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Strengthening Halal Certification Governance: a Comparative Study of Regulatory Frameworks, Institutional Roles, and Certification Procedures in Indonesia and Malaysia

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Abstract: This study critically examines and compares halal certification governance in Indonesia and Malaysia, focusing on their respective regulatory frameworks, institutional responsibilities, and certification procedures. Employing a normative legal research methodology, the study integrates statutory, comparative, and conceptual approaches to systematically assess the legal and institutional dimensions of halal certification in both jurisdictions. Data were obtained through an extensive review of legislative instruments, regulatory provisions, institutional documentation, scholarly publications, and other authoritative sources relevant to halal certification governance. The findings reveal that, although Indonesia and Malaysia share a fundamental commitment to safeguarding product halal integrity and ensuring consumer protection, their governance systems exhibit significant structural and procedural differences. In Indonesia, halal certification operates through a multi-institutional framework involving the Halal Product Assurance Organizing Agency (BPJPH), Halal Inspection Bodies (LPH), and competent authorities responsible for halal status determination. Conversely, Malaysia adopts a comparatively integrated certification framework coordinated through federal and state religious authorities, particularly the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM) and other designated institutions. These institutional distinctions are reflected in certification application processes, conformity assessments, halal status determination, certificate issuance, and post-certification compliance monitoring. The comparative findings underscore the importance of clearly delineated institutional mandates, effective inter-agency coordination, procedural efficiency without compromising the rigor of halal verification, robust regulatory oversight, and enhanced legal certainty. The study concludes that selected features of Malaysia's governance framework offer valuable institutional and procedural insights for strengthening Indonesia's halal certification system, particularly in promoting institutional coherence, administrative efficiency, and regulatory effectiveness. Nevertheless, any adaptation must remain responsive to Indonesia's distinctive legal architecture, institutional arrangements, and regulatory context.

Keywords: Halal Certification, Governance, Halal Regulatory Framework, Institutional Arrangements, Indonesia, Malaysia

INTRODUCTION

The halal industry, within the framework of Indonesian regulations, is defined as the entirety of economic activities related to the provision of halal products and services, ranging from the production, processing, and distribution stages to sales to end consumers. This definition encompasses not only the material aspects of the products but also the processes, which must comply with the principles of Islamic Sharia. According to Law No. 33 of 2014, Article 1, Paragraph 1, a halal product is defined as a product that has been certified as halal in accordance with Islamic Sharia (*Law No. 33 of 2014 on Halal Product Assurance*, 2014). This definition is further clarified to state that a product's halal status is assessed based on two main aspects: the ingredients aspect which includes raw materials, additives, auxiliary materials, and production aids and the process aspect which encompasses production, handling, storage, transportation, and serving (Salindal, 2019).

Indonesia and Malaysia are two countries with large Muslim populations and a significant focus on the development of the halal industry and ecosystem. Both countries have developed halal certification systems through their respective regulatory and institutional frameworks (Faridah, 2019). Although they share relatively similar objectives namely, to guarantee the halal status of products the halal certification systems in Indonesia and Malaysia differ in their characteristics, institutional structures, and implementation procedures. These differences are evident in legal regulations, the division of authority among agencies, inspection and audit mechanisms, the determination of halal status, and the issuance and oversight of halal certificates (Islam et al., 2023).

In Indonesia, the administration of halal product certification has seen significant development with the establishment of a system specifically regulating the halal certification process. The governance of halal certification involves various institutions with different functions and authorities, ranging from administrative management and product inspection or testing to the determination of halal status based on predetermined mechanisms. This system reflects efforts to establish a more structured and integrated halal certification governance framework. However, the complexity of inter-institutional relationships and the implementation of halal certification procedures remain critical aspects that require further examination to achieve a system that is effective, efficient, and provides legal certainty (Hasibuan et al., 2022; Noordin et al., 2014).

Prior to the enactment of the Halal Product Guarantee Law, the institution responsible for auditing or inspecting the halal status of products was the Indonesian Ulema Council's Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Assessment Agency (LPPOM MUI). The Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) plays a central role in the halal certification process for goods and services in Indonesia. With the enactment of the Halal Product Assurance Act, the government guarantees that goods used and consumed by the public particularly Muslims comply with halal requirements (Fahrizi et al., 2026).

Meanwhile, Malaysia has long been known as a country that takes the development of the halal industry very seriously. Malaysia's halal certification system has evolved through regulatory frameworks and institutional governance with distinct characteristics. Malaysia's experience in establishing a halal certification system is a relevant aspect to examine, particularly regarding institutional strengthening, standardization, certification procedures, oversight, and the broader development of the halal ecosystem. Thus, a comparison between Indonesia and Malaysia is essential for understanding the similarities and differences in the approaches each country employs in administering halal certification (Hosanna & Nugroho, 2018).

A comparative study of the regulatory frameworks, institutional roles, and halal certification procedures between Indonesia and Malaysia holds both academic and practical significance. From a legal and policy perspective, comparative research can provide insight

into how a regulatory system is shaped to address societal needs and the evolution of the halal industry. Meanwhile, from an institutional perspective, this research can identify patterns of authority distribution, coordination, and the responsibilities of the institutions involved in the halal certification process. From a procedural standpoint, this research can provide an overview of the effectiveness of the certification mechanisms implemented in each country (Japar, Siradjuddin, et al., 2024).

Through comparative research, each system is not merely evaluated to determine which is superior, but rather to identify strengths, differences, challenges, and practices that can serve as shared learning opportunities. Indonesia and Malaysia have different legal, social, political, and institutional contexts, so the halal certification systems they have established also have their own distinct characteristics. However, the shared goal of ensuring the halal status of products and promoting the development of the halal industry creates opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and experience, as well as the development of cross-national academic collaboration (Nurdin & Sakti, 2024).

This research also holds strong relevance within the framework of international academic cooperation between universities in Indonesia and Malaysia. The involvement of researchers from both countries is expected to provide a more comprehensive perspective in understanding halal certification systems within their respective contexts. Research collaboration enables the exchange of data, institutional experiences, legal perspectives, and analyses of halal policy developments in each country. Thus, the research findings are expected not only to contribute to the expansion of the body of scientific knowledge in the fields of law, policy, and halal studies but also to generate recommendations that can support the strengthening of halal certification governance.

Based on the above, this research is important to analyze and compare the regulatory frameworks, institutional roles, and halal certification procedures in Indonesia and Malaysia. This study is expected to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the characteristics of the halal certification systems in both countries, while also identifying various aspects that can be developed to strengthen halal certification governance and support the development of a credible, effective, inclusive, and sustainable halal ecosystem.

METHODS

This study employs a descriptive-comparative qualitative approach using *library research*. The data used are secondary in nature, obtained from official government reports, scientific publications, and policy documents related to the halal industry in Indonesia and Malaysia. Data collection was conducted through literature reviews and documentation from credible sources such as BPJPH, JAKIM, and the State of the Global Islamic Economy report. Data analysis was performed using a descriptive-comparative approach, comparing the two countries based on five key aspects: regulations, infrastructure, development strategies, digitalization, and challenges and opportunities in the halal industry (Adil et al., 2023).

Data collection was carried out using the documentation method, which involves identifying, reviewing, and grouping data based on the research topics. Data analysis was conducted using a descriptive-comparative approach, systematically describing each country's system and then comparing the applicable legal structures, religious authorities, and certification mechanisms. The validity of the study was ensured through source triangulation and the use of up-to-date data (from the past five years).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Comparison of Halal Regulations in Indonesia and Malaysia

The regulatory framework for the halal industry in Indonesia is structured within a clear and systematic hierarchy of laws and regulations in accordance with Law No. 12 of 2011 on

the Formation of Laws and Regulations. This hierarchy ensures legal consistency and certainty in the implementation of halal regulations. Law No. 33 of 2014 on Halal Product Assurance serves as the primary legal foundation governing halal product assurance in Indonesia. The Halal Product Assurance Act (JPH Act) was enacted on October 17, 2014, and took effect five years after its promulgation, in October 2019. This law consists of 68 articles governing various fundamental aspects of halal product assurance, including certification requirements, the establishment of implementing agencies, certification mechanisms, supervision, and sanctions (*Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 33 of 2014 on Halal Product Assurance*, 2014).

Government Regulation No. 39 of 2021 serves as a more operational implementing regulation for Law No. 33 of 2014. This government regulation was issued to replace Government Regulation No. 31 of 2019, which was deemed not to fully accommodate the needs for implementing halal product assurance. Government Regulation No. 39 of 2021 provides detailed provisions regarding products that must be halal-certified, certification procedures, the roles and responsibilities of each institution, as well as oversight and enforcement mechanisms. Regulation of the Minister of Religious Affairs No. 26 of 2019 on the Implementation of Halal Product Assurance regulates the technical and operational aspects of halal certification, including registration requirements, certification fees, and inspection procedures. In addition, there are various other technical regulations issued by the BPJPH and relevant agencies to regulate specific aspects of the implementation of halal product assurance (*Government Regulation No. 39 of 2021 on the Administration of Halal Product Assurance*, 2021).

Article 4 of Law No. 33 of 2014 establishes a mandatory obligation for every business operator that produces, processes, handles, stores, transports, or sells products to obtain halal certification. This obligation is not contingent upon the voluntary compliance of business operators, except for products derived from plants that do not contain haram ingredients, products that do not undergo any processing, and certain other products as determined by the Minister of Religious Affairs. This shift from a voluntary to a mandatory system represents a new paradigm that provides legal certainty for consumers and encourages business operators to comply with halal standards (Muliana et al., 2026).

The Indonesian Ulema Council's (MUI) Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Research Institute was established in 1989. Since 1994, LPPOM MUI has been issuing halal certifications. In 2001, the Minister of Religious Affairs officially recognized the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) as the body responsible for inspecting and issuing halal certifications. With the enactment of Law No. 33 of 2014 on Halal Product Assurance (Halal Product Assurance Law), changes were introduced to Indonesia's halal certification system. Since 1989, the MUI has been fully responsible for its administration. Government Regulation (PP) No. 39 of 2021 governs the implementation of halal product assurance following the enactment of the Halal Product Assurance Law.

Currently, there are three main laws governing halal certification in Indonesia: Government Regulation No. 39 of 2021, Law No. 11 of 2020 on Copyright, and Law No. 33 of 2014 on Halal Product Assurance. The halal product assurance system has undergone significant changes as a result of these three regulations. First, halal certification is now mandatory, whereas it was previously voluntary. Second, the authority to administer certification has shifted from the MUI, a non-governmental organization, to the BPJPH, a government agency. Finally, the implementation of halal certification is now carried out by three main institutions: the BPJPH, the MUI, and the Halal Inspection Agency (LPH).

To oversee halal certification, the Halal Product Guarantee Agency (BPJPH) is responsible for administration, regulation, operations, accreditation, supervision, and law enforcement. Meanwhile, the sole duty of the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) is to issue

fatwas on the halal status of products. The Halal Inspection Agency (LPH) assists the BPJPH in product inspections, and LPHs can currently be established by both the government and the public. Additionally, the Halal Law regulates various halal-related professions such as auditors, inspectors, slaughterers, and production supervisors including provisions regarding the requirements for hiring, appointing, and dismissing them. To support halal policies in Indonesia, this law requires the BPJPH to collaborate with various relevant ministries and agencies that oversee halal products, such as the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Industry, Trade, Cooperatives, and SMEs, as well as the National Standardization Agency (Nahlah et al., 2023).

Halal certification, also known as the Halal Product Guarantee (JPH) in Indonesia, was previously voluntary and not administered by the government. Currently, however, it is mandatory and administered by the government. Law No. 33 of 2014 on Halal Product Assurance and Government Regulation in Lieu of Law (Perppu) No. 2 of 2022 on Job Creation establish the legal basis for mandatory halal certification in Indonesia. The JPH Law clearly states that every product imported, distributed, or traded within Indonesian territory must possess a halal certificate. These products and services include food, beverages, medicines, cosmetics, chemicals, biological products, genetically modified products, and consumer goods used or utilized by the public. The purpose of this certification is to provide added value for businesses competing in the market and to protect Muslim consumers so that they consume or use only products that are guaranteed to be halal (Tamam et al., 2022).

Currently, there is a robust legal framework supporting halal certification, which is no longer merely voluntary but has now become a legal obligation. Implementing regulations, including Government Regulation (PP) No. 39 of 2021 on the Implementation of the Halal Product Assurance System and various regulations issued by the Halal Product Assurance Agency (BPJPH), provide further clarification on the technical and operational aspects of this obligation. Government Regulation in Lieu of Law (Perppu) No. 2 of 2022 on Job Creation, which streamlines procedures and accelerates the certification process. The aim of this initiative is to promote economic growth and create a better business environment (Anzellyta & Fittria, 2022; Ubaidillah, 2024).

1. Halal Certification Requirements in Malaysia

The history of halal certification in Malaysia began in 1974 under the supervision of BAHEIS, the Division of Islamic Affairs within the Prime Minister's Department. MAIN and JAKIM were established as the agencies responsible for halal certification in Malaysia in 2011. Food business owners must apply for certification through JAKIM to obtain halal certification recognized by the Malaysian government (Ramli et al., 2025). The Malaysian government is strongly committed to developing the halal industry through various initiatives such as documentation, monitoring, and the drafting of laws related to the halal industry. The Malaysian halal certificate issued by JAKIM is also recognized and trusted internationally.

Halal certification requirements also provide guidelines for food establishments in conducting their business. According to Khairul Anuwar, the government has implemented halal compliance guidelines for food establishments. The standard for halal food, MS1500:2019, is used as a guideline and reference for compliance with food safety aspects. This JAKIM halal standard covers more in-depth aspects, ranging from the selection of raw materials to the serving of products at the dining table. Additionally, the 2020 Malaysian Halal Certification Procedures Manual (MPPHM) outlines procedures to strengthen halal implementation, and the Halal Assurance System also serves as a requirement for halal control.

Halal certification is a requirement in the Malaysian food industry, particularly for halal restaurants, as it not only guarantees that the food served is halal but also ensures that the

entire process is conducted in accordance with halal principles. Furthermore, the purpose of halal certification is to obtain the halal logo. The halal logo on food packaging and at food sales locations is a key factor influencing consumer behavior when purchasing food. Standardizing the use of the halal logo aims to protect Muslim customers from false information. In his research, Rahman found that Malaysia, an Islamic country, has more than sixty percent (approximately sixty percent) of its population consisting of Muslims who strictly adhere to Islamic teachings regarding what Muslims are permitted to buy and eat (Harahap, 2018; Md Ariffin et al., 2024).

The Food Act of 1983 was enacted to regulate the national food industry. The Ministry of Health Malaysia (KKM) oversees this law, which aims to regulate food preparation, labeling, and the sale of food products. In relation to the issue under discussion, several provisions in this law are relevant. These regulations stipulate that preparing, packaging, purchasing, and selling food in an improper manner may lead to misrepresentation regarding the characteristics, value, content, and authenticity of the food. Prohibitions on direct or indirect promotions are also governed by Article 17(d) of the same Act, which addresses directives that mislead or deceive consumers regarding the nature of ingredients, substances, and their components. In addition to the regulations mentioned above, the Food Hygiene Regulations of 2009 and the Food Regulations of 1985, as amended by this Act, also govern labeling processes, such as the language used, ingredients, and dates, among other matters (Japar, Paraikkasi, et al., 2024).

The Trade Descriptions Act of 2011 establishes good trade practices for goods and food. The Act was enacted to promote specific trade practices pertaining to goods and food. This Act addresses the aspect of halal products in accordance with its subsidiary regulations, namely the Trade Descriptions Order 2011 and the Trade Descriptions (Definition of Halal) (2011) (Halal Certification and Marking) Order through the Trade Descriptions Order (Definition of Halal). In 2011, a responsibility was established to ensure that all commodities, goods, or services that use the word “halal” or any term indicating that they are permissible for consumption by a Muslim do not contain anything prohibited by Sharia, are not intoxicating, and are slaughtered in accordance with Sharia law. Furthermore, it was clarified that no type of service related to food or goods may be declared “halal” or described in any other way that could mislead Muslims.

Section 29 of the Trade Descriptions Act 2011 authorizes the Minister to appoint an authority responsible for certifying, labeling, and providing evidence that a product is halal. Furthermore, through this provision, the Minister has endorsed the Trade Order 2011 (Halal Certification and Labeling), which empowers the Department State Islamic Religious Council and Islamic Development of Malaysia (JAKIM) to issue certificates recognized as halal in Malaysia (Mustika et al., 2025).

Halal Certification Implementation Agencies

1. Halal Certification Implementation Agency in Indonesia

Halal certification is a process of validating goods and services to ensure that their manufacturing processes, raw materials, and distribution comply with Islamic law. Halal certification, issued by the Halal Product Guarantee Agency (BPJPH), constitutes official recognition of a product’s halal status. A written fatwa from the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) serves as the basis for this certification. In accordance with Law No. 33 of 2014 on Halal Product Assurance (JPH), business operators must hold halal certification.

The BPJPH is the official agency in Indonesia authorized to conduct the halal certification process. To carry out the halal product assurance process, this agency operates under the Ministry of Religious Affairs. In its operations, the BPJPH collaborates with two key parties: the Halal Inspection Agency (LPH), which is responsible for the product

inspection and testing process, and the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI), which has the authority through fatwas to determine a product's halal status. One of its primary tasks is to handle the registration, issuance, and oversight of halal certificates. It also serves as a liaison between the LPH and the MUI during the certification process.

The BPJPH is not the only institution involved in the halal certification process; there are also Halal Inspection Agencies (LPH), which are tasked with inspecting and testing products for halal compliance. Furthermore, the Halal Product Process Assistance Agency (LP3H) assists and supports businesses particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in independently meeting halal certification requirements and procedures. The MUI is also among the institutions involved in the halal certification process, playing a crucial role in determining a product's halal status. Three main parties are involved in the halal certification process in Indonesia: BPJPH serves as the regulator and certificate issuer, LPH serves as the inspector, and MUI serves as the issuer of halal fatwas. These three parties ensure that the halal certification process is conducted transparently, professionally, and in accordance with Islamic law (Pramudita & Iqbal, 2026).

2. Halal Certification Bodies in Malaysia

Businesses in Malaysia are not required to obtain halal certification for their products. However, if they choose to use the halal logo on their products, they must provide proof that the products are indeed halal. If it is determined that a product does not meet halal standards, the company will be subject to penalties such as fines of up to RM 15 million, which may be filed in the Commercial Court. The certification process is overseen by the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM), which is responsible for halal labeling in Malaysia and serves as the official government agency. The Department of Islamic Development is structurally under the direct authority of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, with the knowledge of the sultan. Systematic: Since 1974, Malaysia has been one of the first countries to establish a recognized and systematic halal certification system (Harahap, 2018).

It is JAKIM's responsibility to ensure that food, beverages, cosmetics, medicines, and other services sold in Malaysia meet strict halal standards in accordance with Islamic law. The halal certification process includes a comprehensive audit of raw materials, production processes, equipment, and even safety and hygiene considerations. Additionally, JAKIM is responsible for monitoring and supervising halal certification bodies in other countries that wish to recognize halal products from those countries as meeting Malaysian standards.

To obtain halal certification in Malaysia, an application must be submitted before certification is issued. The process typically takes 1 (one) month and remains valid for six months. JAKIM collaborates with various organizations, such as state governments and local agencies that administer halal certification. In 2019, JAKIM had partnered with 78 foreign certification bodies in 45 countries. Malaysia follows the Ahl al-Sunnah wa al-Jama'ah, specifically the Shafi'i school of thought, in its halal certification process (Nahlah et al., 2023).

The Halal Certification Process

1. The Halal Certification Process in Indonesia

According to Government Regulation No. 39 of 2021, the halal certification process consists of eight systematic stages. The first stage is registering the business operator with the BPJPH. This is done by filling out a registration form through the available halal information system and providing supporting documents such as a company profile, Business Identification Number (NIB), or other business legality documents. To facilitate

business operators from across Indonesia, registration can be done online through the BPJPH portal (Mustika et al., 2025).

The second stage is submitting an application for halal certification. This application must be accompanied by the following documents: the Halal Product Assurance System (SJPH) manual, a list of raw materials used along with their sources and suppliers, a production process flowchart detailing each production stage, laboratory test results if required for specific products, and halal certificates from raw material suppliers to ensure the halal integrity of the supply chain. To ensure that all aspects of production meet halal requirements, it is important to complete these documents (Khan & Shaharuddin, 2015).

The third stage consists of audits and inspections conducted by a halal inspection agency designated by the BPJPH. These audits include verifying raw materials to ensure they do not contain haram ingredients, verifying additives and auxiliary materials, verifying the production process to ensure there is no contamination with haram ingredients, inspecting production facilities to ensure that halal production areas are clean and segregated, and conducting on-site inspections (Harahap, 2018).

The fourth stage involves laboratory testing, if necessary, to ensure that the product does not contain haram ingredients. Laboratory testing is conducted by an accredited laboratory to identify haram ingredients such as pork, alcohol, or others. Meat products and their derivatives may undergo DNA testing to confirm the type of animal used. The results of the laboratory tests are used by the MUI to determine the halal status of the product.

The fifth stage is the issuance of a halal fatwa through a meeting of the Fatwa Commission of the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI). This commission consists of scholars specializing in Islamic jurisprudence (fiqh), technical experts familiar with food production technologies and processes, and health experts capable of assessing the product's safety from a perspective. To determine whether a product is halal, the fatwa commission meeting reviews all documents, audit results, and laboratory test results. The BPJPH issues a halal certificate based on the MUI's halal fatwa (Fahrizi et al., 2026).

In the sixth stage, the halal certificate is issued by the BPJPH based on the halal fatwa from the MUI. This certificate is valid for four years and can be renewed by submitting an application before the validity period expires. The halal certificate includes the company name, factory address, product name, certificate number, and validity period. If there are violations of halal requirements, the halal certificate may be revoked (BPJPH Performance Report 2023, 2023).

The seventh step is to affix the halal identification mark to the product packaging. This serves as visual proof that the product has been certified as halal. The halal logo established by the BPJPH must be displayed on the product packaging with a minimum size of 1 cm x 1 cm. This logo must not be altered or printed onto the product packaging; it must be printed directly on it. Displaying the halal logo without a valid halal certificate may result in penalties. To provide visual assurance that the product has been certified as halal, the Indonesian halal logo is designed to clear standards and is easily recognizable by customers (Salindal, 2019).

In the eighth stage, post-certification oversight by the BPJPH is conducted to ensure that businesses comply with halal requirements. Oversight is carried out through routine audits, market monitoring, sampling of products in the market for laboratory testing, investigations into consumer reports in cases of suspected violations, and monitoring of changes to raw materials or production processes. Any significant changes in production must be reported to BPJPH for re-evaluation. Strict controls ensure that the halal certificates issued are accurate and that the goods sold are truly halal (Faridah, 2019).

2. The Halal Certification Process in Malaysia

The Malaysian Islamic Development Department (JAKIM) conducts the halal certification process as follows: a structured procedure consisting of several key stages. Generally, this process begins with a business operator submitting an application to JAKIM or the Islamic religious council at the state government level. This stage requires the business owner to complete and attach various supporting documents containing organizational data, product formulations, ingredient specifications, and production process flowcharts. Before and after the documents are submitted, JAKIM will conduct a preliminary assessment to ensure they are complete and to verify the validity of the submitted documents.

JAKIM will schedule an audit once all documents and the application have been submitted at the production site (on-site audit). Representatives from the certification body or JAKIM will visit the business premises during the audit to observe firsthand the entire manufacturing process, from raw material sourcing to control procedures and storage conditions. The focus is on ensuring that all stages of production and operations strictly comply with halal requirements. The results of the on-site audit and the document review will serve as the basis for the certification body to make the final decision regarding the product's halal status.

JAKIM will issue an official halal certificate if the application is approved, stating that the service or product meets halal standards. This certificate includes important information such as the company name, certification number, and validity date. Businesses remain under JAKIM's supervision through periodic audits and monitoring to ensure ongoing compliance with halal standards. This certificate must be renewed periodically at the end of its validity period to ensure it remains valid, following the established process.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This comparative study shows that Indonesia and Malaysia share the same objectives in ensuring the integrity, safety, and Sharia compliance of products and services, but implement different models of halal certification governance. Indonesia has developed a mandatory halal certification system based on Law No. 33 of 2014 on Halal Product Assurance and its implementing regulations, with a division of authority among the Halal Product Assurance Agency (BPJPH), Halal Inspection Institutions (LPH), and bodies authorized to determine product halal status including the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) in accordance with applicable provisions. Meanwhile, Malaysia implements a more integrated system through the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM) and state religious authorities, with an emphasis on standardization, institutional coordination, and oversight. Although halal certification in Malaysia is generally voluntary, the use of halal claims and logos is still regulated by *the Trade Descriptions Act 2011* and its subsidiary regulations.

Research findings indicate that both systems have their own strengths and challenges, so it cannot be stated that one is absolutely superior to the other. Indonesia has a strong legal foundation through mandatory certification and the division of institutional functions, but it still faces challenges related to coordination, procedural complexity, and service efficiency. Conversely, Malaysia demonstrates more integrated practices in standardization, certification services, and international recognition, although the harmonization of authority between the federal and state levels still requires attention. Therefore, Indonesia can learn from Malaysia by strengthening interagency coordination, simplifying procedures, digitizing services, improving audit efficiency, and expanding international recognition. These lessons must be applied adaptively, taking into account the differences in legal systems, institutional structures, and socio-religious conditions between the two countries.

Thus, this study confirms that the effectiveness of halal certification governance is determined not only by the strength of regulations but also by the clarity of authority, institutional professionalism, transparency, post-certification oversight, and consumer protection. The development of the halal certification system should be directed toward establishing an integrated, accountable, efficient, and sustainable ecosystem to enhance public trust and the competitiveness of the international halal industry. The findings of this study have implications for strengthening policies and institutional cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia, particularly in the harmonization of halal standards, the development of digital certification systems, and *mutual recognition* mechanisms. Further research is needed to empirically evaluate the effectiveness of these policies' implementation, particularly in terms of service efficiency, business compliance, and the effectiveness of halal certification oversight.

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