# Transcript: BPJPH Industry Webinar

**Recorded Thursday 25 July 2024**

**Simon Clayton**: Thank you very much for taking the time to join us today for this webinar on Indonesia's halal requirements. My name is Simon Clayton. I'm the Assistant Secretary of the Agriculture and Non-Tariff Barriers branch in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Before we kick off, I'd first like to make an acknowledgement of country, and for those of us in Canberra, I wish to acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the land on which we meet and recognise any other people or families with connections to the land of the ACT region.

Now I know we have people joining us from different parts of Australia too. So I also wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land and community. We pay our respect to their elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples today. I would also like to acknowledge and welcome other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who may be participating in today's event.

Today's webinar is the second in a series of information sessions for Australian exporters about Indonesia's new upcoming mandatory requirements for halal certification. For those of you who missed our first webinar, we have a recording on the DFAT website about these requirements. We also have written information on our website and I encourage you to take a look at those.

If you haven't already. I'll quickly step through a summary of the situation at the moment. So Indonesia's new halal certification requirements are set by Indonesia's law number 33 of 2014 on Halal Product Assurance and its associated regulations.

These requirements will become mandatory for all food and beverage products exported to Indonesia with limited exemptions from 17th of October this year. In the coming years, halal certification requirements will also become mandatory for a broader range of products. This includes medicines, medical products, clothing, and home appliances. Importantly, Indonesia's new halal certification requirements do not only apply to the final exported product. The law also introduces requirements which must be adhered to at all points in the supply chain. These upcoming changes to Indonesia's halal certification regime will require adjustment for Australia's exporters.

That's why we're delighted today to have distinguished guests from Indonesia’s Halal Product Assurance Agency, BPJPH. BPJBH is Indonesia's lead agency in charge of implementing its new halal certification regime. And amongst the other things it does, it is responsible for setting Indonesia's standards and procedures for halal certification, providing accreditation for overseas halal certifying bodies so that halal certificates issued in countries such as Australia will be recognised in Indonesia, and also operating an online portal for exporters to verify their online halal certificates. So our first speaker today from BPJBH is Pak Abdus Syakur.

He is the head of the Centre for Cooperation and Standardization at BPJPH. We are very grateful for him agreeing to take the time to provide some opening remarks at this industry briefing today. After that, we will all we will move on to Ibu Nina Sutrisno, who is the Coordinator for Foreign Cooperation at BPJPH.

As Coordinator for Foreign Cooperation, Ibu Nina is in charge of working with foreign countries like Australia, including on international agreements and foreign Halal Certification Body audits. I understand Ibu Nina has prepared a presentation to provide an overview of Indonesia's new halal certification requirements.

After this presentation, we will go into a Q and A session with Ibu Nina. You're able to submit your questions through Slido using the information on the screen right now. We also have several colleagues online from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, as well as the Australian embassy in Jakarta who are ready to assist if needed in our Q and A session. But please bear in mind that because we have the opportunity to speak directly with our Indonesian colleagues, the focus of today’s session should be on questions for BPJPH.

If you do have questions on other aspects of halal regulation, such as the Australian government's authorized halal program, AGAHP, please reach out to us directly at NTB at dfat.gov.au. Our contact details are on the DFAT website under the section on Indonesia’s halal requirements. I also want to remind everyone that this session is being recorded and will be made available on our DFAT website soon for the benefit of anyone who either missed the session or wants to revisit any of the information that we hear today. So with these formalities out of the way, I would now like to welcome Pak Syakur to the virtual stage to provide some welcoming remarks to this briefing. Thank you.

**Abdus Syakur:** Good afternoon.

Excellencies from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government, distinguished participants from Australian businesses and exporters. Allow me to confirm greetings from the Indonesian Halal Assurance Agency, BPJPH, and to express our gratitude and appreciation to the Australian government for holding this briefing event.

On this occasion I would like to express our gratitude to Australian certification bodies and businesses that have been so interested in business with Indonesia. Distinguished speaker and participants, the economic sector has lot of offer, particularly as halal has shifted into global standards quality and gastronomy lifestyle, mainstream market and trade competition trends. It has transformed into an ecosystem that attracts the world’s attention due to its promise and value. It has been 75 years that Indonesia and Australia have been connected in diplomatic and trade relations, as one of the largest and important in Indonesia.

The total trade between Indonesia and Australia are starting from 6.5 billion US dollars in 2019 and 2020 on average. In this year only until May, in trade value there are 5.9 billion US dollars contributing 4 per cent of Indonesian imports.

Ladies and Gentlemen, halal can be regarded as a universal concept relevant to all people and not exclusive to just the Muslim community. It signifies commitment to a wholesome lifestyle. Beyond its religious connotations, halal involves safety, health, wellness, cleanliness, sustainability, integrity, and prosperity, all of which are standards of modern civilization and established global standards for assuring quality. As the world’s largest Muslim country, it's important that every product and service our people and consumers use has been halal certified, so halal certification has been transformed and upgraded from what was originally voluntary to mandatory, and from a civil society initiative to state authority.

BPJPH is tasked with facilitating, encouraging and contributing to the economic recovery by developing a halal ecosystem and businesses worth one trillion dollars. Not just the food and public sectors, but also the sectors of patient cosmetics, pharmaceutical, tourism, media, and financial services. In the realm of international cooperation, currently there are 120 certification bodies from 41 countries with mutual cooperation and acceptance.

This initiative to support halal being obligatory will start to be imposed on 17 October 2024, the first date comprises food and beverage products, raw material, food additives, and auxiliary materials for food and beverage products, and a result of slaughtering services. These products must be halal certified when entering and circulating in Indonesia’s territory. Therefore it's important for all of us to prepare, and to build great business and commercial partnership opportunities between Indonesia and other countries.

I believe this activity [the webinar] is decided to provide participants with information about the regulation and its implementation regarding halal becoming mandatory. Hopefully, this will now be will listened to by all participants to gain clear and comprehensive knowledge related to the effective implementation of halal regulation and we ensure that when you have your product, and all our services, halal certification, the trade between Indonesia in in Australia continues smoothly. May God Allah bless our effort. Thank you.

Thank you very much and good luck. Thank you.

**Simon Clayton:** Thank you very much for those comments and for taking the time to join us today for this webinar. I would now like to turn to Ibu Nina for your presentation to provide some information on Indonesia’s new requirements. The stage is yours, Ibu Nina, thank you.

**Nina Sutrisno:** Thank you very much. Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you Simon for your remarks. Thank you also to the great team from the Australian Embassy. This is the time to get to know halal Indonesia.

So please let me introduce myself. I am Nina Sutrisno. You can call me Nina, and I am the Partnership Analyst from the Product Halal Assurance Agency or BPJPH, and I am under the Department of the Centre for Partnerships and Standardization. Thank you. We can go to the next slide. My work started in August last year as the assessor, as the delegation, and also as the coordinator of international conferences. And also until February as the speaker on foreign halal assessment, and also the chairperson of the IMTGTT. IMTGTT is the Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand growth triangle. So this is a kind of a strategic planning working group for projects and services. So thank you for a little bit to know about me. And then we can go to the next slide.

Indonesia is not a Muslim country, but we are the most Muslim-populated country. For Muslims, halal status of consumed goods is part of worship. Consuming non-halal [haram] products is considered as a sin, so halal certification by the state is a must in order to guarantee this personal freedom of worship. So comparing with other countries, Indonesia is the biggest Muslim populated country. The mandatory certification of halal in Indonesia is also based off the state, based on the religious law but still have obligation to protect all persons. It is stated that the state shall be based upon the belief in the one and only God, and also the state guarantees all persons the freedom of worship, each according to his or her own religion or belief. We put it here in our constitution: 1949 article 29.

So, halal should be mandatory based on this regulation. Okay, for the next slide. Actually we have a video here, but it's ok, because it takes a lot of data. This is the inclusive, ok, not the exclusive one because halal does not mean that it is only for Muslims but also for non-Muslims. Many halal product business owners are not Muslim even, just like that we have in some other countries.

For F & B [food and beverage] businesses, business owners such as cafes and restaurants, in order to acquire halal certificates, it is not a must for them to hire Muslim employees. They only have to hire one for their quality assurance who is Muslim. So what we want to highlight here is not all of the employees for this business have to be Muslims. So, non-Muslims can be the owner or even do everything in this business. But for each industry, for each factory, they have to have one supervisor for the halal, and we require the quality assurance [supervisor] should be Muslim.

In the next slide, this is also the example of the halal cafe in London and also the next slide. We can skip this one.

This means that halal is not based on a certain religion. It's not only about the Islamic regulation, but this is also already the way of life and it is accepted already in many terms. So thank you. We go to the next slide.

Halal certification in Indonesia as explained by Mr Syakur, is moving from voluntary to mandatory. I will not talk about that one because you can read by yourself because this is very basic for each of the regulations. What we need to note is products that are considered non-halal or haram are exceptions to the mandatory [requirement], but they have to give information that the product is not halal.

So while halal [certification] is mandatory in Indonesia, it doesn't mean that everything should be halal. No. But once it is claimed that the product is halal, it needs the halal certification. What about the non-halal products? They still can be accepted, traded, and circulated in Indonesia as long as you put the sign or the label or the warning for non-halal. So again, halal is mandatory but it doesn't mean that everything should be halal, no, but everything you claim as halal should be halal certified. And for the non-halal, you also have to put a label or the warning or the note that it is non-halal.

Okay, we can go to the next slide because we have the detailed information on the next slide, ok. This is the transformation for the halal issue from voluntary, and then now being mandatory. So, halal in Indonesia is not a sudden regulation. This is a very long process started since 1976. Up to now we are entering the first timeline for the halal and it will be until 2039.

So we have like five principles there. The first is halal certification being transformed from voluntary to mandatory and from a civil society initiative to government authority. So BPJPH is the only authority under the government, under the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Indonesia, MORA, to do the whole process of the halal certification. And then BPJPH becomes the sole authority for issuing a halal certificate and also the key government agency in halal assurance for products that will be circulated and traded in Indonesian territory. And also, the government guarantees and facilitates the availability of halal products and services in the context of halal conscious consumer protection.

Thank you, next slide. Halal it is not only for the ingredients but also the process and the characteristics. For Muslims, halal is not just the ingredients that are allowed to be consumed, but also the processes of the products upstream and downstream, and the characteristics of the product when it is applied to the body. So, when it is claimed that for Muslims, we do not eat pork. Okay, so this is chicken Nina yep, but the way of slaughtering the chicken [matters]. This is beef, ok, but the way of slaughtering beef also matters.

So, for instance, meat or slaughtered products, even it they’re not from forbidden animals will not immediately be accepted as halal. As I told you, the slaughterhouse of halal animals needs to be separated from the non-halal animals and the slaughterers need to be a Muslim and have to fulfill Sharia terms when slaughtering the animal. So, this is not only about being allowed to eat the chicken and beef, but the way the slaughtering for chicken and beef is also important.

And, water permeability is an important factor in cosmetic and personal care products in the Indonesian market. Consumers need to ensure that water reaches the skin beneath any cosmetic product. Products with good water permeability allow water to penetrate and clean the skin effectively, fulfilling the requirement of wudhu. Before doing the prayer, before doing the salat, we need to do the ablution, we call it wudhu, and it should be, the requirement is all the water, all the water can touch all parts of our body.

So when you have the product for the cosmetics. A nail polish, for example for the nail polish. Once we apply the nail polish in our nail, it should be proved that it is water permeable. We have to test for the water permeability for the requirements of the cosmetics. Because we have to make sure that although we apply it, we still can do the ablution or the wuhdu without any obstacle.

In the next slide, we have the halal certification mandatory stages. If we are talking about October 2024, [are we saying] everything should be halal? No, we have some timelines. Not all of the products have the same timeline. So for October 2024, our first timeline is only for three scopes: food, beverages, and also slaughtering products and services.

In 2026 will be added pharmaceutical, cosmetics and consumer goods. And for the next timeline, the next timeline, until 2039 (and 2035 also), the next timeline until 2039 also for medical devices.

So we have the timeline for all of the products, ok? So if you have the business or you are a part of the industry for pharmacy, cosmetic and also consumer goods, you still have time to do the halal certification because the mandatory will be applied in 2026.

Okay, next is the halal product assurance criteria. The system criteria by which we call a genuine product halal, or halal product assurance system criteria. We have five principles here. Why is it important? Because all of the industry should be in touch with this, about the commitment and responsibility and also about the materials.

The third is about the production process, like the location, the facility and the equipment or tools that must be hygienic and separated from non-halal processes in processing, storing, packing, distributing, selling, and displaying.

And number four is about the products, products and packaging to meet halal requirements: traceable and also easy to identify.

And then the last principle is about monitoring and evaluation. This is about the internal audit management review, product composition and reporting product composition per semester to BPJPH.

In the next slide, we have an example of clothes and fashion in Indonesia. It considered as the consumer goods.

And the principle is that if anything comes from an animal, it should be halal certified. What about the chair? If the leather come from an animal, it should be halal certified. What about the shoes? If the leather come from an animal yes, but if it is synthetic, of course not because it is not from an animal.

So we have here halal clothes and also fashion in Indonesia. We have a kind of halal fabric and also halal socks. This is the example of halal ihram. Ihram is the fabric that we wear for doing umrah, and hajj, a special fabric for the pilgrimages umrah or hajj.

Okay, for all of them [irham garments], the industry in Indonesia has already done the certification to enter the mandatory for the consumer goods in 2026. Then, in the next slide, halal is not mandatory for those which are not halal. So, this is based on the government regulation 39 of 2021. As I told you, it doesn't mean that everything should be halal. For the non-halal, we can also still accept it to be traded and circulated in Indonesia.

Businesses that manufacture products made from forbidden materials are required to include non-halal information. And the non halal-information as referred to in paragraph one, can take the form of images, signs, and/or writing found on the product packaging or in the particular part of the product, or the specific position on the product. We give you the example.

Once we have the product, with these signs, we will notice easily that this is categorized as a non-halal product. It will be based on the article 93. There are not any exact rules for putting the information for the non-halal. You may choose which one that easier for you. It can be the images of a pig or you can put “contains pork” or just writing down “non halal”. It's also ok.

Thank you for the next slide. Here we have the administrative sanctions. Violations to the [halal] regulation are not subject to criminal sanctions, but administrative sanctions. The sanctions against business actors include the following forms: the first is written warning, the second is administrative fines; and then halal certificate is revoked and the last action is withdrawal of goods from circulation.

So it is not right that in October 2024 when it is not allowed you will withdraw all of the goods. No, we have some stages also. What should we do? We still have time. Don't worry. And also the administrative sanction given by some stages. Thank you.

Next, the halal product export realisation, this is about the data and also the mapping of the realisation of exports, we can find the spread of the exports and we also put this information in our platform, SiHalal. You may take a look at this one.

Also, for the next slide, it’s, the information about importance of halal products by country. In Indonesia, our biggest partner for the important product is China, and also Singapore, Malaysia, India, South Korea, Thailand, and others. This is on the data.

Okay, for slide 17. This is a kind of an example of having halal wagyu in Japan, and also for the next slide is the example of Halal Guys. This is the example of halal in America, and then the next, this is a little bit important. There are two ways to export your halal product to Indonesia. First, you can use a Halal Certification Body or HCB, ok? What you have to do is, from the company, you do the halal certification process with the HCB and then the HCB will issue a halal certificate for your product. And from HCB to BPJPH, there needs to be assessment and accreditation of course.

From company to BPJPH, what you have to do, you have to put the Indonesian halal label and register the product. So, for industry, you may choose one of two schemes of doing the halal certification. First, you do it via a Halal Certification Body in Australia, or second, you may do the halal certification [direct with BPJPH] for your product. [Access to the second] scheme will be from the company - ask for the halal certification application and then Indonesian Halal Product Certification (LPH) offices overseas will do the product process inspection.

We have the confirming payment verification and also the company do the same. For [direct] BPJPH certification we issue halal certificates for the company and company pay BPJPH. Also, for the final product, they have to do the registration [with] BPJPH on the exact product registration that has a certificate issued by a recognised Halal Certification Body. If your country has a Halal Certification Body, you have been certified there. The HCB has to be assessed and recognised first by BPJPH in order to be registered [accredited] in Indonesia.

So the HCB or the certification body that you asked for your certification for the product should be assessed [accredited] first by the Indonesian government, BPJPH, and also recognised and we already have the MRA signing first, ok?

We have [two certification methods], [via] BPJPH and via foreign HCBs, the difference in the next slide, the differences, ok? Not the same but still can be mutually recognised between others. So BPJPH, companies adopt and employ Indonesia’s halal assurance system criteria or SCPH and then apply to BPJPH via SiHalal by representative or the importer and audit conducted by the Indonesian halal inspection agency team, surveillance conducted by BPJPH inspection team, and the validity period of the halal certificate will remain valid as long as there is no chance in the composition of the ingredients or the product processes. If there is a change, the Halal certificate must be renewed.

So, the halal certification issued by Indonesia BPJPH Indonesia has no [finite] validity period. The certificate is valid forever as long as you do not change the ingredients or do not change the process of production, ok? So this is the positive thing, if you do the halal certification in Indonesia. But of course, the cost is higher.

So what about doing certification with an HCB? Companies must adopt and employ the Indonesian halal assurance system criteria and apply to an HCB recognised by BPJPH in the country where the company or business resides. Audit and surveillance is conducted by the HCB and the halal certificate validity can vary between one up to four years as per the agreement between the HCB and the company or the business.

And also a company needs to register its Halal certificate with BPJPH to access the Indonesian market, ok? If you do the halal certification in Indonesia directly with BPJPH, you still need to register the product. It is also the same for having the halal certificate from the Halal Certification Body in the country – we also do the registration for the product.

I would like to inform that Indonesia does not accept cross-border products, we only accept products that are produced in the country and certified by a halal certification body in the same country of origin. So for example, if you produce the product in Australia and do the halal certification in New Zealand, we cannot accept that. So the product produced in Australia can only be accepted if it is halal certificated by a Halal Certification Body from Australia.

In order to maintain diplomatic ties and international trade between Indonesia and the world, BPJPH also give an effort to optimise export/import activities with mutual recognition agreements in the halal sector. Indonesia and other countries can do trade of halal product easily and responsibly.

Yeah, we have a 140 Halal Certification Bodies, and we already have 37 which have already finished every single thing concerning their assessment, with the reviewing and also the MRA signing. And now we are working on the rest of them.

In the next slide, we can see that in Australia we have 18 halal certification bodies. We have already accredited eight, leaving ten HCBs still in the process. The accredited and recognised bodies already are: Global Australian Halal Certification, National Halal Accreditation Services Australia, Islamic Coordinating Council of Victoria, Australian Halal Authority and Advisors, Supreme Islamic Council of Halal Meat in Australia, Australian Halal Development Accreditation, Global Health Centre, and also the National Halal authority.

Those eight [accredited] Halal Certification Bodies have already done their MRA signing with BPJPH. And now we have another 10 HCBs who already did the registration in SiHalal and also we already finished for the verification. Now we are in the process of doing the assessment. Some of them are already finished for the assessment and already finished also for the reviewing, and others will be done and will be finished, Insha’Allah, in August. So by the end of August, hopefully we have 18 Halal Certifying Bodies from Australia who will finish everything. Insha’Allah, we'll do the MRA signing at the middle of September up to the beginning of October. So this is our schedule.

Okay, in the next slide. Oh gosh. Almost finished. Don't worry almost finished ladies and gentlemen. I hope that you are not sleepy enough to listen to me because the next is about the requirements for the registration. This is the most important thing, because if you are the client of a Halal Certifying Body that is already recognized by BPJPH, this is the thing you need to do. And we have already opened for the registration since 15 July 2024.

The application must attach the following required documents, so you have to prepare some documents and upload it in our SiHalal portal: application letter, the letter of authorisation, business permit number, a copy of the foreign halal certificate, the list of goods to be imported to Indonesia, and the statement letter. This registration is mandatory and is done by the importer. So, let's take the example of one product, of one product imported by more than one importer, so each of them should do the different registration because if we have trouble or a problem with the product, we know how to trace, ok?

Sometimes this is a very common question from the importer. What about this one? This product is already registered, but you are another importer so you have to do again the registration. We can see in the next slide, if the required document use a language other than English, they must be accompanied by required document that has been translated into English by the sworn translator and also the applicant must extend the foreign health certificate registration by submitting an extension and attaching the required document, no later than three months before the validity period of the foreign halal certificate registration ends.

The next is four step registration flow of foreign halal certificates. In the next slide, you can find the four steps. This is for the registration. [The importer] creates the account at SiHalal and fills in applicant data and requirement documents.

And then after the registration, we will do the verification. BPJPH verifies the completeness and the validity of the application document. If the verification results have not been met, the importer is required to submit additional documents and original documents. And we have five working days before the application is cancelled by the system.

And next, if it is verified already, [the importer] makes the payment. If the verification results are met BPJPH issues an invoice and then the importer makes a payment and verifies payment and issues a payment receipt also. And as the last step BPJPH issues a block draft foreign halal certificate registration number and electronic signature consent and also foreign halal certificate registration number is issued.

So, here is the conclusion. You finish with the halal certification for the product and then you do the registration of the product. Okay, and you will have the registration number for the product. What you have to do is, you have to put your registration number on the product.

The product can have two types of halal label. The first, the product puts the halal label from the HCB, proof that they already have halal certification, and then side by side by the halal label of Indonesia with the registration number, proof that you have already registered. Or the second [option] is that the product only have one halal label, which is the Indonesian halal label with the registration number.

So, if you have a question, what about the product that has already been produced [and is ready for export]? You may put the label in a form of the sticker.

Next we will talk about the labels. The halal label consists of a logo and halal certificate number. It can be portrait or landscape. Halal label colours are purple, black, white. The halal label has borders and is used on product packaging. The halal label's background colour matches the colour or pattern of the packaging. The halal label format can be downloaded in the SiHalal app on the business actor’s account, and in the certification menu, download the main halal label or download the secondary halal label. This is the way to get the label. And then you may put the registration number together with this halal label for the product. Halal Labels for foreign halal certificates on halal product: the Indonesian halal label is supported by the BPJPH foreign halal certificate registration number.

And or along with the HCB halal label, including the Indonesian halal label and the foreign halal certificate registration number. So which one is the easiest for you to apply to you may choose within those two scopes.

Next, this is for your information after obtaining the registration number. The importer or official representative in Indonesia is required to provide information correctly, clearly, and honestly report any changes to the foreign halal certificate data that has been assigned a registration number to BPJPH. If changes occur, attach the foreign halal certificate registration number near to the halal label on the product packaging, certain parts of the product and or certain places on the product in accordance with the use of halal labels that has been determined by BPJPH.

 [There is a requirement to] update the foreign halal certificate registration number if the validity period expires or if the Harmonized System [HS] code number is revised and there is a discrepancy between the [revised] HS code and that listed in the Directorate General of Customs and Excise correction note. For more info we have the website there. You may click it there.

And the next slide you will have the call centre. We can provide in Bahasa Indonesia or in English.

And the last is, thank you very much.

**Simon Clayton:** Thank you very much Ibu Nina for your presentation and all that information that you provided, your forward schedule on the HCBs, it's all really useful and I hope everyone online found it useful as well, including, of course, that the information is ours to share as well.

So thank you again for all that detail. We have received a number of questions on Slido, so thanks everyone for sending questions in. Ibu Nina if you're still happy to take a few questions at this point, I might read out a couple, if that's ok

**Nina Sutrisno:**. Yes I’m with you Simon, I would be very happy to.

**Simon Clayton:** Very good, let's, do that and we'll see how we go. Firstly, you touched on it in your presentation, but we have received a number of questions about your regulations saying companies must have a halal supervisor who is Muslim. So, just stepping through that, is this a requirement for all foreign businesses? Can you please touch on that again?

**Nina Sutrisno:** Okay, I'm so sorry. Actually we have already got a written question come from the participants? If you can share the question, I will try to answer one by one based on the written questions because I do believe that this is quite comprehensive.

**Simon Clayton:** It is, it is. So, this was one of the written questions. So again, Indonesia's regulations which say companies must have a Halal supervisor who is Muslim.

**Nina Sutrisno:** So, I will answer based on your guidance, yeah. Okay. Yes, the company who registers for having the certification from the Halal certificate for the certificate from the Halal certification body, it should have the supervisor, halal supervisor, in the company and the requirement for the halal supervisor, they should be Muslim, ok?

But we have a kind of tolerance that it can be done online. So remote. So you may, you may have a contract with them, so the company can fulfill that kind of a requirement by having the remote supervisor to make it easy.

**Simon Clayton:** Just to be certain, so does this supervisor have to be an employee of the company, a contractor of the company? Can this be done by a Halal Certifying Body?

**Nina Sutrisno:** If the Halal Certification Body can provide the supervisor, it is ok. And, it will be the payment, the payment scheme will be based on the regulation of the company. So, what we have to make sure is only that the company has the supervisor for the Halal.

**Simon Clayton:** Okay and that can be from one of the halal certifying bodies rather than a direct employee of that company?

**Nina Sutrisno:** Actually, it should be like, they have to be placed in that company. I mean have a contract with the company as the supervisor for the halal term. But if the halal certification body can provide that person, it is ok, but it is not doing by the halal certification body, not on behalf of the halal certification.

**Simon Clayton:** I understand, thank you. So we have another question related to that. We have a couple of more questions related to that. Are there any exceptions to that rule? What about small businesses who have only a few employees? Do they have the same requirements?

**Nina Sutrisno:** Good. Actually, this is the same requirement for all of the business sectors. As long as you sell the product to Indonesia, you export the product to Indonesia, you have this requirement. The same for the micro, small, medium or large industries.

**Simon Clayton:** Yeah. One more question on this. We also received a question saying, is it possible to have a halal supervisor who is non-Muslim but has received training on halal issues and has a science degree?

**Nina Sutrisno:** For now we are still working on that regulation. To fulfill that kind of a request and also understand that not every country can easily get a Muslim as the supervisor, but because we can do it online or remote, it is not a must, it is not a must that it should be the resident of the Australia or they should have a permanent resident there. So you can do it remote.

But we also have some cases in some in some factories, the supervisors are not Muslim, but they have a kind of halal training. We still consider this, but based on the regulation, Muslims still being the requirement. But for this one, we are also still working on it.

**Simon Clayton:** Okay, thank you for clarifying that. Final question on this particular topic. Does this requirement apply to all products, including non-slaughtered products such as pharmaceuticals? And obviously your law doesn't take effect for pharmaceuticals just yet, but again, that question still stands. Does this apply for all products?

**Nina Sutrisno:** For all products yes, but [it is not] mandatory [for all]. For the mandatory [requirement], only for the three scopes: food, beverages and slaughtering, but if you are within another [industry] scope, let's say you want to do the registration for cosmetics or pharmaceuticals, it is also ok.

**Simon Anderson:** Okay, thank you. Also in those questions there was a number about the labels and how the labelling works. You went through that in your presentation, so I won't kind of go all through all of those. But I guess that some of the key issues that have come up, does it matter where it is the label is placed on the product, colour requirements, I think you touched on that before. Who can apply the label? Does the importer apply the label or does it have to be already applied, say, from Australia before it goes to Indonesia? Can I just ask you those questions?

**Nina Sutrisno:** Okay, let's say you have already got the product, ok? Still in Australia. So, in the packaging, if it is already registered, sorry, for the first it is already Halal certified, so you may put the halal logo of the Halal Certification Body that does the halal certification. And then second, what you have to do is to register the product and then you will get the registration number. So the importer is the one for whom it is mandatory to put the registration number together with the halal logo of Indonesia in that product. If is already finished, then we may give tolerance to put it in the form of sticker before you send it into Indonesia. What about with the product that is already in Indonesia? Again, the firm or the company who has responsibility for the sale of this product has the mandatory [task] of the putting the label for this product.

**Simon Clayton:** Thank you. So also a couple of questions on labelling for products that enter Indonesia that are not halal certified and what happens in that case? I have a specific question here about milk being exported to Indonesia. It hasn't been audited by an Australian HCB. What kind of label would someone need to put on their product in this case?

**Nina Sutrisno:** Oh, the product is still not halal certified? It should be Halal certified because based on the regulation, it must be halal certified and have the halal logo on it. If it is non-halal, it also has to have non-halal information on it. So what will happen, ok, when we found the kind of a product, of course we have some steps of doing the supervisor for those kind of the product. We will give like the written warning to the importer, that you have to do this one, and then we have some layerings. The fines also, so not directly withdrawal of all of the products. No, but we will do some steps in making sure that first we will give the written warning and then in second, after the written warning, if it does not work, we will do the administrative fines and, still has no halal logo and circulated, we will do the halal certificate revocation. And the last is withdrawal of all the goods from circulation after all of the steps of a reminder that as a warning that it should be halal certificated.

**Simon Clayton:** Okay, thank you for that. Could I just kind of ask that question from a slightly different angle then? What about if the business is happy to sell the product as non-halal? So, you know, they haven't gone through the process, and the label, is it possible then for that business to label the product as non-halal and send it to Indonesia.

**Nina Sutrisno:** Well is the example halal or not halal?

**Simon Anderson:** Well the example we're using is milk.

**Nina Sutrisno:** I think, if you choose that way, if industry, ok, I guess it's easier for us to put the, because all of the products should have a label: halal or non-halal, ok? If it is not halal, so it should be non-halal. But I think you will have, you will lose a lot of profit if this should be halal and consumed by a lot of consumers in Indonesia, but you put it non-halal in the halal product, so I think, the market will not choose that product because you have to put the non-halal on it. Although it’s easier, but I don't think for the long term it is good for the business because we will not choose that product in the market.

**Simon Clayton:** Right. Okay, thank you for that clarification. I think that's important that legally say, there is the option to be non-halal, maybe that product won't sell as well in Indonesia, well that's what you seem to be saying.

Okay, thank you very much for that. Look, we're at touch over time, so I don't want to kind of keep you for too much longer, but there is, there is a question here that's on the portal which I think is an important one. So when will your portal go live for foreign businesses so they can register their products, register their product?

**Nina Sutrisno:** Sorry?

**Simon Clayton:** This is your SiHalal portal. When will go live?

**Nina Sutrisno:** So they're able to do the registration of the products? Yes. We have already opened since 15 July. What we have to do in the SiHalal portal is we ask for all of the recognised Halal certification bodies is to give us the list of the certificates that they have already issued. We will put it in our system, so once the industry will do the registration for the product, we can recognise it automatically. So, if you have difficulty in doing the registration or the product cannot be accepted, that's because the halal certification body has still not yet sent us the list of their halal certificates.

So, halal certification body has the mandatory [task] to give BPJPH lists of the halal certificates that they have issued, ok? When their clients do the registration, it can be recognised automatically.

**Simon Clayton:** Okay. Thank you for that. Again, noting the time, I might ask one more question and then we’ll leave it with much thanks. On 17th of October the requirements on food and beverage start, but what about products that are not food and beverage? So pharmaceuticals, you know, other, other such products. Can companies, can Australian exporters still export those products to Indonesia?

**Nina Sutrisno:** Without any certificates? Yes, without any certificates because it is not mandatory yet. The mandatory for pharmaceuticals or drugs , and cosmetics and also consumer goods will be started in 2026. So for [products] others than the three scopes of food, beverage and slaughtering, you can [continue using] the previous trading systems until 2026.

**Simon Clayton:** Okay, thank you. Thank you very much. And again, thank you, Ibu Nina for all the information you provided today. We did receive a number of other questions but we have run out of time. But for those online who did put in questions, thank you very much for those as well, please be assured that we will keep a record of the questions you raised today, and we will use that to inform the information that we provide exporters as we move forward in this process. As we do draw it to a close though, again, a big thanks once more to Ibu Nina for taking the time. By answering some of those questions, and for your presentation, all that information, that's all extremely useful.

Once more for those online, if you have further questions that came out of this session, if you have any feedback on the session, please feel free to send that to our email address. Again, it is NTB@dfat.gov.au. We will continue to update exporters on new information that comes to hand for us. We will update our website, of course, and feed that to you as well. So I sincerely hope this session has been really helpful for people.

I thank you for your attendance. I thank our Indonesian counterparts as well for their for their generous time and I wish everyone a good afternoon.

**Nina Sutrisno:** Thank you very much. Thank you.