



## **UPDATE ON REMOVAL OF HFCE FROM APPROVED LIST FOR JAKIM (MALAYSIA)**

November 6, 2023

Dear Valued Clients,

Firstly, I'd like to apologize for the delay in sending out this update. We wanted to ensure that we provide you with clear and accurate information and were waiting for clarifications from JAKIM before communicating.

- Reason for HFCE's Delisting:** During JAKIM's assessment of HFCE last year, nonconformances were raised concerning some of the plants they inspected during the witness audit. We collaborated with these plants to address the identified concerns and duly submitted a corrective action plan to JAKIM. However, it appears our efforts didn't fully align with JAKIM's expectations, resulting in our delisting.
- Our Efforts for Re-recognition:** We have revised our Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and developed a corrective action plan addressing JAKIM's concerns. JAKIM has accepted our request for a meeting, and we are currently awaiting their confirmation of the exact date. During this meeting, we intend to showcase the corrective measures we've put in place and discuss ways to strengthen our collaboration with JAKIM. We remain hopeful that after this dialogue, we'll have a clearer understanding of the path to HFCE's reinstatement on JAKIM's approved list.
- Validity of HFCE Certificates:** JAKIM's official statement confirms that products manufactured on or before April 12 will continue to be accepted, provided they have a valid HFCE certificate.
- Distributors' Concerns in Malaysia:** If any distributors in Malaysia express reluctance in accepting the HFCE certificate, kindly refer them to JAKIM's official announcement. This document clearly reiterates the continued acceptance of products made on or before April 12, bearing a valid halal certification.
- Transfer of HFCE Certificates:** Some of our clients have asked about the possibility of transferring HFCE certificates to IFANCA. For clarity, based on JAKIM's directive, certificates need to be transferred to an approved halal certifying body in Belgium or a neighboring country. Given that IFANCA's approval pertains to North America, it may not be a viable solution per JAKIM's standards. Our top priority remains to reinstate our JAKIM recognition swiftly, ensuring minimal disruption for all stakeholders.

In these times of change, we deeply value your trust and patience. Our commitment to halal integrity and serving the needs of our clients remains unwavering. We will continue to keep you updated as we progress.

Warm regards,



Salman Chaudry

Vice President

Halal Food Council of Europe