



Core Team

Test Methods for Halal Food Certification

2nd Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday 26 February 2026

Virtually

3 PM (GMT+7)

Member	Organization	Country	Present	Regrets
Erik J.M. Konings, Ph.D.	AOAC International	Netherlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Xinping Hou, Ph.D.	AOAC Southeast Asia Section	Singapore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mustafa Sultan, BSc. Pharm. Sci.	AOAC Arab Section	Egypt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Irshad Ahmed, Ph.D.	Ministry of Public Health	Qatar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hendy Dwi Warmiko, S.Si., M.M.	Corpora Science	Indonesia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annabelle Briones, Ph.D.	Industrial Technology Development Institute	Philippines	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Insan Patria Tiastadia, S.TP.	SIG Laboratory	Indonesia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. General Notes

1. Official designation: The meeting agreed to adopt a specific name for the core team to reflect its focus on Halal standards:
"Joint Expert Core Team on the Harmonization of Analytical Methods for Halal Food Certification."
2. ToR approval: The pre-draft ToR prepared by the AOAC Arab Section was accepted in this meeting. Finalization of the draft will occur following the formal review and approval by all members.
3. The following Co-Chairs have been appointed to lead and ensure effective coordination for core team agenda:
 - a. Mustafa Sultan, BSc. Pharm. Sci. (Co-Chair, Arab Section)
 - b. Dwi Yulianto Laksono S.Si or/and Insan Patria Tiastadia S.T.P. (Co-Chair, Southeast Asia Section)
4. The current scope for the harmonization of analytical methods is limited to food matrices.
5. Questionnaire development:
 - a. It was confirmed that the analytical performance criteria, specifically regarding Method Detection Limits (MDL) mentioned in the ToR, are already addressed in point 4 of the questionnaire.
 - b. The primary objective of point 1 is to map the procedural flowcharts of Halal certification across different countries and identify the mandatory requirements for certification applications.
 - c. The questionnaire will be converted into a digital format (Google Forms) and discussed further with the members in the next meeting. Once approved, it will be distributed to key stakeholders, including regulators, industry representatives, and testing laboratories.
6. Next Meeting: Scheduled for Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 15:00 – 16:00 (UTC+7)

2. Next Steps and Coordination

1. Questionnaire refinement:
 - a. Format revision (point 1): Transition from long-form paragraphs to a multiple-choice format, including an 'others' option to accommodate alternative responses. Keywords will be included to guide respondents and ensure data consistency. (Insan, SIG)
 - b. Regulatory reference (point 2): Add supplementary information or a list of global halal regulatory guidelines to assist respondents in providing accurate answers. (Insan, SIG)
 - c. Introduction: Draft a concise "statement of purpose" explaining the objectives and significance of the questionnaire to the respondents. (Mustafa, AOAC Arab)

- d. Questionnaire format: Transcribe the refined draft into a Google Form. (Insan, SIG)
2. Finalization and review
- a. Finalize the pre-draft ToR for the formal endorsement and signing process by all members, and add Dwi Yulianto Laksono from SIG Laboratory to the official Joint Expert Core Team membership list. (Mustafa, AOAC Arab)
 - b. Conduct a final comprehensive review of the Google Form questionnaire and the approved ToR. (All Members)