

**TRADE DESCRIPTION ACT 1972: EXPANSION OF HALAL DEFINITION ON  
COSMETIC PRODUCTS**

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## ABSTRACT

The definition of 'Halal' in the Trade Description Act 1972 only covers about food. An area of lacunae exist when Muslims in Malaysia starts to become aware of the importance of 'Halal' in the field of cosmetics. The rapid growth of 'Halal' cosmetics industry in Malaysia has paved the way to the emergence of 'Halal' based cosmetics lead by HPA and recently Malaysian singer icon, Datuk Siti Nurhaliza also launch her label of 'Halal' cosmetics under the name of 'SimplySiti'. However the 'Halal' labeling process for cosmetics only falls under the conscience of the manufacturers because there is no specific law to making it mandatory for a cosmetic product to undergo the 'Halal' labeling process requirement.

To attain the 'Halal' status before the label can be attached to the products, there are certain regulations that need to be fulfilled. First, the products must meet the criteria stipulated in Section 3 of the Trade Descriptions (Use of Expression "Halal") Order 1975 which affirm that all steps from ingredients, manufacturing and storage need to be consistent with 'Hukum Syarak'. Manufacturers will need to comply with the entire proviso before they get the grant to display 'Halal' label to their products.

The aim in conducting this electrifying research is to put forward the significance to expand the definition of 'Halal' in the Trade Description Act 1972 to make it more concrete in safe guarding the security of 'Halal' based products used by Muslims. This study also tackles the defects of the now existing Trade Description Act 1972 focusing the Malaysian cosmetics industry. Two series of interviews have been conducted with a noted person from the Jabatan Agama Islam Selangor (JAIS). In strengthening the accuracy of the study, there are also references from books, journals, reports, articles as well as internet sources.

The contributions of the study are twofold. First, to expand the provision of 'Halal' in the Trade Description Act 1972 which is not complete in adequacy to cover the need for 'Halal' labeling for cosmetics products sold in Malaysia. Secondly, Muslims will be relieved from the confusion to choose cosmetics products to be used in daily basis because the security of 'Halal' matters will be protected parallel with the expansion of the Act.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgement	i
Abstract	ii
List of Cases and Statutes	iii
List of Figures	iii

### CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0	Introduction	1
1.1	Background	1-4
1.2	Research Question	4-5
1.3	Objectives and Scope	5
1.4	Significance of the Research	5-6
1.5	Limitations of the Research	6
1.6	Research Methodology	6-7
1.7	Outline of the Structure of the Paper	7-8

### CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1	Introduction	9-10
2.2	Concept of Haram and Halal	10-11
2.3	Definition of Haram, Halal and Mashbooh	11-14
2.4	Law in Halal Certification on Cosmetic	14-16
	2.4.1 TRADE DESCRIPTION (USE OF EXPRESSION HALAL) ORDER 1975	
	2.4.2 MS 2200 ISLAMIC CONSUMER GOODS-PART 1: COSMETIC AND PERSONAL CARE-GENERAL GUIDELINES	
	2.4.3 Authoritative Bodies Relating to Halal Certification	
	2.4.4 Research and Innovation	

2.5 Significance of Law Requiring Halal Labeling on Cosmetics	16-17
2.6 Interview Questions and Answers	18-20
2.7 Conclusion	20

### **CHAPTER 3: LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

3.1 Introduction	21
3.2 The Function of Halal Logo	21-24
3.2.1 Halal Certification	
3.2.2 Halal Logo	
3.2.3 Standard for Halal Cosmetics	
3.2.4 Research and Innovation	
3.3 Trade Description Act 1972	24
3.4 Section 3, Section 4 and Section 18 of the Trade Description Act 1972	25-26
3.5 Case: Public Prosecutor v Wee Mee Industries Co Sdn Bhd	27
3.6 What is TRADE DESCRIPTIONS (USE OF IXPRESSION “HALAL”) ORDER 1975	27-28
3.7 Islamic Consumer Good-Part 1: Cosmetic and Personal Care-General Guidelines (MS 2200:PART I:2008)	28
3.8 Conclusion	29

### **CHAPTER 4: COMPARISON OF INTERNATIONAL LAWS WITH MALAYSIAN LAW**

4.1 Introduction to the Halal Food Consumer Protection Act New Jersey	30-31
4.2 Relevance of the law in United States	31
4.3 Relevance of the law in Malaysia	32
4.4 Effectiveness of the law in United States	32-33
4.5 New York State Kosher Law Protection Act of 2004	33-36
4.5.1 Introduction to Kosher	
4.5.2 Kosher Slaughtering	
4.5.2.1 Relevance of Kosher Law to Halal Requirements	