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ANIMAL SLAUGHTERING REQUIREMENTS ACCORDING TO ISLAMIC LAW

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1- SCOPE AND FIELD OF APPLICATION

This GSO standard is concerned with the general requirements for animal - and birds - slaughtering according to Islamic Law.

2- DEFINITIONS

2.1 DAKAH: Slaughtering of animals through ritual killing, using any of the following methods:

2.1.1 Slaughter (dabh): Involves cutting of the animal's trachea, esophagus and jugular veins. This method is mostly used in case of sheep, cattle and birds.

2.1.2 Slaying (nahr): Carried out by stabbing the animal in the lower part of the neck, then severing, with a knife, down through the upper part of the chest. This method is mostly used in case of camels.

2.1.3 Stabbing (agr): Carried out by fatally wounding an unmanageable animal, be it a type of wild animal which is lawful to hunt or of livestock animal known to be fierce.

2.2 Carrion: The animal which dies a natural death and is not slaughtered in due form, the term also applies to any part cut from the body of an animal before it is slaughtered.

2.3 Strangled animal: The animal which dies from asphyxia.

2.4 Fatally beaten animal: The animal which has died as a result of severe beating by a stick, or any other object, (exception to these are birds or game animals shot dead by arrows or bullets with the intention of hunting).

2.5 Animal dead through falling from a height: The animal which has died as a result of falling from a height or into a pit or similar hole.

2.6 Horn-butted animal: The animal which has died as a result of butting by horns of another animal.

2.7 Animal which has been partially devoured by predatory animals: The animal (other than those hunted) which has been partially devoured by predatory animals or birds of prey.

2.8 Animal which has been dedicated to any, other than God: The animal upon which at the time of slaughter, a name other than that of God was invoked, such as the name of an idol or false deity.

2.9 Big animals: Such as: camels, sheep, cattle and goats or similar size.

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3- REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Requirements of the animal to be slaughtered

3.1.1 It should not be of the animals which are unlawful for Muslims to eat such as:

3.1.1.1 Carrion, strangled and fatally beaten animal, animal dead through falling from a height, horn-butted animal, animal which has been partially devoured by predatory animals and animal which has been dedicated to any, other than God.

3.1.1.2 Pigs, dogs, domestic donkeys, elephants, and mules.

3.1.1.3 Predatory animals, such as lions, tigers, and bears.

3.1.1.4 Predatory birds of prey, such as eagles and falcons.

3.2 Requirements of slaughterer and slaughter tool

3.2.1 The slaughterer must be Muslim or Kitabi (Jewish or Christian).

3.2.2 The slaughter shall be carried out under the supervision of a rational equitable Muslim who knows well the rules of "Dakah".

3.2.3 The slaughter tool shall be made from any material except bones or nails.

3.2.4 The slaughter tool shall be clean and sharp that cuts by its sharp edge and not by its weight. The slaying (nahr) shall be carried out as completely as possible.

3.2.5 The automatic slaughtering means in the slaughter houses using this system shall be adjusted so as to cut only the four jugular veins without the whole neck and this shall be from the front side and not from one of the neck sides.

3.2.6 Beating on head or similar action, such as using of bolt shot pistol or non-penetrative percussion or stunning by carbon dioxide is not permitted.

3.2.7 Animals shall remain alive in case of using low voltage electrical stunning on head only, so as to be ritually killed. This can be indicated by animal movements after slaughtering. Animals which die before slaughtering are considered to be carrion and are refused. Electrical stunning is not allowed in case of birds.

3.3 Requirements of slaughter method (Dakah)

3.3.1 God's name should be invoked on the animal to be slaughtered (In the Name of God).

3.3.2 Ritual Islamic slaughter (Dakah) shall be carried out by one of the sanctioned methods mentioned in (2.1).

3.3.3 Animal slaughter shall be carried out by cutting the animal's trachea, esophagus and jugular veins and slaughtering shall be carried out from the front side "towards the chest" and not from behind "towards the back".

3.3.4 Animal's neck shall not be cut of broken or any similar act shall be made until bleeding of blood is stopped.

3.3.5 No part shall be cut from the animal's body before the animal's death.

3.3.6 The slaughter and storage shall not be carried out in places and with tools used for animals which are unlawful for Muslims to eat.

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3.4 Requirements of inspection, certification and stamps

3.41 Each lot of meat shall be accompanied with an attested certificate issued by any of the relevant consulates of a G.C.C. states or by their authorized representative or issued by an Islamic centre or organization (if any) acknowledged by the concerned bodies in each of the G.C.C. state countries to prove that slaughtering has been carried out according to the Islamic rules. The certificates shall be attested by the relevant GCC states consulate or by their authorized representative.

3.4.2 The stamp of the Islamic centre or organization shall be tamper proof and the branding ink shall be stable and unharmful to health.

3.4.3 Each carcass (chilled or frozen) or final containers of special meat cuts shall be branded with the Islamic centre or organization official stamp, and by the centre's authorized person to indicate that slaughter has been carried out under the supervision of that centre or organization.

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