Our Research Methodology

How Global Halal Guide researches, reviews, and publishes halal guidance

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1. Purpose of This Document

Readers who rely on our guidance deserve to know how we reach it. This document explains the creed and methodology we follow, the sources we use, how we use artificial intelligence, how every article is checked before it is published, and how we correct mistakes.

2. Our Creed and Methodology

Aqidah (creed)	Ahlus Sunnah wal Jama'ah, following the creed of the Salaf (the early generations of Muslims).
Fiqh and manhaj	Ahl al-Hadith wal-Athar. We derive rulings from the Qur'an and the authentic Sunnah as understood by the Salaf. We respect and benefit from the four Imams and the established schools of fiqh, but we do not follow any single school blindly. Where scholars differ, we aim to follow the opinion best supported by the evidence.

3. Sources of Islamic Rulings

We consider evidence in the following order:

1. The Qur'an	The primary source, read with the explanations of the Companions and the classical scholars of tafsir.
2. The authentic Sunnah	We rely on hadith graded authentic (sahih) or sound (hasan) by recognized hadith scholars. Weak hadith are not used as evidence for a ruling.
3. The Companions and the Salaf	The statements and understanding of the Companions and the early generations (athar).
4. Scholarly consensus (ijma')	Where a matter is agreed upon by the scholars, we follow the consensus.
5. Analogy and legal maxims	Sound analogy (qiyas) and established principles of fiqh, such as the default permissibility of things unless evidence shows otherwise. Principles often relevant to food, such as transformation of a substance (istihalah) and dilution (istihlak), are applied with care, because scholars differ on their scope. Where this affects a ruling, we explain our position.
6. Works of the scholars	Classical and contemporary scholarship and fatwa bodies are consulted and weighed according to the strength of their evidence.

4. Sources of Product and Ingredient Information

- Product labels and published ingredient lists.

- Official manufacturer statements and websites. Where information is unclear, we contact the manufacturer directly.
- Public listings of recognized halal certification bodies.
- Food science references and official food regulator databases, for example for E-number definitions and how ingredients are produced.
- Country-specific information, because the same brand may use different recipes in different countries.

We record the date and country of the information we use, so readers can judge whether it still applies to them.

5. Our Research and Review Process

Every article follows the same seven steps:

1. Define the question	We state exactly what is being asked: which product, ingredient, or practice, and in which country.
2. Gather evidence	We collect the Islamic evidence (Section 3) and the product facts (Section 4).
3. AI-assisted research and drafting	AI tools help us find and organize sources, summarize material, and prepare a first draft (Section 6).
4. Verification	Every Qur'an reference, hadith and its grading, scholarly quotation, and product fact is checked against its primary source. Nothing produced by AI is accepted without this check.
5. Scholarly review	Mufti Eakub Sheik reviews the evidence and the draft and reaches the ruling. He may change the draft, send it back for more research, or reject it.
6. Publication	The article is published with its sources, the line "Reviewed by Mufti Eakub Sheik," and its "Last reviewed" date.
7. Ongoing review	Articles are reviewed again when we learn of new evidence, a recipe change, or a reported error, and the "Last reviewed" date is updated.

6. How We Use Artificial Intelligence

AI helps us work faster and cover more products, but it does not replace scholarly judgment.

AI helps with	finding and organizing sources; summarizing long texts; preparing first drafts; creating illustrations.
AI never	issues a ruling; grades a hadith; serves as the source of a quotation or reference; makes a final decision about what is published.

- All AI output is treated as unverified until it has been checked against primary sources (Step 4).
- Mufti Eakub Sheik holds editorial responsibility for all content published on the website.
- AI-generated images that could be mistaken for real photographs are labeled as AI-generated.

- We do not use AI to create images of the Prophets, the Companions, or other figures whose depiction is religiously inappropriate.
- We do not enter visitors' names, email addresses, or other identifying details into AI tools.

7. How We Classify Rulings

Ruling	What it means on our website
Halal	Permissible, based on the evidence and the product information available.
Haram	Impermissible, based on clear evidence.
Doubtful (mashbooh)	The evidence or the product information is unclear. We advise avoiding it until it is clarified.
Depends on source	The status depends on the source or production method, which can differ between products, brands, or countries. We explain what to check.

8. Differences of Opinion

Many halal questions involve legitimate differences of scholarly opinion (ikhtilaf). Where a difference is significant, we mention the main opinions and explain why we prefer one. A reader who follows a particular school of fiqh, or a scholar they trust, may reach a different conclusion on some issues, and we respect that.

9. Limits of Our Research

- Our rulings are general guidance, not a personal fatwa. For your own situation, consult a qualified scholar.
- Product information can change without notice. Please check the current label before buying.
- Global Halal Guide does not currently issue halal certificates. If we offer certification in the future, it will follow separate published standards.

10. Independence

Our rulings are based only on the evidence. Ads on our website are selected automatically by Google, and advertising or any affiliate relationship has no influence on our rulings. We do not accept payment from any company in return for a ruling about its products.

11. Corrections

If you find an error, an outdated fact, or a missing source, please email fatwa@whatishalal.org with the subject line "Correction." We review every report and update the article where needed.

12. Contact

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