



## INFORMATIVE NOTE

Halal certification and compliance with halal standards are voluntary in Türkiye. However, it is a requirement of the public interest that a halal certified product or service to be reliable, not subject to change and that marking, labelling and certification of product are carried out in a way that does not mislead the consumers.

It is essential that halal certification activities are regularly assessed by an independent and competent public authority in order to ensure that the products and services certified for "compliance with halal requirements" do not provide false and misleading information to the consumers.

Being the only legal entity with the public authority to provide halal accreditation services in the Republic of Türkiye, the Halal Accreditation Agency (HAK) has been actively accrediting organizations involved in halal conformity assessment activities, based upon OIC/SMIIC Halal Standard Series.

There has been a recent development on the legal status of halal accreditation services provided by the HAK. Pursuant to an amendment to the Law No. 7060, halal accreditation by the HAK shall be obligatory for the bodies providing halal conformity assessment for products and services which will be placed on the Turkish market and are subject to conformity assessment in the fields for which HAK provides accreditation services.

With the envisaged arrangements, it is aimed to maintain the voluntary basis for halal conformity assessment activities but to notify the consumers correctly and to contribute to the public welfare via taking such activities under the assurance of halal accreditation. In this regard, prevention of both the halal certification activities of non-assessed certification bodies and the circulation of unreliable halal certificates in the market are targeted.

The details of amendment can be seen below.



## **AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW NO. 7060 CERTAIN REGULATIONS REGARDING HALAL ACCREDITATION AGENCY**

**ARTICLE 1-** The following paragraph has been added to Article 3 of the Law No. 7060 dated 01.11.2017 on Certain Regulations Regarding Halal Accreditation Agency.

“(2) Halal conformity assessment activity is voluntary in Türkiye. However, halal accreditation by the Halal Accreditation Agency or by the authorized institutions of other countries within the scope of bilateral or multilateral mutual recognition agreements of which the Halal Accreditation Agency is a party, is obligatory for the bodies providing halal conformity assessment for products and services which will be placed on the market and are subject to conformity assessment in the fields in which Halal Accreditation Agency provides accreditation services. The second sentence of this paragraph shall not be applied for the halal conformity assessment activities of the products and services to be exported within the scope of the demands of the markets of customer countries as well as the technical regulations of relevant countries, provided that the products and services subject to halal conformity assessment are not supplied to the domestic market.”

**ARTICLE 2-** The following additional article is added to the Law No. 7060.

“Administrative Fines

ADDITIONAL ARTICLE 1- (1) An administrative fine from 100,000 Turkish liras to 1,000,000 Turkish liras shall be imposed by the Board of Directors of the Halal Accreditation Agency, upon those violating the first paragraph of Article 3 of this law and upon the bodies violating paragraph 2 via providing halal conformity assessment services without accreditation.

(2) Legal action can be taken in administrative courts in accordance with Law No. 2577 dated 06.01.1982 on Administrative Jurisdiction Procedures against the administrative sanction decisions imposed in accordance with the provisions of this article.”

**ARTICLE 3-** This Law shall enter into force one year after the date of publication.