



**ARAB SECTION OF AOAC INTERNATIONAL
SOUTHEAST ASIA SECTION OF AOAC INTERNATIONAL
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

I. NAME

Joint Expert Core Team on the Harmonization of Analytical Methods for Halal Food Certification.

II. MISSION

The mission of the Joint Expert Core Team *on the Harmonization of Analytical Methods for Halal Food Certification* is to assess the need, scope, and feasibility of establishing globally harmonized benchmarks for Halal analytical testing, with the objective of strengthening scientific alignment, enhancing mutual recognition, and reducing technical barriers to trade between regions.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Mapping & Regulatory Review

- 1.1. Compile and review existing national regulatory frameworks governing Halal certification and analytical verification across participating regions.
- 1.2. Identify similarities, divergences, and regulatory gaps affecting the scientific verification of Halal compliance.
- 1.3. Document current and emerging national or regional goals related to Halal compliance and testing.

2. Technical Assessment of Analytical Practices

- 2.1. Map analytical methods currently used for Halal verification.

- 2.2. Compare analytical performance criteria.
- 2.3. Identify areas where discrepancies in analytical approaches may create barriers to mutual recognition.

3. Identification of Barriers to Mutual Recognition

- 3.1. Assess obstacles to accepting Halal test results across jurisdictions.
- 3.2. Evaluate the impact of these barriers on trade, certification consistency, and international confidence.

4. Strategic Recommendations & Roadmap Development

- 4.1. Determine whether there is a demonstrated need for harmonized analytical benchmarks at the AOAC level.
- 4.2. Develop a science-based framework or roadmap outlining potential pathways for harmonization.
- 4.3. Recommend next steps to AOAC INTERNATIONAL.

5. Coordination & Reporting

- 5.1. Ensure balanced representation from the Arab and Southeast Asia Sections.
- 5.2. Engage relevant stakeholders, including regulators, certification bodies, and laboratories.
- 5.3. Submit a formal report with findings and recommendations to both sections and AOAC INTERNATIONAL leadership within the agreed timeframe.

IV. COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

The Joint Expert Core Team on the Harmonization of Analytical Methods for Halal Food Certification, shall consist of the following members representing the Arab and Southeast Asia sections:

Member	Organization	Role
Giri Cahyono, S.Si., M.AP.	BPJPH, Indonesia	Halal Laboratory Team Leader
Hendy Dwi Warmiko, S.Si., M.M	Corpora Science, Indonesia	General Manager
Apt. Anjar Windarsih, M.Pharm.Sci., Ph.D.	BRIN, Indonesia	PRTTP Scientist
Asep Saefumillah, Ph.D.	Faculty of Math and Sciences,	Head of Chemistry

	Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia	Department
Joseph Matta, Ph.D.	Industrial Research Institute (IRI), Lebanon	Head of laboratories
Irshad Ahmed, Ph.D.	Food Safety Laboratory, National Health Lab Complex, Ministry of Public Health, Doha, Qatar	Technical Lead, Molecular Biology Unit
Mahmoud Abdelkhabeer, Ph.D.	Food Safety Laboratory, National Health Lab Complex, Ministry of Public Health, Doha, Qatar	Chief Laboratory Technologist
Dwi Yulianto Laksono, S.Si.	SIG Laboratory, Indonesia	Technical Director of SIG Laboratory
Insan Patria Tiastadia, S.TP.	SIG Laboratory, Indonesia	Asst. Manager R&D of SIG Laboratory
Annabelle Briones, Ph.D.	DOST-ITDI Philippines	Director
Joint Coordination Committee		
Erik J.M. Konings, Ph.D.	AOAC INTERNATIONAL	Past President
Xinping Hou, Ph.D.	AOAC Southeast Asia Section	President
Amine Kassouf, Ph.D.	Arab Section of AOAC INT.	President
Mustafa Sultan, BSc. Pharm. Sci.	Arab Section of AOAC INT.	Secretary

V. OPERATIONS

All operations, communications, and logistical coordination of the Joint Core Team shall be managed collaboratively by the Arab Section and the Southeast Asia Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL, with operational support provided through their respective designated representatives.

VI. DATE ESTABLISHED

2 April 2026