

Book Review: Pensijilan Halal Malaysia — Pemantauan dan Penguatkuasaan (Halal Certification in Malaysia — Surveillance and Enforcement)

Book Review

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Article History:

Received: 20th November 2024

Accepted: 22nd November 2024

Available Online: 10th December 2024

Published: 30th December 2024

Year of Publication: 2023

Keywords:

Number of pages: 172

hisbah, halal certification, challenges and implementation

Language: Malay

Name and location of publisher: Penerbit Universiti Malaya: Kuala Lumpur

Citation:

Has-Yun Hashim, Y. Z. (2024). Book Review: Pensijilan Halal Malaysia — Pemantauan dan Penguatkuasaan (Halal Certification in Malaysia — Surveillance and Enforcement). *Journal of Halal Industry & Services*, 7(1), a0000567.

ISBN: 978-967-488-245-7

DOI: 10.36877/jhis.a0000567

Pensijilan Halal Malaysia – Pemantauan dan Penguatkuasaan (Halal Certification in Malaysia – Surveillance and Enforcement), authored by Mohd Amri Abdullah and Zalina Zakaria, is a wholesome book on halal certification, monitoring and enforcement in Malaysia. The 174-page book, published in 2023 by Penerbit Universiti Malaya, is written in the Malay language. The first author, widely known as Ustaz Amri, is a prominent figure in the halal industry and fraternity in the country and beyond. The book is based on his scholarly work that he undertook for his Master's degree in the Department of Shari'ah and Law under the supervision of Dr. Zalina Zakaria of the Universiti Malaya Halal Research Centre. In the preface, Ustaz Amri highlighted that he was motivated to publish the book considering the lack of reference book in the area of halal certification, monitoring and enforcement as compared to other halal body of knowledge such as halal science, halal certification schemes and fatwa. Putting together expert knowledge, know-how and years of experience, the authors were successful in delivering credible data, information and knowledge for all to benefit. The book is divided into five chapters: Halal concept and certification, Administration and management of halal certification, Enforcement and surveillance of halal

certification, Challenges of enforcement and surveillance of halal certification, and finally, the summary/conclusion. Chapter 1 provided the concepts and definitions of halal, haram and halalan toyyiban from the aspects of (Arabic) language and shari'ah terms. Importantly in this chapter, the authors discussed the concept and practice of *hisbah*, and its application in the halal industry. *Hisbah* comes from an Arabic word that holds several meanings including counting, calculating, weighing, valuing, observing, administering, preventing and halting (something). The authors reasoned that the concepts of *hisbah* are inherent in the scope of halal certification, monitoring and enforcement. Chapter 2 described the administration and management of halal certification in Malaysia. This includes the acts related to halal and its historical timeline, registration of the Malaysia Halal Logo, and statistics on halal certificates issued between 2013 and the first half of 2020. Chapter 3 described in detail the enforcement and monitoring of halal certification in Malaysia. Aspects discussed include the implementation and procedure of the halal surveillance and enforcement based on the acts and regulations related to Malaysia halal certification, categories of non-conformance and actions that need to be taken, as well as other agencies involved in halal enforcement such as the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Cost of Living (previously known as the Ministry of Trade and Consumer Affairs), Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Chapter 4 provided a critical and scholarly analysis of the issues and challenges surrounding the acts and regulations related to halal and its implementation. Finally, in Chapter 5, the authors provided a conclusion and summary of the issues related to halal certification, surveillance and enforcement in Malaysia. Strategies and recommendations were put forward towards the betterment of the whole halal certification ecosystem. To this end, the book is very valuable and is highly recommended for use as a textbook or main reference in the halal related academic and training programmes. The authorities can also benefit from the strategies and recommendations given by the authors. The book can be translated to English and other languages to benefit more audience, while showcasing Malaysia's leadership in halal certification, surveillance and enforcement.

Funding: No external funding was provided for this work.

Acknowledgments: The author acknowledges the support of the International Institute for Halal Research and Training, IIUM for providing the opportunity to conduct this work.

Conflicts of Interest: The author declares no conflict of interest.



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