

The Knead to Know

Why should bakeries be certified Halaal? Surely bread and cake is Halaal?"

This is the common questions asked during SANHA'S many interactions with the community during our public programmes in schools, Masaajid, exhibitions, fairs and radio shows. The certification of bakery outlets is more than just a bread-and-butter issue. Outlets which are not certified/approved fall within the category of mushtabihāt (doubtful areas) due to the following very important reasons:-

- Ingredients/premixes used may contain flour improvers such as l-cysteine which is commonly derived from human hair.
- Pan-greases may not be Halaal compliant.
- Possible use of Haraam animal fats, such as lard, for glazing or greasing purposes. Expert bakers report that the best fat to give "browning" and a crispy crust to bread is lard. Lard is rendered pig fat which has excellent flaking property and is the ideal ingredient for pastries. The huge advantage lard has is that it is comparatively cheap since pork has excess fat and is the world's most produced meat.
- Contamination with Haraam (non-Halaal) meat products in storage, handling, preparation and processing is highly possible. This includes staff bringing in non- Halaal food in the processing area.
- Natural basting brushes used in bakeries are commonly made of pig hair. Even the argument of a kosher approval of the brushes cannot justify its use as Jewish law permits use of pig hair while in terms of Shar'iah law, every part of the pig is Haraam.
- Possible use of brandy, sherry and other liquor etc. in certain confectionery products.
- Gelatine derived from non-Halaal slaughtered animals is sometimes used as a stabiliser and aerating agent in mousses, cheesecakes and in fresh and sour creams that are used by bakeries.
- Some colourants, such as carmine, E120, carminic acid, CI 75470 and natural red 4 and crimson lake are derived from the crushing of the female cochineal beetle insects and their babies (nymphs) which are not permitted.

DON'T GO OFF HALF BAKED.

FOLLOW THE HALAAL RECIPE OF SUCCESS.

