

Does Water Need to Be Certified Halal?



So, you eat halal-certified meat, you read labels to check for animal fat, and you check the foods and snacks being served at restaurants and at the schools. You are trying to do your best to serve healthy, delicious halal meals to your family. Then one day at the grocery store, you happen to notice some bottled water that is halal certified. Excited, you grab several. But wait, does plain water need to be halal certified?

The United Arab Emirates suspended Halal certified bottled water from Thailand. According to Thailand's *The Nation* (June 1, 2006), Dubai officials determined that water does not need certification, and suspended Thailand exports. Was Dubai correct in suspending halal certified drinking water? Does water need to be halal certified? The fact is, all foods should be halal certified if we are to be confident that they are halal. God has created all living things with water. Water is a natural product and halal in its natural form, for drinking, cooking, making ablution, amongst other things. However, bottled water goes through extensive processing and treatment including purification, filtration, and sometimes mineral adjustment, chlorination, fluorination or ozone treatment, in order to make it safe for human consumption. During this process it may come in contact with chemical materials potentially derived from animals. When MMHCBI certifies water to be halal, it verifies that the bottled water was purified without the use of any *haram* (unlawful) or questionable materials. For example, apple juice is clarified with gelatin but is never mentioned on the apple juice label. Similarly, water is purified by passing through a carbon bed but not mentioned on the labels of bottled water. Furthermore, some grade lubricants (animal fats) are used on machinery during the production of anything from bottled water to aluminum

foil or plastic materials. Lubricants consist mainly of oils of uncertain origin, either vegetable, animal or synthetic. Lubricants used in manufacturing are not listed on food ingredient labels. Besides, we required them cleanliness, sound health of workers, laboratory analysis to assured safety of consuming public, since the product is for commercial purposes. This is why even bottled water, not just food, needs to be halal certified. To be confident in what you eat, always choose halal certified products(intervention of outside body not just own personal claim)! Remember what the Qur'an says at Surah Taubah(9) or Repentance Verse 108 “.....**and Allah loves those who make themselves clean and pure**”and the beloved holy prophet Mohammad(saw) said:” Allah is pure and accepts only that which is pure “ (*Sahi Bukharie*)and in another narration “ *I swear by Allah (SWT) in whose hands is my life. When a person eats a tiny piece of an item which is haram, none of his good deeds are accepted by Allah (SWT) for forty days. When the flesh of the body is built from haram then his body only deserves the hell fire.” (Sahi Muslim) So, on thebasis of said Qur'anic injunction and Ahadith, Halal is not just a secondary religious obligation, but it is an absolute religious obligation(commission is rewarded by God and Omission is surely punishable).*

Davamoto Alkaline Ionized Bottled water in Davao City,owned by Bai Norma Bansuan Usman and the Aquahealth Alkaline Ionized bottled water in Cotabato City franchised by Bai Mary Ann Amir Abutazil are currently certified halal by MMHCBI.

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