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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade
Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

**COMMUNICATION FROM MEXICO CONCERNING THE NOTICE ON THE ENTRY INTO
FORCE OF MEXICAN STANDARD NMX-F-595-SCFI-2015 ON HALAL FOOD,
PUBLISHED IN THE MEXICAN OFFICIAL JOURNAL ON 7 JULY 2015**

COMMUNICATION FROM MEXICO

The following communication, dated 17 November 2015, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mexico.

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1. The Government of Mexico hereby advises that the notice of entry into force for Mexican Standard NMX-F-595-SCFI-2015 on halal food was published in the Mexican Official Journal (*Diario Oficial de la Federación*) on 7 July 2015.
 2. The notified Standard contains provisions regarding the procedures and checks that are applicable to food labelled as Halal from the moment the raw materials are produced through to the time when the food is put up for retail sale. It constitutes a recommended national code of practice (general principles applicable to the food production chain) that should be adopted not only by the various bodies and entities responsible for certifying food suitable for Muslim consumption, but by the government agencies in charge of the standardization, surveillance and control of the various links in the production chain.
 3. The Standard entered into force on 4 September 2015.
 4. It establishes a voluntary system that enables producers of Halal food to obtain certification and compete with other actors in the same market, while adhering to and progressively applying internationally accepted practices for reducing the risk of non-conformity, from an Islamic standpoint.
 5. Mexican Standard NMX-F-595-SCFI-2015 may be viewed in Spanish at <http://www.economia-nmx.gob.mx/normas/nmx/2010/nmx-f-595-scfi-2015.pdf>.
 6. Mexico wishes to state that this communication is being made for the purposes of transparency, without prejudice to Mexico's rights and obligations under the TBT and SPS Agreements.
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