

# Halal Stunning of Poultry

Contrary to popular belief within the Muslim community in the UK, the stunning of animals is not prohibited — provided that the animal is 100% alive at the time of slaughter. Islam does not categorically prescribe a particular method of slaughter in the Qur'an; the word of Allah states that animals must be alive at the time of slaughter and the Tasmiyyah must be said upon each and every animal before its throat is slit. It is also important to note that all blood must naturally drain out of the carcass. **THE AMOUNT OF BLOOD LOSS IS NOT STATISTICALLY AFFECTED BY STUNNING.** The stunning method that the Halal Food Authority (HFA) employ abides by all of the above.

## How can you ensure that the animals are alive at the time of slaughter?

The HFA has worked hard alongside senior Animal Welfare and Meat Scientists at the University of Bristol and other institutions to arrive at appropriate stunning parameters (electric frequency and amperage) that does NOT kill the bird but merely renders it insensitive to pain. The line is monitored at ALL times ensuring that the birds are alive at the time of slaughter. In the incredibly rare case that the bird is unconscious or lame before slaughter, it is taken off the line IMMEDIATELY. To reiterate once more, **HFA APPROVED STUNNING DOES NOT KILL.**

## Is there really a need for stunning?

If we look at the quantities people eat meat in and the quality they expect and deserve these days, stunning IS deemed necessary to enhance welfare and quality standards. Slaughtering without stunning is not seen as feasible in the current climate (on a larger scale).

We often get people telling us that what we are doing is inappropriate despite the fact that our standards are compliant with operational standards worldwide (including in Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, South Africa, the UAE, Latin America, Indonesia and throughout Europe).

**DID YOU KNOW — 88% OF HALAL POULTRY IN THE UK IS STUNNED BEFORE SLAUGHTER\*?**

\*UK Food Standards Agency (FSA)



HALAL FOOD FOUNDATION

