

23 March 2018



## **Position Statement**

### **Halal Chicken Meat**

Halal food is food which adheres to Islamic law and is therefore acceptable for Muslims to eat. Halal food laws specify not only what types of foods and beverages are allowed to be eaten, but also how the food is prepared.

Therefore, Halal chicken, sold in Australia, has been processed and prepared according to Islamic law.

In practice, in Australia this means the following:

- a prayer is spoken at the commencement of slaughtering in the processing plant;
- the person supervising the slaughtering process must be of Muslim faith; and
- the processing plant has to be accredited by the local Muslim cleric.

The actual process of producing Halal or non Halal chickens is indistinguishable, in particular all chickens, whether Halal or not, are stunned and killed in identical ways. Observing Halal requirements does not have any impact on the animals' welfare.

Because the physical process is the same for both Halal and non-Halal products approved processing plants may process a whole day's birds observing the Halal requirements, even if only some of the product will be required to be Halal certified.

By having some of their facilities accredited for Halal slaughter, the industry is able to meet the demand for Halal products from both the local community as well as from some export markets.

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