

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**DEVELOPMENT OF FRAMEWORK
FOR HALAL CROSS-BORDER
CLEARANCE OPERATION IN
HALAL TRADE FACILITATION**

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MSc

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AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.


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ABSTRACT

Trade facilitation approach has become the main reference in facilitating international trade especially of cross-border setting. The trade facilitation concept was presented in 1998 by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to support while overcoming the major non-tariff barrier associated with the international cross-border activities. Trade facilitation has been described in sphere perspective which focuses are given to an administration reformation at international borders to improve the trade movement that is correlated with the activities associated with official procedures that control trade movement especially at cross-border environment. Cross-border receive various type of consignments and one of it is Halal goods. Halal goods are keen to have complex and specific requirement, to ensure the Halal-ness status of each good is not compromised. Ensuring Halal integrity of Halal goods along the chain remains as a major concern among respective community in Malaysia. The current practices of border clearance operation particularly for Halal goods is seen as inadequate, as the control at the point of admission into the country is only depending on Halal certification. On the other hand, with the international demand, Malaysia has developed its own Trade Facilitation Masterplan as part of the country's national agenda to facilitate the international trade according to the national needs. However, the initiative is uncommitted in enhancing the border to improve its service in monitoring Halal, and significantly more to conventional form. As follows, this research will answer the main objectives: first, to determine the clearance practices in land cross-border; second, to identify the determinants of Halal cross-border clearance operation for Halal trade facilitation; and finally, to develop framework to improve the current practices of Halal cross-border clearance operation of Halal trade facilitation. This study has adopted a qualitative research approach. Extensively, in-person semi-structured interviews were conducted with 22 participants from various stakeholders' category in the cross-border community. The participants were selected by purposive sampling. All interviews were properly recorded, coded, and analysed using thematic analysis. The findings of this study were highlighted in a set of seven determinants, namely, Halal agency, Halal policy, stakeholders' awareness, Halal procedures, Halal assessment, traceability, and facilities.

Keywords: Clearance operation, Cross-border, Halal integrity, Halal logistics, Trade facilitation

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