

UK Muslim Scholars Unanimously Reject Mechanical Slaughter

In the largest independent survey of Muslim Scholars conducted in the UK concerning Halal and Halal standards, there was a unanimous rejection of mechanical slaughter in the UK from all scholars.

In June 2009, an independent online survey was commissioned by HMC through Ajax Consultants to understand the scholarly opinions on Halal in the UK.

Responses were received from 282 imams and muftis from over 25 towns and cities covering, London, Birmingham, Newcastle, Glasgow, Leicester, Manchester, Blackburn, Reading, Preston, Dewsbury and many more cities across the UK.

The survey asked several questions covering issues on the acceptance of mechanical slaughtering, stunning of animal prior to slaughter, recitation of tasmiyah, and views on the current exemptions in UK and European law.

The Summary of the findings are outlined below:

95% of the Ulama do not accept "mechanical slaughter" as an accepted method of Halal slaughter in Islam (2.1% want to understand the issue further)

99.7% stated that Bismillah should be prayed individually by person slaughtering (not taped or person standing on the side)

90% rejected electrical stunning of chickens (9% welcomed further research)

85% rejected electrical stunning of larger animals (9% welcomed further research)

99% expressed preference for non-stunned

100% saw the need for the continuation of religious exemption allowing Muslims and Jews to practice their religious beliefs (prophetic method of slaughter)

The survey included responses from 32 Muftis, 201 Ulama and 49 Imams.

HMC Chairman Shaykh Yunus Dudhwala commented, "This survey is the largest of its kind conducted in the UK and sets clear guidelines of acceptability and standards for Halal in this country. It further endorses the standard of Halal that HMC has followed since its inception in 2003".

Nadeem Adam, Operations Manager at HMC said, "People will be surprised to learn of the widespread use of mechanical slaughter in the provision of Halal poultry in the UK. There are many UK superstores that need to be aware of the message from UK scholars and should ensure their Halal products are at a standard acceptable to their Muslim consumers. HMC's universal standard is the only way to ensure acceptance by all".

The Halal Food Authority (HFA) accepts mechanical slaughter and has continually been probed and asked to provide views from Muslim scholars for their accepted practices. To date no response and views have been received from HFA Scholars. We also ask HFA to listen to the views of the UK Muslim community who they claim to serve.

Earlier this year, Malaysia, a country at the forefront of Halal, known as the Halal Hub of the World, listened to the scholars of the world and removed mechanical slaughter from its Halal standards. It will be interesting to see if a Halal certifier in the UK (HFA) will listen to the views of Muslim scholars and the public and remove the use of mechanical slaughter from its halal standard.



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A Unanimous Decision

The rejection of mechanical slaughter

