



Controlled Atmosphere Stunning

June 06, 2024

Preamble

After a few years of research and many visits to different poultry slaughtering facilities in Canada and abroad and after many consultations with experts in the field, we are issuing this Fatwa about the permissibility of eating gas-stunned birds but within clear standards. The following has been prepared exclusively for the Halal Monitoring Authority (HMA) here in Canada for their certification of The Maple Leaf plants in London and Edmonton after members of the Fiqh Majlis of Canada visited the London plant on May 30, 2024. In this document, the reader will find after the Fatwa the references and documentation on which we based our conclusions as well as our conditions and collective stance on the issue given the evidences that we either found or we received from different sources on this specific issue.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
الحمد لله والصلاة والسلام على رسول الله وآله وصحبه ومن والاه

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious and the most Merciful
May Allah's Blessings and Peace be showered on His Prophet Muhammad, his family
and those who follow his path.

Statement on Controlled Atmosphere Stunning (CAS)

Toronto, June 06, 2024

Given the fact that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) ensures through its supervising inspectors that meats of dead animals and birds are removed from consumption and maximum hygiene is met during meat production and after an exhaustive discussion among the members of the Fiqh Majlis of Canada and based on: (a) the statement of Majma'ul Fiqh on this issue¹, (b) the attached research papers and field documentations by the Halal Monitoring Authority (HMA) and (c) the various discussions with expert scientists and review of their reports² herein attached, the Fiqh Majlis would like to state the following:

[The chicken that was slaughtered in a Halal Islamic manner after being stunned by gas through Controlled Stunning Atmosphere (CAS) is permissible (Halal حلال) and Pure (Tayyib طيب) to consume for Muslims so long as it is alive before slaughter. The following conditions must be met to deem the unconscious bird to be alive:

- 1. Its body temperature should be the same as it was before stunning,***
- 2. It has an active pulse and heartbeat,***
- 3. Its blood is thoroughly drained as it would from a non-stunned bird***
- 4. It is flaccid (not firm and stiff)***
- 5. Its colour is normal not reddish***

Ideally, stunning - whether by electricity or gas - should be avoided but if it is necessary like in our case here in North America where poultry is in mass production in tens or even hundreds of thousands per day, the procedure does not render the meat haram. Stunning helps speed up the process as it makes the bird unconscious and insensible thus less moving and flapping. We

¹ International Islamic Fiqh Council of OIC, July 03, 1997: Item 7 of Article 5 which reads: **It is not prohibited to consume the meat of an animal lawfully slaughtered after stunning it by using a mixture of carbon dioxide and air or oxygen or by using a round-headed gun that would not cause the death of the animal before...**

² Please carefully review the attached documents for more details

also emphasize that time is of essence and the duration between stunning and killing of the bird should not exceed 2.5 minutes to be on the safest side. We hereby stress that every plant is different and this Fatwa cannot be generalized as every case has to be audited distinctly.

Signed: 

Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Al-Nadvi

Chairman, Fiqh Majlis of Canada on behalf of the following below-mentioned esteemed scholars

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