimize the risk.

HSC shall maintain documented information demonstrating the identified risks, the measures taken and the effectiveness of the actions implemented, where applicable.

Relevant information concerning identified risks to impartiality and the measures taken to eliminate or minimize such risks shall be made available to the mechanism established by HSC for safeguarding impartiality.

4. Activities that Could Compromise Impartiality

HSC and any part of the same legal entity shall not undertake activities that could compromise the impartiality of its certification activities.

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HSC shall not be the designer, manufacturer, installer, distributor or maintainer of products subject to its certification.

HSC shall not be the designer, implementer, operator or maintainer of processes subject to its certification.

HSC shall not be the designer, implementer, provider or maintainer of services subject to its certification.

HSC does not offer or provide Halal consultancy, quality consultancy, management system consultancy or internal auditing services to its clients.

HSC shall maintain a clear separation between its certification activities and any activity that could create a conflict of interest or compromise the impartiality of certification decisions.

5. Relationships with Separate Legal Entities

HSC shall ensure that the activities of separate legal entities with which HSC or the legal entity of which HSC forms part has relationships do not compromise the impartiality of HSC's certification activities.

Where a separate legal entity offers or produces products subject to certification or provides consultancy, HSC shall ensure that appropriate arrangements are established to prevent any involvement that could compromise the impartiality of HSC's management, review or certification decision-making personnel.

Personnel of such separate legal entities shall not participate in the management of HSC, the review of certification results or certification decision-making where such participation could compromise impartiality.

6. Marketing and Public Statements

HSC shall not market or offer its certification activities as being linked to the activities of an organization that provides consultancy.

HSC shall not state or imply that certification would be simpler, easier, faster or less expensive if a particular consultancy organization were used.

HSC shall ensure that its marketing, promotional materials and public communications do not contain statements that could compromise confidence in the impartiality or independence of its certification activities.

7. Personnel Involved in Certification Activities

HSC shall ensure that personnel involved in certification activities act impartially and remain independent from activities that could compromise their objectivity.

Personnel who have been involved in activities that could create a conflict of interest or threat to impartiality shall not participate in the review or certification decision for the relevant client where such participation could compromise impartiality.

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HSC shall establish and apply appropriate periods and controls to prevent personnel from reviewing or making certification decisions for products, processes or services for which they have previously provided activities that could compromise impartiality.

8. Response to Threats to Impartiality

HSC shall take appropriate action whenever it becomes aware of risks or threats to its impartiality arising from the actions of persons, bodies or organizations.

Such threats shall be evaluated and addressed through the established impartiality management process.

HSC shall maintain appropriate documented information regarding significant threats identified and the actions taken to eliminate or minimize them. HSC shall provide appropriate channels for personnel, clients, committee members and other interested parties to report actual, potential or perceived threats to impartiality without undue influence or retaliation.

9. Impartial Conduct of Personnel and Committees

All HSC personnel, whether internal or external, and all committees that could influence certification activities shall act impartially.

Personnel and committee members shall identify and disclose any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest or threat to impartiality.

Personnel shall not allow commercial, financial, personal or other interests to influence their activities or certification decisions.

HSC shall ensure that personnel and committees involved in certification activities have the necessary independence and objectivity to perform their functions.

10. Independence of Certification Decisions

Certification decisions shall be based solely on objective evidence of conformity or nonconformity with the applicable certification requirements.

Certification decisions shall be made independently and shall not be influenced by commercial, financial or other interests or pressures.

HSC shall ensure that certification decisions are made by competent personnel who have not participated in the evaluation activities related to the client concerned and who are free from any conflict of interest that could compromise their impartiality.

11. Consultancy

HSC does not offer or provide consultancy services.

In particular, HSC does not provide Halal consultancy, quality consultancy, management system consultancy or internal auditing services to its clients.

HSC shall not provide advice or assistance that could be considered consultancy in relation to the design, implementation or improvement of a client's products, processes, services or management system where such activity could compromise the impartiality of certification.

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HSC may provide factual explanations of certification requirements and audit findings when necessary for the proper understanding of the certification process, provided that such communication does not constitute consultancy.

12. Responsibility of Top Management and Impartiality Mechanism

Top Management is responsible for ensuring the implementation and maintenance of this policy and for providing the necessary resources and controls to safeguard impartiality.

Top Management shall ensure that impartiality is considered throughout all stages of the certification process, including application review, evaluation, auditing, review and certification decision-making.

HSC shall maintain an appropriate mechanism for safeguarding impartiality, including the participation of the Impartiality Committee, in accordance with the applicable requirements and HSC's established procedures.

The mechanism established for safeguarding impartiality shall have access to relevant information concerning identified risks and threats to impartiality and the measures taken to address them.

The Impartiality Committee may raise concerns, recommendations or observations regarding actual, potential or perceived threats to HSC's impartiality and shall have appropriate access to the information necessary to perform its function.

13. Declaration of Top Management

HSC Top Management formally declares its commitment to maintaining impartiality, independence, integrity and neutrality in all Halal certification activities.

Top Management shall not allow commercial, financial or other pressures to compromise the impartiality of HSC's certification activities or decisions.

HSC is committed to maintaining the confidence of its clients, the Muslim community in Spain, authorities, accreditation and recognition bodies and other interested parties through the provision of credible, reliable, independent and impartial Halal certification services.

This policy represents the formal commitment of HSC Top Management to impartiality and shall serve as the basis for the management and safeguarding of impartiality within HSC's certification activities.

Approved by Top Management

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