

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

Petition for Issuance of Rule )  
Pursuant to Title 9 CFR Part 392 )  
Requiring the Labeling of Poultry, )  
Poultry Products, Meat, and Meat )  
Food Products to Advise Consumers )  
Of the Presence of Ritually )  
Slaughtered Poultry or Meat and )  
Of the Type of Ritual Slaughter )  
Employed )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

CITIZEN PETITION

Submitted by:

SIOA, a Division of  
American Freedom Defense Initiative  
1040 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, #121  
New York, NY 10022

Phone: (516) 426-7630

FSIS Docket Clerk  
Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Room 2534 South Building  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

## **I. REQUESTED ACTION—ISSUANCE OF RULES**

### **A. Action Requested**

Pursuant to 9 CFR § 392, Petitioner requests the administrator of the Food Inspection and Safety Service (FSIS) issue rules requiring that:

1. Labels of all ritually slaughtered poultry advise consumers of (a) the fact that the poultry was ritually slaughtered and (b) the type of ritual slaughter employed (i.e. Kosher, Halal [Islamic], etc...);
2. Labels of all ritually slaughtered meat advise consumers of (a) the fact that the meat is from a ritually slaughtered animal and (b) the type of ritually slaughter employed;
3. Labels of poultry products that contain ritually slaughtered poultry advise consumers of (a) the fact that the poultry product contains ritually slaughtered poultry and (b) the type of ritual slaughter employed; and
4. Labels of all meat food products that contain ritually slaughtered meat advise consumers of (a) the fact that the meat food product contains meat from a ritually slaughtered animal and (b) the type of ritual slaughter employed.

Current labeling practice—by failing to disclose whether foodstuffs consist of, either *in toto* or in part, ritually slaughtered poultry or meat—communicates deceptive, false, and misleading information to the average consumer. The average consumer, in absence of label advice communicating the presence of ritually slaughtered contents, justifiably assumes that foodstuffs contain only conventionally slaughtered poultry or meat. However, it is not necessarily true that poultry or meat is conventionally slaughtered simply because ritual slaughter advice is not included on a foodstuff's label. Therefore, the absence of information

regarding the presence of ritually slaughtered poultry or animal contents is an omission of material fact that causes poultry, poultry products, meat, and meat food products to be “**misbranded.**”<sup>1</sup>

**B. Proposed Wording of Rules**

Petitioner requests that the administrator of the FSIS adopt the following rules in order to ensure that labels of: (a) ritually slaughtered poultry; (b) ritually slaughtered meat; (c) poultry products containing ritually slaughtered poultry; and (d) meat food products containing ritually slaughtered meat are transparent and communicate a materially complete and honest message to the average consumer.

1. As to ritually slaughtered poultry and poultry products that contain ritually slaughtered poultry, the label should conspicuously state on its front panel, “**Contains poultry ritually slaughtered according to [insert type of ritual slaughter (Kosher, Halal [Islamic], etc...)] dietary law.**”

2. As to ritually slaughtered meat and meat food products that contain meat from ritually slaughtered animals, the label should conspicuously state on its front panel, “**Contains meat from animals ritually slaughtered according to [insert type of ritual slaughter (Kosher, Halal [Islamic], etc...)] dietary law.**”

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<sup>1</sup> 21 U.S.C. §453(h)(1) defines as misbranded any **poultry product** whose “labeling is false or **misleading in any particular**” (Attached as Exhibit A); 21 U.S.C. §601(n)(1) defines as misbranded any **carcass, part thereof, meat or meat food product** whose “labeling is false or **misleading in any particular**” (Attached as Exhibit B).

## II. FACTUAL AND LEGAL BASIS SUPPORTING PETITIONER'S REQUEST FOR RULEMAKING

### A. The Absence of Rules Requiring Labels to Disclose Whether Goods Are Comprised in Whole or in Part of Ritually Slaughtered Poultry or Meat Has Injected Confusion Into the Market And Prevented Consumers from Receiving Consistent, Reliable, and Accurate Information.

Underscoring the need for a change in the current labeling regime is the fact that Customer Service Representatives at some of the largest poultry processors in the United States are unable to give consumers consistent, reliable, and accurate information regarding the slaughter of poultry at their facilities. A consumer, in an email dated October 27, 2010, asked Pilgrim's Pride whether the company engaged in Halal slaughter.<sup>2</sup> Pilgrim's Pride responded the next day and stated their P84a facility "is capable of producing Halal products, as well as the other products [Pilgrim's Pride] produce[s]."<sup>3</sup> However, in response, the consumer noted that ritual slaughter occurs at a slaughter plant and the P84a facility is not a slaughter plant, but rather is a processing facility.<sup>4</sup> Information on file with the FSIS received on October 14, 2011, confirms the consumer's assertion that the P84a facility is not a slaughter facility.<sup>5</sup> In addition to not being aware of whether poultry is made Halal at the point of slaughter or the point of processing, Pilgrim's Pride provided the consumer with a very incomplete response to her question concerning which Pilgrim's Pride facilities perform Halal slaughter. The consumer's initial inquiry requested the USDA establishment numbers of all Pilgrim's Pride facilities that

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<sup>2</sup> Pilgrim's Pride, Customer Service Inquiry via Pilgrim's Pride's website, October 27, 2010 (Attached as Exhibit C).

<sup>3</sup> Pilgrim's Pride, Email from Customer Relations Representative [REDACTED] October 28, 2010 (Attached as Exhibit C).

<sup>4</sup> [REDACTED] Email to Pilgrim's Pride Consumer Relations Department, October 28, 2010 (Attached as Exhibit C).

<sup>5</sup> Food Safety and Inspection Service, Determination Letter Pursuant to [REDACTED] October 9, 2011 Freedom of Information (FOIA) request and excel file containing all establishments that perform religious slaughter and their corresponding ID numbers, October 14, 2011 (Attached as Exhibit D).

engaged in Halal slaughter.<sup>6</sup> Although Pilgrim's Pride disclosed one facility that its Consumer Relations Representative believed was capable of producing Halal poultry,<sup>7</sup> information obtained from the FSIS shows that Pilgrim's Pride had five facilities capable of Islamic ritual slaughter as of October 14, 2011.<sup>8</sup>

Petitioner acknowledges, based on information currently available to it, it is possible that Pilgrim's Pride constructed these five Halal-capable facilities and put them into operation within the year following the email exchange between Pilgrim's Pride and the consumer. However, Petitioner asserts that scenario is unlikely. Instead, the more likely explanation is that poultry processors are ill equipped to handle even basic inquiries regarding: (a) what facilities are capable of performing ritual slaughter; (b) what point of processing determines whether poultry has been ritually slaughtered; and (c) which specific products or batches or products are ritually slaughtered.

The problem of providing confusing information is not confined to a single processor; but rather is a problem shared among the leaders in the poultry processing industry and may be a systemic problem. To proffer another example, Butterball, one of the largest turkey processors in the United States, in a November 14, 2011 email, made the unequivocal statement that "Our whole turkeys are certified halal."<sup>9</sup> However, in an email dated December 2, 2011, just a few

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<sup>6</sup> Pilgrim's Pride, Customer Service Inquiry via Pilgrim's Pride's website, October 27, 2010 (Attached as Exhibit C).

<sup>7</sup> Pilgrim's Pride, Email from Customer Relations Representative [REDACTED], October 28, 2010 (Attached as Exhibit C).

<sup>8</sup> Food Safety and Inspection Service, Determination Letter Pursuant to [REDACTED] October 9, 2011 Freedom of Information (FIOA) request and excel file containing all establishments that perform religious slaughter and their corresponding ID numbers, October 14, 2011 (Attached as Exhibit D).

<sup>9</sup> Butterball, Email from Customer Response Representative [REDACTED], Reference Number Y453882, November 14, 2011 (Attached as Exhibit E).

days after Butterball stated that all of its whole turkeys are certified Halal, it told a representative from Wal-Mart that “no domestic Butterball products are certified halal.”<sup>10</sup> These two emails from Butterball, just a couple of weeks apart, highlight the confusion that exists under the current labeling regime and demonstrate the need for the FSIS to articulate formal, binding rules to inject clarity in the market—for the benefit of both processors and consumers.

Moreover, the emails from this large turkey processor demonstrate that consumers may experience difficulty receiving consistent, reliable, or accurate information about products marketed for their consumption unless the FSIS issues rules that require processors to disclose through accurate labeling when foodstuffs consist of or contain ritually slaughtered poultry or meat. Unless the FSIS issues rules that require accurate labeling of foodstuffs advising the average consumer of the presence of ritually slaughtered poultry or meat, processors will continue to withhold this material information from consumers. If the status quo is maintained, then average consumers will continue to receive less-than-reliable and less-than-completely-accurate material information about the poultry, meat, poultry products, and meat food products that they are asked to purchase and consume.

**B. By Omitting to Provide Consumers With Material Facts Concerning the Processing of Poultry and Meat, Current Labeling Practice: (a) Results in Foodstuffs Being “Misbranded” Because Such an Omission Causes the Label to Communicate False and Misleading Information to Consumers and (b) Denies Consumers of Their Right to be Fully Informed of Material Facts Concerning the Processing of Foodstuffs Marketed to Them.**

The fact that two of the largest poultry processors in the United States could not relay a consistent, complete, or accurate message about their products demonstrates that the absence of accurate labeling, which discloses all material facts, causes consumers to be both misled and

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<sup>10</sup> Wal Mart, Email from Vice President Corporate Affairs [REDACTED], December 2, 2011 (Attached as Exhibit F).

denied material facts about foodstuffs. Petitioner does not impugn the industry's motives, but instead Petitioner contends it is inevitable, in the absence of binding rules from the FSIS, that processors will pass on confusing and conflicting product information to consumers. It is possible to reconcile Butterball's seemingly diametrically opposed remarks in light of current labeling practices. Butterball, and other poultry processors, may ritually slaughter all of their poultry as a matter of convenience in order to have a single, standardized practice at their processing plants. Although all of the poultry processed may be ritually slaughtered, the processor only "certifies" and labels as ritually slaughtered that portion of output that is destined for a particular niche market (Kosher, Halal [Islamic], etc...). The remaining portion of poultry output that is destined for the general market, although ritually slaughtered, is stamped only with the USDA's stamp of inspection and any mention of ritual slaughter is omitted and withheld from the average consumer in the general market.

**1. Some Foodstuffs are Currently "Misbranded" Because Their Labels Communicate a False and Misleading Message to Consumers.**

Poultry, Poultry Products, Meat, and Meat Food Products are "misbranded" when their labels are "false or misleading in any particular."<sup>11</sup> Under the current labeling regime, poultry and meat receive the USDA mark of inspection if the bird or animal is both slaughtered in conformity with applicable statutes and FSIS rules and regulations. Processors and manufacturers of poultry and meat foodstuffs are not required to advise consumers of the presence of ritually slaughtered poultry or meat. However, they do voluntarily affix a certification on the label advising all consumers that the product conforms to the unique ritual

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<sup>11</sup> 21 U.S.C. §453(h)(1) (statute applicable to poultry and poultry product labeling) (Attached as Exhibit A); 21 U.S.C. §601(n)(1) (statute applicable to the labeling of meat and meat food products) (Attached as Exhibit B).

requirements of a particular niche audience (Kosher, Halal [Islamic], etc...) when a foodstuff is marketed to that niche.

Under the current regime, ritually slaughtered poultry and meat is introduced into the general market without advising the average, non-niche consumer that the poultry or meat was ritually slaughtered. The average consumer assumes—quiet justifiably—that poultry, poultry products, meat, and meat food products contain only conventionally slaughtered poultry or meat when their labels bear only the USDA inspection mark; and by extension, the average consumer believes that all products containing ritually slaughtered poultry and meat have included the supervising authority’s “certification” on their labels.

Under current labeling practice—which has confused the marketplace by labeling only some, but not all, ritually slaughtered poultry and meat as such—the average consumer is allowed to be deceived into the false assumption that only those foodstuffs whose labels show a ritual or religious “certification” contain ritually slaughtered poultry or meat. Current practice allows processors and manufacturers of foodstuffs to communicate passively, and perhaps unintentionally, a false and misleading message to consumers—that is to say, a consumer is led to believe, in the absence of ritual/religious certification, poultry or meat bearing the USDA inspection mark was conventionally slaughtered. Therefore, current labeling practice causes poultry, poultry products, meat, and meat food products that contain ritually slaughtered poultry or meat—but whose labels do not disclose the presence of the foodstuffs’ ritually slaughtered contents—to be **misbranded** because their labels communicate a false and misleading message regarding how the foodstuffs’ contents were processed.

**2. Current Labeling Practice Denies Consumers of Their Right to Make a Fully Informed Purchase Decision By Failing to Inform Consumers of the Presence of Ritually Slaughtered Poultry and Meat.**

It may be convenient or cost effective for processors to standardize their operations; and processors may consider it good marketing practice to withhold information concerning ritual slaughter from the average consumer. However, the practice deprives average consumers of a material fact—to which they are, or at least should be, entitled—concerning the preparation of foodstuffs marketed for their consumption.

It is every consumer's right to be fully advised about the processing and preparation of foodstuffs marketed for his or her consumption. By providing consumers with all material information, the consumer is assured that the foodstuff does not violate his or her religious beliefs and that he or she is not an unwitting participant in a market he or she has no desire to support. Members of subsets of certain religions hold a blanket objection to eating ritually slaughtered meat.<sup>12</sup> Current labeling practice, by not advising those who object to consuming ritually slaughtered products of the presence of ritually slaughtered poultry or meat, denies certain religious adherents an opportunity to be fully informed about their purchase decision and causes them violate their religious principles. Moreover, the non-religious—atheists and agnostics, for example—may wish to avoid ritually/religiously slaughtered poultry and meat in order to avoid participating in a market that generally furthers religious belief. Therefore, by not being advised that the foodstuffs they purchase contain ritually slaughtered poultry or meat, the non-religious are being deceived through omission of material fact into participating in a market they may wish to not support.

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<sup>12</sup> See, e.g., Sikh Information, Question and Answer Number 8, <http://www.info-sikh.com/GoraPage2.html> (last accessed January 11, 2012) (Attached as Exhibit G).

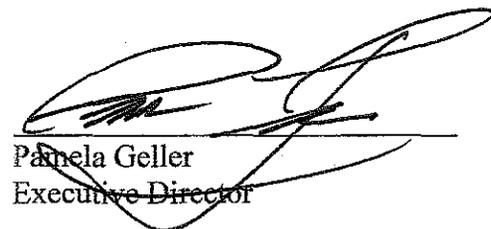
### III. CONCLUSION

The agency should grant petitioner's request to make rules requiring labels on all poultry, poultry products, meat and meat food products to advise the average consumer that the product either is ritually slaughtered poultry or meat or, in the case of poultry products and meat food products, contains ritually slaughtered poultry or meat. The rules should also require the labels of all poultry, poultry products, meat, and meat food products to specify the method of ritual slaughter employed. Granting petitioner's request would act to: (a) ensure the average, non-niche market consumer receives consistent, reliable, and accurate information concerning the processing of foodstuffs marketed to him or her; (b) ensure that poultry and meat foodstuffs are properly branded by requiring their labels to communicate a complete and truthful message to consumers; and (c) provide the average consumer with all material facts concerning the processing of foodstuffs marketed to him or her, allowing the average consumer to make a fully informed purchase decision.

### IV. CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that to the best of her knowledge and belief this petition includes all information and views on which the petition relies and that it includes representative data and information known to the petitioner that are unfavorable to the petition.

Respectfully Submitted,



Pamela Geller  
Executive Director

## Supporting Documentation—Exhibits

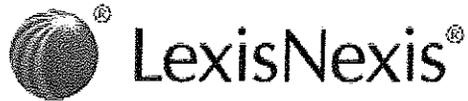
### A. Supporting Documentation—Statutes

1. Exhibit A..... 21 USC §453(h)(1)
2. Exhibit B..... 21 USC §601(n)(1)

### B. Supporting Documentation—Correspondence and Other Documentation

1. Exhibit C.....October 27-28, 2010, Email exchange between Consumer and Pilgrim's Pride Rep. Alicia Duck
2. Exhibit D.....October 14, 2011, FSIS response to Consumer's October 9, 2011 request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
3. Exhibit E.....November 14, 2011, Email from Butterball Rep. Wendy Howze
4. Exhibit F.....December 2, 2011, Email from Wal-Mart V.P. Lee Culpepper
5. Exhibit G.....*Sikh Information Website Printout, Sikh Basics and Misconceptions*

## **Exhibit A**



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\*\*\* Current through PL 112-80, with a gap of 112-74, approved 12/23/11 \*\*\*

TITLE 21. FOOD AND DRUGS  
CHAPTER 10. POULTRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS INSPECTION

Go to the United States Code Service Archive Directory

21 USCS § 453

§ 453. Definitions

For purposes of this Act [21 USCS §§ 451 et seq.]--

...

(h) The term "misbranded" shall apply to any poultry product under one or more of the following circumstances:

- (1) if its labeling is false or misleading in any particular;
- (2) if it is offered for sale under the name of another food;
- (3) if it is an imitation of another food, unless its label bears, in type of uniform size and prominence, the word "imitation" and immediately thereafter, the name of the food imitated;
- (4) if its container is so made, formed, or filled as to be misleading;
- (5) unless it bears a label showing (A) the name and the place of business of the manufacturer, packer, or distributor; and (B) an accurate statement of the quantity of the product in terms of weight, measure, or numerical count: *Provided*, That under clause (B) of this subparagraph (5), reasonable variations may be permitted, and exemptions as to small packages or articles not in packages or other containers may be established by regulations prescribed by the Secretary;
- (6) if any word, statement, or other information required by or under authority of this Act [21 USCS §§ 451 et seq.] to appear on the label or other labeling is not prominently placed thereon with such conspicuousness (as compared with other words, statements, designs, or devices, in the labeling) and in such terms as to render it likely to be read and understood by the ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase and use;
- (7) if it purports to be or is represented as a food for which a definition and standard of identity or composition has been prescribed by regulations of the Secretary under section 8 of this Act [21 USCS § 457] unless (A) it conforms to such definition and standard, and (B) its label bears the name of the food specified in the definition and standard and, insofar as may be required by such regulations, the common names of optional ingredients (other than spices, flavoring, and coloring) present in such food;
- (8) if it purports to be or is represented as a food for which a standard or standards of fill of container have been prescribed by regulations of the Secretary under section 8 of this Act [21 USCS § 457], and it falls below the standard of fill of container applicable thereto, unless its label bears, in such manner and form as such regulations specify, a statement that it falls below such standard;
- (9) if it is not subject to the provisions of subparagraph (7), unless its label bears (A) the common or usual name of the food, if any there be, and (B) in case it is fabricated from two or more ingredients, the common or usual name of each such ingredient; except that spices, flavorings, and colorings may, when authorized by the Secretary, be designated as spices, flavorings, and colorings without naming each: *Provided*, That to the extent that compliance with the re-

quirements of clause (B) of this subparagraph (9) is impracticable or results in deception or unfair competition, exemptions shall be established by regulations promulgated by the Secretary;

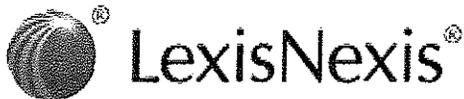
(10) if it purports to be or is represented for special dietary uses unless its label bears such information concerning its vitamin, mineral, and other dietary properties as the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, determines to be, and by regulations prescribes as, necessary in order fully to inform purchasers as to its value for such uses;

(11) if it bears or contains any artificial flavoring, artificial coloring, or chemical preservative, unless it bears labeling stating that fact: *Provided*, That, to the extent that compliance with the requirements of this subparagraph (11) is impracticable, exemptions shall be established by regulations promulgated by the Secretary; or

(12) if it fails to bear on its containers, and in the case of nonconsumer packaged carcasses (if the Secretary so requires) directly thereon, as the Secretary may by regulations prescribe, the official inspection legend and official establishment number of the establishment where the article was processed, and, unrestricted by any of the foregoing, such other information as the Secretary may require in such regulations to assure that it will not have false or misleading labeling and that the public will be informed of the manner of handling required to maintain the article in a wholesome condition.

...

## **Exhibit B**



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TITLE 21. FOOD AND DRUGS  
CHAPTER 12. MEAT INSPECTION  
INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS; ADULTERATION AND MISBRANDING

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21 USCS § 601

§ 601. Definitions

As used in this Act [21 USCS §§ 601 et seq.], except as otherwise specified, the following terms shall have the meanings stated below:

...

(n) The term "misbranded" shall apply to any carcass, part thereof, meat or meat food product under one or more of the following circumstances:

- (1) if its labeling is false or misleading in any particular;
- (2) if it is offered for sale under the name of another food;
- (3) if it is an imitation of another food, unless its label bears, in type of uniform size and prominence, the word "imitation" and immediately thereafter, the name of the food imitated;
- (4) if its container is so made, formed, or filled as to be misleading;
- (5) if in a package or other container unless it bears a label showing (A) the name and place of business of the manufacturer, packer, or distributor; and (B) an accurate statement of the quantity of the contents in terms of weight, measure, or numerical count: *Provided*, That under clause (B) of this subparagraph (5), reasonable variations may be permitted, and exemptions as to small packages may be established, by regulations prescribed by the Secretary;
- (6) if any word, statement, or other information required by or under authority of this Act [21 USCS §§ 601 et seq.] to appear on the label or other labeling is not prominently placed thereon with such conspicuousness (as compared with other words, statements, designs, or devices, in the labeling) and in such terms as to render it likely to be read and understood by the ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase and use;
- (7) if it purports to be or is represented as a food for which a definition and standard of identity or composition has been prescribed by regulations of the Secretary under section 7 of this Act [21 USCS § 607] unless (A) it conforms to such definition and standard, and (B) its label bears the name of the food specified in the definition and standard and, insofar as may be required by such regulations, the common names of optional ingredients (other than spices, flavoring, and coloring) present in such food;
- (8) if it purports to be or is represented as a food for which a standard or standards of fill of container have been prescribed by regulations of the Secretary under section 7 of this Act [21 USCS § 607], and it falls below the standard of fill of container applicable thereto, unless its label bears, in such manner and form as such regulations specify, a statement that it falls below such standard;
- (9) if it is not subject to the provisions of subparagraph (7), unless its label bears (A) the common or usual name of the food, if any there be, and (B) in case it is fabricated from two or more ingredients, the common or usual name of

each such ingredient; except that spices, flavorings, and colorings may, when authorized by the Secretary, be designated as spices, flavorings, and colorings without naming each: *Provided*, That, to the extent that compliance with the requirements of clause (B) of this subparagraph (9) is impracticable, or results in deception or unfair competition, exemptions shall be established by regulations promulgated by the Secretary;

(10) if it purports to be or is represented for special dietary uses, unless its label bears such information concerning its vitamin, mineral, and other dietary properties as the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare [Secretary of Health and Human Services], determines to be, and by regulations prescribes as, necessary in order fully to inform purchasers as to its value for such uses;

(11) if it bears or contains any artificial flavoring, artificial coloring, or chemical preservative, unless it bears labeling stating that fact: *Provided*, That, to the extent that compliance with the requirements of this subparagraph (11) is impracticable, exemptions shall be established by regulations promulgated by the Secretary; or

(12) if it fails to bear, directly thereon or on its container, as the Secretary may by regulations prescribe, the inspection legend and, unrestricted by any of the foregoing, such other information as the Secretary may require in such regulations to assure that it will not have false or misleading labeling and that the public will be informed of the manner of handling required to maintain the article in a wholesome condition.

...

## Exhibit C

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2010 8:33 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: P84a is not a slaughter establishment

[REDACTED]  
Thanks for your earlier help. P84a is a further processing establishment and not a slaughter establishment according to the FSIS establishment directory. Halal killing occurs at the slaughter establishment. Could you please clarify which slaughter establishments do the halal killing that feed into P84a? I normally purchase Pilgrim's Pride product but as a Christian, I do not want to consume any chicken that was killed by halal slaughter. Further clarification as to which plants actually perform the ritual killing would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@pilgrims.com]  
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2010 5:49 PM  
[REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Company Information - Response Requested

Thank you for your email. Yes, we do produce some Halal products. Our plant P84a is capable of producing Halal products, as well as the other products we produce. Thank you!

[REDACTED]  
*Consumer Relations*  
1-800-683-1968

*Our Job is Customer Satisfaction...Everyday!*

From: [visitor@pilgrimspride.com](mailto:visitor@pilgrimspride.com) [mailto:visitor@pilgrimspride.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2010 10:55 PM  
To: Consumer Relations  
Cc: [REDACTED] Requested

The following email was submitted from [PilgrimsPride.com](http://PilgrimsPride.com) at 10/27/2010 10:54:34 PM

- Response Requested -

From: [REDACTED]

First Name: [REDACTED]

Last Name: [REDACTED]

Phone: n/a

Subject: Company Information - Response Requested

Message: I have not received a response to an inquiry sent over a week ago so I am re-sending it. DO you do ANY halal slaughter in your establishments? If so, which ones? Please give USDA establishment numbers. thank you.

-- End of Message --

\*\*\*\*\* The information contained in this e-mail (along with any attachments) is intended only for the use of the individual(s) to whom it is addressed. It is confidential and may contain privileged information. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you should not read its contents, and any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received it in error, please immediately (1) delete this transmission and any attachments and (2) notify [info@pilgrimspride.com](mailto:info@pilgrimspride.com) to advise us of the error. THIS E-MAIL IS NOT AN OFFER OR ACCEPTANCE: Notwithstanding the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act or any other law of similar import, absent an express statement to the contrary contained in this e-mail, neither this e-mail nor any attachments are an offer or acceptance to enter into a contract, and are not intended to bind the sender, Pilgrim's Pride Corporation, or any of its subsidiaries, or any other person or entity.

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## **Exhibit D**



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food Safety  
and Inspection  
Service

Washington, D.C.  
20250

OCT 14 2011



RE: FOIA-2012-



This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) dated October 9, 2010, in which you requested a current list of all slaughter establishments and ID number, who perform religious slaughter and the type of religious slaughter

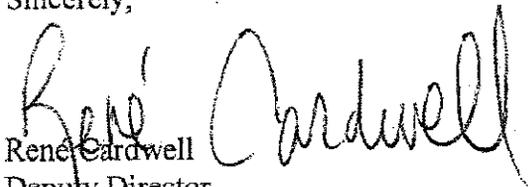
In responding to a FOIA request, the Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) search will include responsive records in its control on the date the search began. We apologize for the delay.

Your request is granted in full at no cost to you. The requested information is contained on the enclosed spreadsheet.

Your FOIA request, including your identity and the information made available, is releasable to the public under subsequent FOIA requests. In responding to these requests, FSIS does not release personal privacy information, such as home addresses, telephone numbers, or social security numbers, all of which are protected from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 6.

Thank you for your interest in FSIS programs and policies.

Sincerely,

  
René Cardwell  
Deputy Director  
Executive Correspondence  
and Issues Management Staff

Enclosure

Plants

EstablishmentID	Establishment Name	Location	Type
00032 P	MarJac Poultry	Gainesville, GA	Islamic Poultry
00646 P	Cagle's Inc.	Pine Mountain Valley, GA	Islamic Poultry
00855 P	Pilgrim's Pride Corporation	Athens, GA	Islamic Poultry
P1284	Pilgrims Pride	Canton, GA	Islamic Poultry
02657 P-02657 M	Tyson Foods Inc	Dawson, GA	Islamic Poultry
02686 P	Equity Group-Georgia Div., LLC	Camilla, GA	Islamic Poultry
17453 M-17453 P	Tip Top Poultry Inc	Rockmart, GA	Islamic Poultry
18873 P	Tyson Foods, Inc.	Vienna, GA	Islamic Poultry
11113 M	Ali International Inc.	Orlando, FL	Islamic Poultry
P843	Pilgrims Pride	Marshville, NC	Islamic Poultry
00290 P	Townsend's, Inc.	Siler City, NC	Islamic Poultry
00396 P	Omtron USA LLC dba Townsend's	Moncure, NC	Islamic Poultry
07345 P-07345 M	Butterball, LLC	Mt. Olive, NC	Islamic Poultry
07428 P-07428 M	Joyce Foods, Inc.	Winston-Salem, NC	Buddhist Eviscerated Poultry -
07987 P	Amick Farms, LLC	Batesburg, SC	Islamic Poultry
M17980+P17980	Pilgrim's Pride Corporation	Sumter, SC	Islamic Poultry
19697 M-19697 P	Chaudhry Meat Co., Inc.	Staley, NC	Islamic Poultry
00794 P	B & B Poultry Co. Inc.	Norma, NJ	Buddhist Eviscerated Poultry -
P824	Crescent Duck Farm	Aquebogue, NY	Islamic Poultry; Confucian Non-
04734 P	New Lee's Live Poultry Market	Brooklyn, NY	Confucian Noneviscerated
05430 M	Bierig Brothers, Inc.	Vineland, NJ	Kosher Noneviscerated Poultry
P18860	Sing Wah Live Poultry Mkt Inc	Brooklyn, NY	Confucian Non-eviscerated
P20138	Bo-Bo Poultry Market Inc	Brooklyn, NY	Confucian Non-eviscerated
M5390+P5390	The Butcher Block, Inc.	Claremont, NH	Islamic Poultry
15724 P	Case Farms of Ohio, Inc.	Winesburg, OH	Islamic Poultry
00056 P-00056 M	Pilgrim's Pride Corporation	Timberville, VA	Islamic Poultry
00018 P	Cargill Meat Solutions Corp.	Dayton, VA	Islamic Poultry
P667	Mountaire Farms Inc.	Selbyville, DE	Islamic Poultry
01249 P	George's Chicken, LLC	Edinburg, VA	Islamic Poultry
02186 P	George's Foods, LLC	Harrisonburg, VA	Islamic Poultry
M251+P6930	Rose Packing Co. Inc.	Chicago, IL	Islamic Poultry
P286	Perdue Foods, Inc.	Washington, IN	Islamic Poultry
M1791+P27353	Best Chicago Meat Co, LLC	Chicago, IL	Islamic Poultry
P242	Schiltz Foods, Inc.	Sisseton, SD	Confucian Non-eviscerated
P544+V544	Jennie-O Turkey Store Sales	Melrose, MN	Islamic Poultry
00579 P	Jennie-O Turkey Store Sales	Faribault, MN	Islamic Poultry

Plants

04653A M-04653A P	Agri Star Meat & Poultry, LLC	Postville, IA	Kosher Noneviscerated Poultry
M5533+P5533	West Liberty Foods, LLC	West Liberty, IA	Islamic Poultry
M19821+P19821	.West Liberty Foods, LLC	West Liberty, IA	Islamic Poultry
01315 P	Tyson Foods, Inc.	Monett, MO	Islamic Poultry
08721 M-08721 P	International Dehydrated Foods	Monett, MO	Islamic Poultry
M8727+P8727+V8727	Butterball, LLC	Carthage, MO	Islamic Poultry
M13149+P13149+V13149	Krehbiels Specialty Meats Inc	McPherson, KS	Islamic Poultry; Buddhist
00550 P	Simmons Foods Inc	Decatur, AR	Islamic Poultry
00768 P	Tyson Foods, Inc.	Waldron, AR	Islamic Poultry
P72	Tyson Foods, Inc	Dardanelle, AR	Islamic Poultry
P1009	Wayne Farms LLC	Danville, AR	Islamic Poultry
05842 P-05842 M	Tyson Foods, Inc.	Springdale, AR	Islamic Poultry
07100 P-07100 M	Tyson Foods, Inc.	Nashville, AR	Kosher Noneviscerated Poultry;
P7101	Tyson Foods, Inc.	Clarksville, AR	Islamic Poultry
13456 P-13456 M	Tyson Foods, Inc.	Pine Bluff, AR	Islamic Poultry
P13413	Buddy's Natural Chickens	Gonzales, TX	Islamic Poultry
00006 P-17250 M	Tyson Foods Inc.	Blountsville, AL	Islamic Poultry
P308	Koch Foods of Mississippi LLC	Morton, MS	Islamic Poultry
07485 P	Wayne Farms LLC	Jack, AL	Islamic Poultry
P164	Tyson Foods Inc	Forest, MS	Islamic Poultry
P509	Koch Foods LLC	Morristown, TN	Islamic Poultry
19901 M-19901 P	Musbah Taj Halal Meat Processi	Bassfield, MS	Islamic Poultry
00312 P	Zacky Farms, LLC	Fresno, CA	Islamic Poultry
M898+P220	Zacky Farms, LLC	Stockton, CA	Islamic Poultry
02882 P	Petaluma Acquisition LLC	Petaluma, CA	Islamic Poultry
M4928+P4928	Islamic Meat & Poultry Co.	Stockton, CA	Islamic Poultry
P8107	Squab Producers Of California	Modesto, CA	Kosher Non-eviscerated
08289 P	Reichardt Duck Farm	Petaluma, CA	Buddhist Eviscerated Poultry -
09030 P	New American Poultry Co	Sacramento, CA	Buddhist Eviscerated Poultry -
M9050+P9050	Allied Poultry Sales Co., Inc.	Oakland, CA	Islamic Poultry
P9897	New Stockton Poultry	Stockton, CA	Buddhist eviscerated Poultry
M18438+P18438	Grimaud Farms Of California	Stockton, CA	Islamic Poultry; Buddhist
M4181+P4181	East Olympic Poultry	Los Angeles, CA	Buddhist eviscerated Poultry
P18739	C.A.L. Fresh	Azusa, CA	Buddhist eviscerated Poultry
00207 I	TC Trading Company , Inc.	Blaine, WA	Buddhist Eviscerated Poultry -
09264 M-09264 P	Malco's Buxton Meat Co	Sandy, OR	Islamic Poultry
00533 P	Hain Pure Protein Corporation	Fredericksburg, PA	Islamic Poultry

Plants

M1015+P1015	Empire Kosher Poultry, Inc.	Mifflintown, PA	Kosher Non-eviscerated Poultry
M7559+P134	David Elliot Poultry Farm Inc.	Scranton, PA	Kosher Non-eviscerated Poultry
07875 P-07875 M	Joe Jurgielewicz & Son, Ltd.	Hamburg, PA	Confucian Noneviscerated
09457 M-09457 P	Rendulic Packing Company	Mc Keesport, PA	Islamic Poultry
M9553+P9553	Godshall's Quality Meats Inc.	Telford, PA	Islamic Poultry
M21285+P21285	Harvest House Farms	Johnson City, TX	Islamic Poultry
P211	Palmetto Pigeon Plant, Inc.	Sumter, SC	Islamic Poultry; Confucian Non-
M21554+P21554	Grizzly's Custom Cutting	Hunt, NY	Kosher Non-eviscerated Poultry
21709 P	Ciales Poultry	Chicago, IL	Islamic Poultry; Buddhist
20446 P-20446 M	Central IL Poultry Processing	Arthur, IL	Buddhist Eviscerated Poultry -
M22095+P22095+V22095	Creston Valley Meats	Creston, CA	Islamic Poultry
27488 M-27488 P	Mekong Fresh Meats, Inc.	Mosinee, WI	Confucian Noneviscerated
M27389+P27389	Pitman Farms	Sanger, CA	Kosher Non-eviscerated
P27425	MVP Kosher Foods LLC	Birdsboro, PA	Kosher Non-eviscerated Poultry
01096A P	VA Poultry Grower's Coop.	Hinton, VA	Islamic Poultry
00422WIM	Griffin's Sales	Manitowoc, WI	Buddhist Eviscerated Poultry -
00802WIM	Country Meat Cutters LLC	Reeseville , WI	Kosher Noneviscerated Poultry;
00067AZM	Willcox Packing House	Willcox , AZ	Islamic Poultry
00225MNM	Lindenfelsers Meats Inc	Monticello, MN	Kosher Noneviscerated Poultry;
00100GAM	Southern Meat Supplies	Newnan, GA	Islamic Poultry
00119GAM	Capes Sausage Company	Covington , GA	Islamic Poultry
34078 P-34078 M	Great Lakes Poultry, Inc.	LaPorte, IN	Islamic Poultry; Confucian
34310 P	Aniqa Halal Live Poultry Corp.	Corona, NY	Islamic Poultry
00498KSP	Phil's Farms	Hutchinson, KS	Buddhist Eviscerated Poultry -
P34508	KAM Fung Wong Chicken Market	Brooklyn, NY	Confucian Non-eviscerated
P34438	Ga Dong Nai	Coupland, TX	Confucian Non-eviscerated
M33902+P33902	Wing Lee Farm Corporation	Chino, CA	Confucian Non-eviscerated
P34626	Wing & Sing Poultry Market Inc	Brooklyn, NY	Islamic Poultry; Buddhist
P34736+V34736	TFC Poultry, LLC	Ashby, MN	Confucian Non-eviscerated
01303TXM	Halal Slaughter House of Celes	Celeste, TX	Islamic Poultry
40057 P	Rocky Mountain Poultry Process	Nunn, CO	Kosher Noneviscerated Poultry;
40175 M-40175 P	Sunny-Side Meadows LLC	Dorchester, WI	Islamic Poultry; Confucian
P40169	KB Poultry LLC	Utica, MN	Confucian Non-eviscerated
40106 M	Cattleman's Custom Processing	Chapel Hill, TN	Islamic Poultry
01203OHM	Deepam India	Toledo, OH	Islamic Poultry
M40365+P40365	Four Story Hill Farm Inc.	Honesdale, PA	Confucian Non-eviscerated
01042 P	Petaluma Acquisitions, LLC	Petaluma, CA	Islamic Poultry

Plants

M40336  
M5477+P5477

Rancher's Pride Meats, LLC  
Unity Beef Sausage Co., Inc.

Zullinger, PA  
Newark, NJ

Islamic Poultry  
Islamic Poultry

# Exhibit E

**From:** Pamela Geller [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 04, 2012 5:37 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Butterball Halal

Begin forwarded message:

[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

I have read your letter (see below) which was in response to an inquiry if Butterball food is halal. You state that your whole turkeys are halal, in fact you state that they are "certified" halal. For food to be halal, it must be prepared by Muslims and not touched by non-Muslims. That would mean that Butterball only hires Muslims to grow, transport, and prepare their food. That would mean that non-Muslims are discriminated against because of their religion

I am forwarding your email to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to be put on file. Then, when a non-Muslim is denied employment and files a complaint with the EEOC, the EEOC will have on file your declaration that only Muslims are hired by Butterball to make Butterball's main foods halal.

Sincerely,

November 14, 2011

Thanks for contacting Butterball. Our whole turkeys are certified halal. However, if you would like to know about any other Butterball products, please email us back as to which products you are interested in using and we can get that information for you.

Again, thanks for your interest in Butterball. We hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Consumer Response Representative

Ref: Y453882

# Exhibit F

From: Lee Culpepper <Lee.Culpepper@wal-mart.com>  
To: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Fri, Dec 2, 2011 23:27:00 GMT+00:00  
Subject: Butterball Products Inquiry

Dear Mr. [REDACTED] –

I am responding to your note to our President and CEO Mike Duke. Your original note is copied below.

After researching this topic, I can tell you that Walmart does not carry Halal-certified poultry products. In addition, we contacted Butterball and understand that no domestic Butterball products are certified Halal.

If you would like to contact Butterball directly with your concerns, you may wish to contact [REDACTED] (919-255-7940), Director of Consumer Affairs, at Butterball.

Best wishes for a merry Christmas,  
Lee Culpepper

**[REDACTED] Vice President Corporate Affairs**  
Walmart  
702 Southwest 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bentonville, AR 72716-0350  
Saving people money so they can live better.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2011 3:40 PM  
To: Mike Duke - External  
Subject: Wal Mart Stores, Inc. advertised during Butterball

Michael Duke  
President, CEO, Director  
Wal Mart Stores, Inc.

Dear Mr. Duke,

Florida Family Association is collecting information for the benefit of several organizations across America who are interested in informing their constituencies about the sale of Butterball products which allegedly undergo Islamic Halal rituals without warning to the general public.

Many Christians will find it repugnant to celebrate the birth of their savior this Christmas by eating a Butterball turkey if it has been sacrificed to a foreign god especially if they were not forewarned on the packaging label.

Christian families in America certainly buy far more turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas than Muslims yet Butterball allegedly performs a ritual on their products for the benefit of the much smaller consumer group without informing the larger consumer group.

The practice of any company selling unlabeled Islamic Halal branded products is unethical to the general public and sacrilegious to other faiths.

Will Wal Mart Stores, Inc. continue to sell Butterball's turkeys and other products which may undergo Islamic Halal branding if the labels on such products do not adequately warn the public?

Sincerely,

  
Executive Director

FLORIDA FAMILY ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 

Phone 

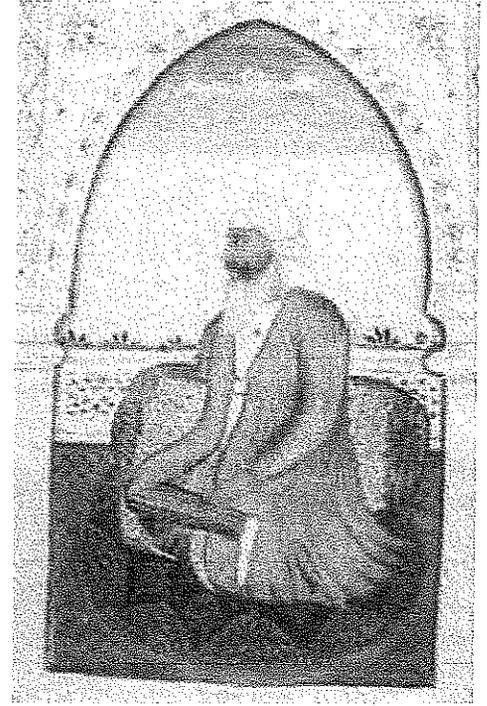
Facsimile 

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**This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error destroy it immediately.**

**\*\*\* Walmart Confidential \*\*\***

## **Exhibit G**



## Sikh basics and misconceptions .

### 2 b . Was the Singh Sabha Movement just a front for the British government ?

In the mid nineteenth century the Christian missionaries were gaining ground within the Sikhs with the patronage of the British rulers. The Hindus under the Arya Samaj Movement were also making rapid strides into the Punjab. To counter these threats the enlightened section of the sikh community launched from Amritsar a revivalist movement known as the Singh Sabha Movement in 1873 to counter the conversions of of Sikhs. There were two sections one in Lahore and the original in Amritsar. Notable Sikh thinkers included Professor Gurmukh Singh, Bhai Ditt Singh, Bhai Kanh Singh (of Nabha), Sunder Singh and Bhai Vir Singh Ji. With the efforts of these Sikhs the Sikh faith was restored to its original Khalsa tradition and pristine purity. The movement battled against British rule and to think that these Sikhs colluded with the British is untrue.

### 3. Sikhism is a derivative religion from Islam and Hinduism.

Sikhism originated from the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Guru Ji obtained his message direct from the One Timeless Lord and sought to put the masses on to the righteous path towards realisation of God through meditation, sharing the fruits of your honest work and loving your fellow man, it is in no way derivative of any philosophy or religious thought. Guru Ji, on one hand sought to show the people the futility of the Caste system, of idol worship of inequality of the genders so inherent in Hinduism, and on the other, the cruelty of aggressive and forcible conversions and the inhumane treatment of ones fellow man.

### 4. Sikhism was created to defend the downtrodden Hindus and Hinduism.

Sikhism was not created to defend any religious group, Sikhism is a path to realisation of God. Pressure from government sources during the times of the last six Gurus led to the development of a Sikh army for self-defense. A Sikh is taught to stand against injustice from whatever source and to defend the weak and downtrodden, no matter what their religious affiliation. In the armies of Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji and Guru Gobind Singh Ji there were many from a whole spectrum of religious beliefs, from Muslims to Hindus.

### 5. Sikhs are a martial race, that they are a violent people.

The "martial race" theory is a colonial construct that was created and propagated by the British who recruited large numbers of so called "martial races," the Sikhs, Gurkhas, Rajputs, etc., for service in the British army. Sikhs by and large are a very hard working law abiding group. One of the pointers of a hard working community is the academic achievement of its younger generation. In England, the Sikhs along with the Chinese community are the highest academic achievers after the majority white population.

## 6. What type of names do Sikhs have ?

Most Sikh names apply equally to men and women, the distinguishing feature is 'Singh' after a mans first name and 'Kaur' after a woman's. Traditional Sikh names normally end in the suffix

- inder , as in Rajinder, Jatinder and Sukhinder.
- pal , as in Kirnpal, Pritpal and Rajpal.
- deep , as in Kirndeep, Jasdeep and Mandeep.
- preet , as in Harpreet, Jaspreet and Sukhpreet.

There are names that do not fall into this pattern, for example - Kushvant, Keertan, Prishant and Bhavanjot.

## 7. Khalsa means "pure".

The word Khalsa means both "pure" and "belonging only to God". The Khalsa was created by the tenth master, Guru Gobind Singh Ji on Vaisakhi day 1699. When a committed Sikh is initiated he or she becomes a member of a spiritual order called Khalsa. A Khalsa belongs only to God.

## 8. Sikhs don't eat beef.

Some Sikhs eat any type of meat, some do not eat beef and some believe that Sikhs should not eat ritually slaughtered meat. Sikhs who have been initiated into the order of the Khalsa by the *Amrit* ceremony are strictly forbidden to eat any type of meat or meat products.

## 9. Sikhs are allowed to drink alcohol.

The Sikh Code of Conduct states, "A Sikh must not take hemp, opium, liquor, tobacco, or any intoxicant." At the time of initiation, a Sikh vows not to use any intoxicant. Drinking alcohol is forbidden for Sikhs.

## 10. The Sikh kirpan is a weapon. Sikh men hide kirpans in their turbans.

The kirpan is one of the five articles of Sikh faith. It is mandatory for Khalsa to wear the kirpan. The kirpan is a symbol of a Sikhs' commitment to protect the weak and to promote justice. Sikh men **DO NOT** hide the kirpan in their turban. The kirpan is commonly worn in a cloth holster on the right shoulder under ones clothing.

## 11. Women are subservient to men.

Sikhism recognizes the complete equality between men and women in all spheres of life. In order that Sikhs would not follow the prevailing system which divided people into immutable castes, the 10th Sikh Guru, Gobind Singh, gave all Sikh women the last name "Kaur" (meaning princess) and all Sikh men the last name "Singh" (meaning lion).

**It is through woman that order is maintained. Then why call her inferior from whom all great ones are born.** Guru Granth Sahib Ji, p 473

**At birth a Sikh girl is immediately "our darling" to her mother and father.  
 Later, she becomes admired by her brothers and sisters and favoured by her relatives.  
 On attaining to "the bloom of youth" she is wedding with costly gifts and presents.  
 Now, respected by her husbands family and deemed lucky in her new household, she  
 regarded as the equal of her spouse in both virtue and wisdom.  
 She becomes as a doorway to salvation. Such is the verbal portrait of a Guru-inspired  
 And blessed faithful Sikh woman. *Var Bhai Gurdas Ji (c. 16)***

## 12. Sikhs are required to practice yoga. Yoga is an integral part of Sikhism.

Yoga is not an inherent or required Sikh religious practice. Some American followers of Sikhism do practice yoga, which, they believe aids their practice of Sikhism.

## 13 What is the traditional dress of a Sikh ?

Female.

The traditional dress of a Sikh is Salwaar Kameez - loose fitting top and bottoms - with a chunni (a large rectangular piece of cloth) to cover the head and draped around the shoulders. This traditional dress is also worn by others from the Indian subcontinent. Therefore the most obvious sign of a Sikh is unshorn hair kept in a bun or platt's, the other being the Kara ( the steel bracelet which forms part of the five K's) worn on the left wrist.

Amritdhari Sikhs, those that have been baptised by partaking in the Amrit ceremony and are now part of the brotherhood of the Khalsa, may wear a Kasekee (small turban) also.

Male.

Amritdhari. Wear full beard and turban and a Kara on the right wrist. Older Sikhs may wear the traditional Kurta Pyjama - Loose fitting white cotton clothing.

Shajdhari. (Slow learners) May wear turban with designer(?) stubble, may not wear turban and are clean shaven or a combination. Most still wear the Kara on their wrist.

Note : There are certain sections of the 'Asian' community who masquerade as Sikhs by wearing a Kara to deceive Sikh females.

**Turban.**

**African style.** Pointed apex at the front. Style started by those Sikhs living in Kenya and Uganda. Now favoured by the young.

**Indian style.** Blunt rounded apex at the front. Style of the Sikhs of India.

**Traditional.** A very rounded style altogether. Favoured by orthodox Sikhs and by spiritually enlightened souls.

**Turban Colour.**

**White.** Favoured by older Sikhs.

**Black.** Favoured by the younger generation.

**Saffron.** The traditional colour of the Sikhs.

**Red.** Normally worn by the groom at the Anand Karaj (wedding) ceremony.

**Others** No significance.

## Going to visit a Sikh home?

Never take any cigarettes or tobacco to a Sikh house, and never ever ask to smoke. Sikhs are prohibited from smoking and consider smoking as unsociable and dirty. Sikhs are also not allowed to drink alcohol and eat meat, but some do not adhere to these principles. If a Sikh is Amritdhari, then he/she will definitely not consume alcohol, so best not to take a bottle of wine.

When it comes to food Sikhs are very hospitable , so be warned!

If you do not require second helpings of food refuse politely but firmly, but this will generally be ignored and samosa's and onion bhaji's will be piled up on your plate accompanied with "Don't be shy, consider this your home" or "You have hardly started eating, here have some more, and don't be shy."

Asked if you would like to watch an Indian video, politely refuse as you will have to watch the whole three hours. Same applies to wedding videos or else another three hours of your life will be wasted.

## **Going to the Sikh Gurdwara?**

The proper name for the Sikh place of worship is the Gurdwara, not temple.

Never enter a Gurdwara if you have consumed alcohol or if you have any cigarettes or tobacco on your person. Before entering the Darbar or main hall shoes and socks must be removed and head covered. Heads can be covered with a hat or material shaped like a handkerchief which is available from the Gurdwara. When approaching Guru Granth Sahib Ji, the holy scriptures, one can bow and place offering of money as a sign of respect then join the Sangat (congregation) seated on the carpeted floor. Most people are not used to sitting cross legged on the floor but be aware that sitting with legs stretched out with feet pointing at the Guru Granth Sahib is disrespectful.

A service at the Gurdwara normally consists of a combination of sermons and singing of shabads (hymns from the Guru Granth Sahib), unless it is a wedding you are attending in which case there is also the Anand Karaj (wedding) ceremony. All ends with the Ardaas, this is a special prayer that is spoken by the Giani (priest) while the Sangat stands with folded hands. This ends with a "Bolay sone hall, sat siri Akal" said by all at the tops of their voices. The blessed pudding of Parsad, is then distributed to all the Sangat who eat with their hands. It is important that no part of the parsad (consisting of flour, semolina, butter, sugar and water) falls on the floor as it has been blessed. It is then off to the dining hall for Langar (blessed lunch). Again it is important that you get only what you intend to eat, as leaving food that is blessed is frowned upon.

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