

Analysis of the Harmony of Legal Norms of Halal Certification Fees in the Perspective of Legal Principles of Law No. 33 of 2014 Concerning Halal Product Guarantee

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Abstract: This research analyzes the alignment between the legal norms of halal certification costs and the foundational principles of justice, legal certainty, accountability, and efficiency as outlined in Law Number 33 of 2014 regarding Halal Product Guarantee. The study identifies a significant gap between the law's ideal objectives and its real-world implementation, particularly in the context of the financial burden on micro and small enterprises (MSEs). Employing a juridical-normative qualitative approach, the research explores secondary legal data to highlight inconsistencies in the facilitation of halal certification costs for MSEs. The findings indicate that the law's provision for non-mandatory cost facilitation weakens its protective function, failing to meet the principles of justice and legal certainty. The research concludes that for the law to achieve its goals, a mandatory facilitation mechanism must be introduced to ensure that MSEs are not hindered by high certification costs. The study's implications suggest the necessity for legal reforms that would strengthen regulatory frameworks, making halal certification more accessible and equitable, particularly for MSEs, thus ensuring fairer and more effective implementation of the law.

Keywords: Halal Certification, Legal Norms, Legal Certainty

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A. INTRODUCTION

Law No. 33 of 2014 on Halal Product Guarantee stipulates that every product imported, distributed and sold in Indonesia must have a halal certificate in order to protect Muslim customers and ensure the continuity of sharia principles. However, despite the implementation of this regulation, many businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), face difficulties in obtaining halal certification due to complex bureaucracy, high costs, and weak law enforcement, resulting in a gap between the theoretical aspects and the actual implementation (Nurhayati et al., 2022). This problem is exacerbated by the findings of (Bawono et al., 2022), who found that MSMEs are reluctant to seek halal certification due to the increasing complexity of the process.

Research examining the impact of Act No. 33 of 2014 on the compliance and awareness of stakeholders in the halal industry often uses approaches such as structural equation modelling (SEM) and ISM-DEMATEL. Studies by (Aziz et al., 2023), (Mariana et al., 2024), and (Siregar & Razali, 2022) examine the relationship between halal regulations and their implementation in different sectors, but they do not shed light on deeper legal and normative issues. Furthermore, Saputra et al. (2022) highlight that the regulatory system in the halal industry, especially in the digital era, requires significant reforms to improve the certification process

and facilitate access for businesses. Previous research has enriched our understanding of halal certification. (Pasyah, 2022) explore the challenges in the halal sector in a digital context, while (Nurhayati et al., 2022) find that compliance levels remain low due to procedural barriers and costs.

This research offers two problem statements as its focus. First, the normative provisions of halal certification fees in Law Number 33 of 2014 concerning Halal Product Guarantee. Second, how is the juridical analysis of the harmony between the cost of halal product certification according to Law Number 33 of 2014 concerning Halal Product Guarantee. The novelty of this research lies in the synthesis between juridical analysis and the alignment of the objectives of the promulgation of halal product regulations. Previous studies have emphasized the technical aspects of implementation, so this research highlights the objectives of the regulation and its normative concept while providing constructive criticism of the halal regulatory norming system in Indonesia to make it more harmonious.

B. METHOD

This study uses a normative legal method with a qualitative approach to assess the conformity between the norms in Law Number 33 of 2014 concerning Halal Product Guarantee and its objectives. The primary focus of this study is funding for certification for small businesses and the normative definition of halal products in the context of digital regulation. Information was obtained from secondary sources, including laws, regulations, academic articles, and official documents. Analysis was conducted using a deductive approach to evaluate the alignment of Islamic economic principles with halal regulations, as well as to identify normative differences and the need for reform in the digital economy era.

This study examines key legal texts, including Law No. 33 of 2014 on Halal Product Guarantee and related regulations, as well as secondary sources such as academic articles, research, and empirical studies related to MSMEs, the food industry, and the digital halal market. The analytical methods employed include document review and thematic content analysis from an Islamic economic law perspective. Data was analyzed manually with the assistance of Mendeley and Zotero for literature management. This research is descriptive-qualitative in nature, emphasizing academic integrity, without involving individuals as subjects, and limited by the secondary nature of the data.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Result

The principle of protection has a genus in the form of “the purpose of implementing JPH” with a differentia of “providing protection to the Muslim community.” This means that every step or decision in the implementation of JPH must be made with the spirit of protecting the rights of Muslim consumers in choosing products that are in accordance with Islamic law. Based on the research findings of (Hakim et al., 2023), Muslim Generation Z in Indonesia highly prioritize health and religious values when selecting halal food products, indicating that the halal label is not merely a symbol but is crucial for public trust and consumer protection.

The principle of fairness in the implementation of Halal Product Guarantee (JPH) requires fair services that do not discriminate between business actors, whether large or small, as well as all levels of society. A study entitled "Ethical Analysis of Islamic Business in Beef Sales at Bongki Village Slaughterhouse" illustrates the application of the principle of fairness through equitable services for all parties. Additionally, research by (Ashfahany, 2024) emphasizes that levels of religiosity and awareness of halal have a significant impact on consumers' decisions to purchase halal products, highlighting the importance of fair access to halal certification. Therefore, justice is not only about formal rights and obligations but also ensuring equality in access to trustworthy halal products, regardless of consumers' socioeconomic backgrounds.

The principle of legal certainty falls under the category of "legal objectives" with the distinctive feature of "ensuring the halal status of products through official certification." This principle highlights the importance of law as a means of protection for both the public and businesses. (Arifin, 2020), in their article titled "Halal Product Certification in the Development of SMEs in Indonesia," emphasize that legal certainty is the cornerstone of the halal certification process. A study titled "Health Products in the Culinary Industry in Surakarta" (Nurhayati et al., 2022) also shows that despite high awareness, many SMEs fail to obtain certification due to complex procedures and high costs, rendering legal certainty merely a theoretical concept.

The principles of accountability and transparency are categorized as "management principles for the implementation of JPH," with the distinguishing feature being "the ability to provide accountability and accessibility to the public." Referring to the article "The Urgency of Halal Labeling on Food Products from an Islamic Law Perspective" (Sholichah, 2023), the halal labeling process must be conducted in an open, verifiable manner, and follow the official certification system through a state-recognized institution known as the BPJPH. A bibliometric study conducted (Apriantoro et al., 2024) supports this point by emphasizing that the rapid growth of the global halal industry requires a transparent, traceable, and publicly recognized halal certification system. Halal claims without official certification lose their authority and can undermine public trust, which ultimately endangers the value of halal itself among Muslims.

The principles of effectiveness and efficiency are related to the "method of implementing JPH," which is distinguished by "a focus on maximum results with minimal use of resources, speed, and affordable costs." This aspect is very important to ensure that halal services do not burden business actors, especially among MSMEs. Lokot Zein Nasution highlights the importance of effective institutional frameworks within the halal ecosystem to ensure that certification processes are swift and cost-effective. (Alam et al., 2024) also emphasize that overlapping regulations and complex procedures can hinder the halal sector, necessitating a simpler, more integrated, and cost-effective certification system.

The principle of professionalism falls under the category of "human resources in the implementation of JPH" with the distinguishing feature of "prioritizing skills and etiquette." This principle requires individuals undergoing halal certification to possess strong knowledge, integrity, and high ethical standards to ensure reliable results. The article written by Firdayani and Inti Ulfi Sholichah emphasizes the importance of developing professional

human resources, particularly for small food producers facing certification challenges due to a lack of understanding of complex laws and procedures. Professional quality is also crucial in public education and awareness campaigns to promote compliance among SMEs.

Table 1. Analysis of Halal Product Guarantee Principles with Genus and Differentia

Foundation	Genus	Differentia
Protection	Purpose of organizing JPH	Providing protection to the Muslim community
Justice	Implementation of JPH	Proportionality for every citizen
Legal Certainty	Purpose of law	Guarantee the halalness of products that are formally proven through halal certificates
Accountability and Transparency	Principles of governance for the implementation of JPH	Accountability and accessibility to the public
Effectiveness and Efficiency	How to organize JPH	Orientation to optimal results with minimal use of resources, fast, and affordable costs
Professionalism	Human resources in the implementation of JPH	Prioritization of expertise based on competence and code of ethics

The objectives of Law Number 33 of 2014, Article 3, encompass two main goals based on a genus and differentia approach. The first goal, “to provide comfort, security, safety, and certainty regarding the existence of Halal Products,” focuses on consumer protection, with four distinct aspects: mental comfort, health, safety during consumption, and availability of Halal products. This emphasizes that Halal Product Certification has a profound nature, ensuring fair access, especially for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). If certification costs remain a burden for MSMEs, then the principle of protection in this objective has not been fully realized.

The article by (Lutviana & Wahid, 2023) investigates the initiative for free halal certification based on Article 3 of Law Number 33 of 2014, with an emphasis on consumer protection. Although the law guarantees the safety and security of halal products, the study shows that a number of businesses in Geger Subdistrict do not fully understand or comply with the established certification requirements. The main challenges faced include the lack of guidelines and administrative costs such as the NIB, which burden micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises. If these cost barriers are not addressed, the intended protective objectives will not be achieved. Additionally, the limited scope of the SEHATI Program raises doubts about the effectiveness of the affirmative policy.

The objective of “adding value to companies in producing and marketing halal products” aims to strengthen competitive advantages in the halal economy sector, with an emphasis on developing incentives through marketing strategies, product trust, and access to global markets. Halal regulations should serve as a driver of business progress, not as an

administrative and financial burden, especially in the current digital economy context. Therefore, halal services must transform into an efficient, fast, and transparent digital system. Enhancing innovation in halal services, including information systems, streamlining processes, and adjusting costs, is a key factor in achieving the goal of adding value to the economy.

Research conducted (Lubis et al., 2022) shows that the objective of halal regulations to “offer added value to businesses” has not been fully achieved. Micro, small, and medium enterprises in Southern Labuhanbatu face various challenges such as limited access to information, high costs, and complicated certification processes, causing many of them to focus on the local market. In fact, halal regulations should be provided as fast, efficient, and innovative digital services. Without accelerated digitalization and simplification of procedures, the objectives outlined in Article 3 of Law Number 33 of 2014 risk becoming mere formalities without enhancing the competitiveness of MSMEs.

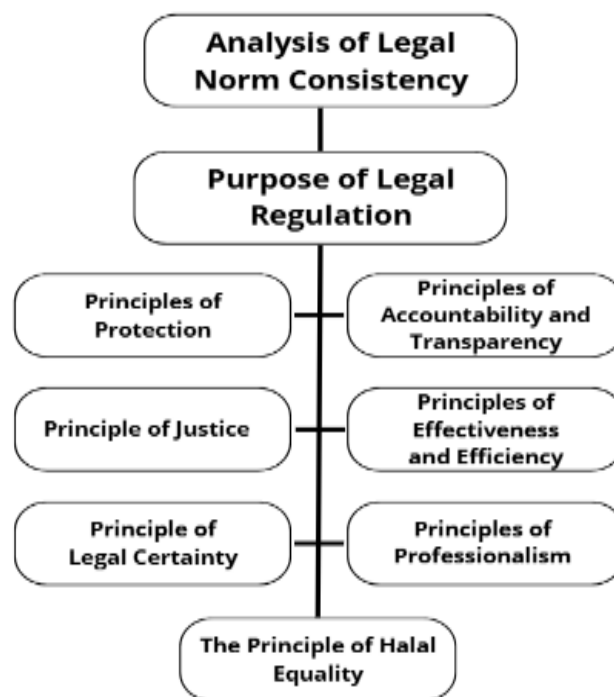


Figure 1. Theoretical Framework of Legal Norm Alignment Analysis

The implementation of Law No. 33 of 2014 should reflect a balance between existing regulations and the ideal aspirations of halal policy, namely protecting Muslim consumers and ensuring certainty and fairness in halal trade. However, various studies indicate significant discrepancies between written norms and implementation, particularly regarding Article 44(1) and (2) on halal certification costs. The noble aspirations of this regulation have not been fully realized due to the absence of concrete affirmative actions, resulting in SMEs facing difficulties in effectively following the halal certification process.

From a conceptual point of view, Article 44(2) of Law No. 33 of 2014, which authorises support for micro and small enterprises, has a normative weakness in that it is not binding.

This ambiguity contradicts the fundamental principles of legal certainty and enforceability. As a result, MSMEs continue to bear the burden of certification costs, which is contrary to the principles of fairness and non-discrimination. This situation creates an inequity between the ideal standards that should support small businesses and the actual conditions that continue to burden operators.

Several studies, such as those presented by (Mendorong et al., 2021), (Pembelian et al., 2020), and (J. D. Hukum & Hukum, 2023), consistently show that the costs of halal certification remain the main obstacle for MSMEs in accessing halal guarantee schemes. Meanwhile, in regulatory legal theory, every legal norm aimed at creating social change must be designed with institutions and technical aspects capable of realizing its normative effects. In this context, the absence of implementation mechanisms, funding, and oversight to facilitate financing causes the norms in Article 44(2) of Law No. 33 of 2014 to lose their ability to be implemented in practice.

The inconsistency between legal norms and principles is also evident in the way Law No. 33 of 2014 fails to enforce the position of Article 44(2) as *lex specialis* that overrides the general obligations stipulated in paragraph (1) for MSMEs. As explained by Nurfaqih Irfani (2020), the failure to establish specific norms clearly renders the protection for small businesses ineffective. This results in a discrepancy between norms and the principle of legal effectiveness, as the objective of the regulation is not substantially achieved due to the weak enforceability of the norms in Article 44(2) of Law No. 33 of 2014.

The substance of Article 44 of Law No. 33 of 2014 appears inconsistent with the principle of legal interest, as it has an exclusive impact on small businesses, which are the primary target for improving the quality of national halal products. Research by Sugeng Santoso et al. (2021) indicates that high perceived costs hinder SMEs' intention to obtain certification, thereby closing access to broader halal markets. This contradicts the original purpose of halal regulation as an inclusive and participatory assurance system. Therefore, aligning norms and regulations requires reaffirming the imperative nature of cost facilitation.

Adjusting the legal norms on halal certification costs in Article 44 of Law No. 33 of 2014 with legal principles can only be achieved through a reconstructive approach to weak norms. This includes strengthening the imperative nature of cost norms, establishing technical implementation mechanisms, and integrating state or third-party budget support through regulations. Without these affirmative steps, normative provisions intended to create substantive justice risk fostering a legal tendency against small businesses. Therefore, the analysis of legal norm harmony in the context of halal certification financing must always be situated within a functional, fair, and effective legal protection framework.

2. Discussion

The main pillar of halal regulation is the principle of protection, which requires standards to protect the rights of Muslim consumers and economic operators, especially micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). However, Article 44(2) of Law No. 33 of 2014, which states that MSMEs may receive support in terms of financing, does not provide certainty in the implementation of protection. Its optional nature reduces its effectiveness as a legal

instrument, and MSMEs are still forced to bear high certification costs. (Hasan et al., 2024) emphasise that while the halal certification system is transparent, current quality control remains inadequate, limiting protection, especially for businesses claiming halal status without strong control.

Table 2. The Relationship between the Principle of Protection and the Article on Halal Certification Fees

Foundation	Article	Explanation
Protection	Article 44	The cost of halal certification is the responsibility of the business operator. However, for micro and small businesses, these costs may be subsidised by the government, social institutions or other organisations. This provides a legal guarantee that small businesses can ensure that their products remain halal.
	Article 45	BPJPH manages finances using public service agency methods that guarantee transparency and effectiveness. This provides protection from illegal fees and ensures accountability in the management of certification costs

This table summarizes the core provisions of the protection rules set forth in Articles 44 and 45 of Law No. 33 of 2014. Article 44 provides certainty that small businesses are entitled to obtain halal certification even if they face financial difficulties, while Article 45 stipulates that the BPJPH must manage certification costs in a transparent and accountable manner. Although there is support in the form of financing, legal analysis indicates a lack of interest, as small businesses are still burdened by certification expenses. Overall, these two articles aim to protect small businesses and ensure reliability within the halal certification system.

The principle of fairness requires balance and equal treatment between large companies and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). However, the provisions of Article 44 of Law No. 33 of 2014 do not fulfil true fairness, as the lack of clarity on the cost aspect causes MSMEs to bear the same burden as large companies. This situation creates inequality that contradicts the values of social justice. (Jure et al., 2021) argues that halal products produced by MSMEs without proper supervision can harm consumers and threaten their spiritual rights if not supported by adequate facilities.

Table 3. Relationship between the Principle of Justice and Halal Certification Cost Provisions

Foundation	Article	Explanation
Justice	Article 44	The cost of halal certification is borne by business actors, but micro and small businesses can be facilitated by the government or other institutions. This reflects the principle of justice so that all business actors, including small ones, can still guarantee the halalness of their products.
	Article 45	Financial management by BPJPH follows the principle of public service agency regulated by Ministerial Regulation, ensuring efficiency, transparency, and accountability, and avoiding discrimination in halal certification fees.

This table explains the principles of fairness contained in Articles 44 and 45 of Law Number 33 of 2014. Article 44 ensures that small businesses have access to financing for the halal certification process, in order to promote fairness. Article 45 emphasizes the importance of transparent and accountable management of certification costs by the BPJPH, preventing discrimination, and protecting all business operators. Overall, these provisions demonstrate the government's commitment to maintaining fairness in the halal certification system, particularly for micro and small businesses.

Third, the principle of legal certainty demands that every norm be implemented clearly and reliably. However, as described in the findings of various studies, including by Achmad Donny and Safik Faozi, the norm of Article 44 paragraph (2) loses its enforceability because it is not followed by technical and institutional mechanisms that support its implementation. Further strengthening this, Lukman Santoso and Abdul Rachman (2023) stated that the digitalization of halal certification should be used to fill the legal certainty gap, especially by streamlining the certification process for MSEs and making it more accessible and transparent. Without strong digital governance, halal certification risks remaining bureaucratic and inaccessible for vulnerable groups.

Table 4. Relationship Between Legal Certainty and Halal Certification Costs

Foundation	Article	Explanation
Legal Certainty	Article 44	The cost of halal certification is borne by business actors, with the provision that micro and small businesses can be facilitated by other parties. This provides legal certainty for cost responsibility and accessibility for small businesses.
	Article 45	BPJPH manages finances with a transparent and accountable public service agency system, ensures cost management is carried out efficiently and provides legal certainty in organizing halal certification.

This table outlines the principles of fairness contained in Articles 44 and 45 of Law Number 33 of 2014. Article 44 provides facilities for obtaining halal certification financing for small businesses to encourage equal participation. Article 45 ensures transparency and accountability in the management of costs by the BPJPH to prevent discriminatory actions. Overall, these articles demonstrate the government's commitment to maintaining fairness in the halal certification system, particularly for micro and small businesses.

Fourth, the principles of accountability and transparency which should be the foundation of JPH governance have not been reflected in the regulation of halal certification financing. The lack of clarity of facilitation procedures, the absence of public information regarding the criteria for recipients of assistance, and the lack of supervision and evaluation of the implementation of Article 44 paragraph (2) show weak transparency and state accountability. Echoing this, (J. Hukum & Vol, 2024) emphasized that effective halal regulation must integrate clear information disclosure and accessible certification mechanisms to maintain public trust in halal guarantees.

Table 5. The Relationship Between Accountability and Transparency with Halal Certification Costs.

Foundation	Article	Explanation
Accountability and Transparency	Article 44	The cost of halal certification is borne by business actors, but micro and small businesses can be facilitated by other parties. This reflects transparency and accountability in financing, involving various parties so that the cost burden does not burden small businesses.
	Article 45	BPJPH manages finances using a public service agency system that ensures a clear, open and accountable management mechanism. This shows the application of accountability and transparency in the entire halal certification process.

The table above outlines the principles of accountability and transparency contained in Articles 44 and 45 of Law No. 33 of 2014. Article 44 explains that although the cost of halal certification is borne by the economic operators, MSMEs have the possibility to obtain financial support from other sources, reflecting the aspect of accountability in terms of funding. Article 45 stipulates that the BPJPH is obliged to manage finances in a clear, open and accountable manner, reaffirming the BPJPH's commitment to apply principles of accountability and transparency in the halal certification process, ensuring that the system is fair and reliable for all business operators, including SMEs.

Fifth, the principles of effectiveness and efficiency emphasize that the legal system must provide optimal results with proportional use of resources. However, conditions in the field show that the regulation of halal certification financing still significantly burdens MSEs, both in terms of cost and time. Research by (S. Santoso et al., 2021). shows that the perception of high costs reduces the interest of MSEs in the certification process. Therefore, the failure to present an efficient and integrated system reflects a mismatch between norms and principles of effectiveness, which has a direct impact on the slow penetration of halal certification among MSEs.

Table 6. Relationship between the Principles of Effectiveness and Efficiency with Articles on Halal Certification Fees

Foundation	Article	Explanation
Effectiveness and Efficiency	Article 44	The cost of halal certification is charged to business actors, but for micro and small businesses it can be facilitated by other parties. This shows an efficient and effective system in ensuring accessibility of certification for all levels of business actors.
	Article 45	BPJPH manages finances with a public service agency system to maintain transparency and efficiency, ensuring certification costs are not excessive and can be accounted for.

This table illustrates the principles of accountability and transparency enshrined in Articles 44 and 45 of Law No. 33 of 2014. Article 44 ensures that micro and small businesses can access financial support through the promotion of clear and accountable funding mechanisms. Article 45 stipulates that the BPJPH must manage certification costs in an open and responsible manner to enhance trust in the halal certification system. Overall, these provisions reflect a commitment to fair, transparent, and accountable practices, particularly in protecting the interests of small businesses within the halal certification framework.

Sixth, the principle of professionalism demands that JPH be implemented by competent, ethical and responsive apparatus. However, the fact that many businesses do not understand the certification process and do not receive adequate assistance indicates weak institutional capacity in reaching MSE groups. In addition, unpreparedness in providing systemic facilitation and education strengthens the gap in access to information and financing. Thus, to realize a professional and inclusive legal system, strengthening JPH human resources and institutions is an absolute necessity.

Table 7. Relationship between the Principles of Professionalism and the Article on Halal Certification Fees

Foundation	Article	Explanation
Professionalism	Article 44	The cost of halal certification is borne by business actors as a form of professional responsibility. For micro and small businesses, costs can be facilitated by other parties as a form of professionalism that considers technical expertise and ethical and social responsibility.
	Article 45	BPJPH manages finances through a BLU system that demands professionalism standards in fund governance. This reflects the technical competence and ethics of modern bureaucracy in supporting quality halal certification services.

This table outlines the principles of professionalism contained in Articles 44 and 45 of Law No. 33 of 2014. Article 44 stipulates that the costs for halal certification are the responsibility of professionals, while also allowing for financial assistance for micro and small businesses to fulfill their social and ethical obligations. Article 45 requires the BPJPH to manage its budget through a public service system, with a focus on technical competence and ethical governance. Overall, these articles strengthen the role of professionalism in ensuring the quality, integrity, and standards of halal certification in Indonesia.

Based on the law of non-contradiction and the prohibition of middle ground, there is a normative inconsistency in Law No. 33 of 2014, in particular between Article 44(2) and the principle of protection contained in Article 2(a). Although the law requires the government to provide protection to Muslim consumers and SMEs through the JPH system, the reduction of certification costs for SMEs is only voluntary, not mandatory. This may hinder effective implementation. Referring to the principle of no middle ground, the norm must clearly state whether this relief is mandatory or not, to avoid interpretations that could reduce legal protection.

An inconsistency is evident when comparing Article 44(1) and (2) on the principle of fairness. Paragraph (1) states that all economic operators shall bear the costs of certification, while paragraph (2) mentions that other parties may assist MSMEs. In terms of the principle of non-contradiction, there is a conflict between the two standards unless they are hierarchical and binding. This ambiguity leads to confusion about the responsibility of SMEs to bear the costs of certification, which could lead to significant inequities. This situation opens the door to covert discrimination and violates the principles of proportionality and positive action as mentioned in Article 2(b).

Furthermore, the application of the principle of legal certainty reveals internal inconsistency when examined through Article 44(2). Although it indicates that SMEs may receive financial assistance, this provision fails to outline operational mechanisms, procedures, or adequate guarantees. From a non-contradiction perspective, offering concessions without concrete mechanisms to implement them is problematic. Furthermore, based on the principle of exclusion of the middle position, the law should clearly establish obligations or reject such facilitation, rather than placing it in an uncertain situation. This ambiguity weakens legal certainty, which, according to Article 2(c) and the General Explanation, should serve as the foundation for the protection provided to MSMEs.

Inconsistency is also evident in the principles of accountability and transparency contained in Article 2(d) and Article 44(2). Although the law requires the implementation of JPH with accountability, the voluntary nature of cost relief and the lack of transparency mechanisms contradict this intention. From a non-contradictory perspective, it is not permissible to claim transparency without providing channels for public information and oversight. Eliminating the middle ground requires norms to choose between enforceable obligations or none at all, rather than leaving the situation in a state of uncertainty. This ambiguity reduces government accountability and hinders equal access to halal certification.

On the other hand, if we look at it from the perspective of effectiveness and efficiency, Article 44 paragraph (2) shows a recurring structural inconsistency. A norm cannot simultaneously require businesses to bear costs while offering facilitation as an optional measure without making it an enforceable obligation. This duality creates a paradox: on one hand, it acknowledges the financial burden faced by SMEs, but on the other hand, it does not provide reliable affirmative steps. In the context of removing the middle option, the law should clearly choose to either mandate facilitation or not at all. Leaving this open hinders the norm from achieving functional effectiveness and creates internal contradictions that undermine legal certainty for MSME actors.

The principle of professionalism contained in Article 2(f) reveals a contradiction in norms when applied in practice. Although the law emphasizes the importance of professional competence and ethics in the JPH system, institutional capacity support for MSMEs, such as education, training, and access to halal certification, remains minimal. From a non-contradictory perspective, it is illogical to prioritize professionalism while allowing fundamental weaknesses in information distribution and service delivery to persist. In order to eliminate the middle ground, dedication to professionalism must be demonstrated through concrete actions, not merely statements without clear steps. The absence of well-defined

procedures results in professionalism becoming nothing more than an empty claim without tangible actions.

Overall, the implementation of Law No. 33 of 2014 demonstrates systemic normative inconsistencies in various key principles—protection, justice, legal certainty, transparency, efficiency, and professionalism. The facilitation of costs for optional certification, without operational support, serves as an example of a broader issue where legal norms fail to clearly enforce stated objectives. The ambiguity in choosing between conflicting legal statuses creates a regulatory environment that is not only inconsistent but also unfair, especially for vulnerable groups such as MSMEs. This inconsistency weakens the strength, implementation, and credibility of the halal certification framework, highlighting the urgent need for normative reforms to restore consistency, fairness, and legal certainty in the halal assurance system.

D. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This study thoroughly explores the compatibility of legal norms regarding halal certification costs, as stated in Law Number 33 of 2014 concerning Halal Product Guarantee, with the core principles of legal justice and effectiveness in the context of the Islamic economy. Through the legal analysis conducted, it is evident that these norms, particularly those outlined in Article 44(1) and (2) of Law No. 33 of 2014, are not fully aligned with the regulatory objectives, especially regarding the financial burden imposed on micro and small enterprises. Although this law aims to support financial assistance for MSMEs, the non-binding nature of the assistance outlined in Article 44(2) weakens the legal force of these provisions, thereby creating a disparity between the intent of the law and its actual implementation. This gap hinders the ideal protection that should be provided by the regulations, whereby MSMEs continue to face significant challenges due to the high costs of certification, which is contrary to the principle of fairness that underpins the law.

Further analysis reveals inconsistencies in the application of the principles of legal certainty, fairness, and effectiveness in relation to halal certification. Legal provisions regarding cost assistance remain voluntary, weakening the certainty of protection for SMEs and contradicting the principle of fairness, especially since large companies do not face the same financial pressures. Additionally, the absence of clear procedural mechanisms to ensure that cost assistance is effectively implemented by the responsible parties further exacerbates the issue, resulting in the Law's inability to achieve the desired outcomes.

Furthermore, this analysis underscores the importance of reform within the regulatory framework to clarify and strengthen the implementation of norms, particularly regarding cost assistance for SMEs. There is an urgent need for stricter legal provisions making cost assistance mandatory, rather than merely optional, to align with the primary objectives of regulation, such as ensuring fair access to halal certification for all types of businesses, regardless of scale.

In conclusion, although Law No. 33 of 2014 on Halal Product Guarantee has laid a significant foundation for halal product certification in Indonesia, its current implementation has not fully achieved the expected legal and ethical objectives. These findings highlight the need for a more comprehensive legal approach, including the mandatory provision of certification cost facilities and the strengthening of procedural mechanisms, to create a halal

certification system that is truly inclusive and fair for SMEs. This study provides important insights into the necessity of legal reforms to ensure that halal certification becomes an affordable and effective tool for all businesses, with the ultimate goal of enhancing the integrity of Indonesia's halal industry.

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- products . 3 Halal lifestyle is related to food and drink , fashion , Halal tourism , 4 shari ' ah banking , shari ' ah hotels , and other life necessities . Within the Muslim community , Islam is a significant component . Islamic religious practices are defined as the whole range of thinking , saying , doing , and setting principles , as well as making decisions and acting on them based on religious understanding and knowledge . It has the power to shape and elevate the value of people on an intellectual , physical , emotional , and spiritual level . The lack of implementation of religious practices , particularly in the workplace , reflects the Islamic faith during the time. 23(1), 41-78.
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