

# Regulatory Updates for the F&B sector-GCC

Hassan Bayrakdar PhD

Managing Director of RAQAM Consultancy DMCC

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# Regulatory Bodies in the GCC



Qatar General Organization for Standardization (QS)



Emirates Authority For Standardization & Metrology



Bahrain standards & metrology Directorate (BSMD)



Directorate General for Specifications and Measurements (DGSM)

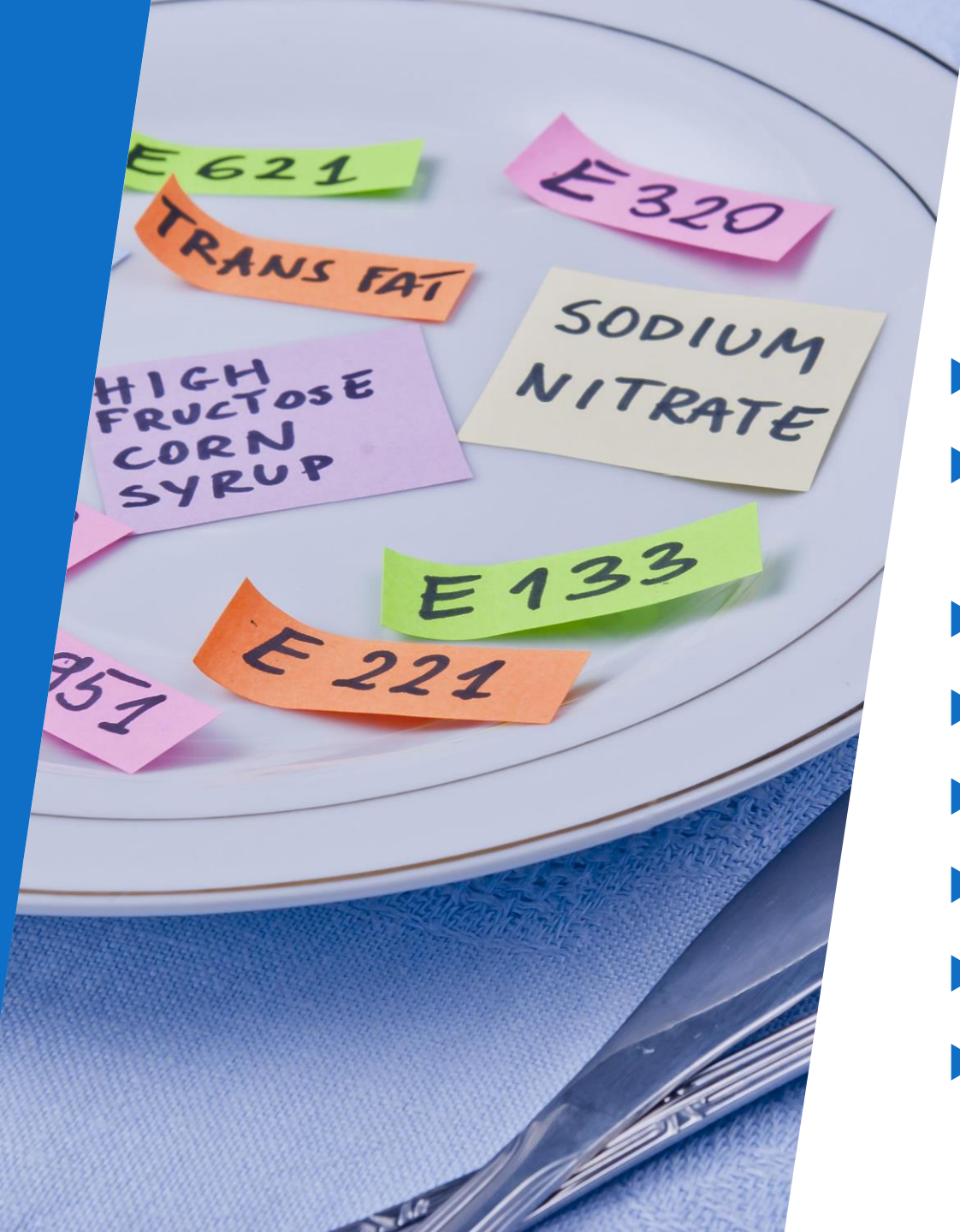


Standards and Industrial Services Affairs (KOWSMD)



# General Mandatory Requirements for Labelling of pre-packaged foodstuffs

- ✓ Brand name/Trade name
- ✓ Product name
- ✓ Product descriptor
- ✓ List of ingredients
- ✓ Nutritional information
- ✓ Net content
- ✓ Production date & expiry date
- ✓ Lot code/Batch code
- ✓ Storage conditions
- ✓ Instructions for use (If applicable)
- ✓ Name and address of the manufacturer/packer/importer
- ✓ Country of origin
- ✓ Barcode
- ✓ Logos &marks



## Ingredient List Declaration

- ▶ Order of declaration
- ▶ Special requirements for certain ingredients (Dairy, oils, spices..etc)
- ▶ Allergen declaration
- ▶ Flavoring declaration
- ▶ Food additives declaration
- ▶ Colorants declaration
- ▶ Sweeteners and their warning statement
- ▶ Enzyme declaration

# Traffic Light Labeling

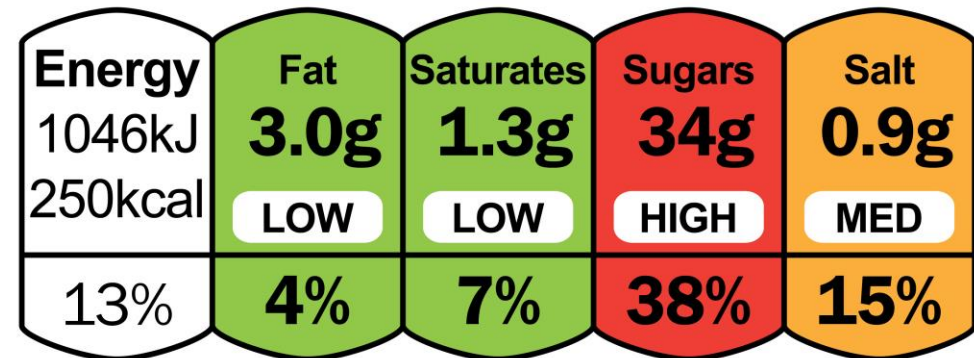
- UAE.S 5034: 2018 “Traffic Light Labelling”

Implementation date: January 2022

- SFDA FD 42:2018 “Traffic Light Labelling”

Voluntary Implementation date: 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018

Each serving (150g) contains



of an adult's reference intake

Typical values (as sold) per 100g: 697kJ/ 167kcal

'Reference intake of an average adult (8400kJ/2000kcal)'



## Products Exempted from Traffic Light Labelling

- ▶ Unprocessed products
- ▶ Processed products that only underwent maturing
- ▶ Water
- ▶ Herbal and fruit infusions, tea, decaffeinated tea, instant or soluble tea or tea extract which do not contain other added ingredients other than flavorings
- ▶ Energy drinks
- ▶ Chewing-gums
- ▶ Carbonated beverages & Non-carbonated water-based flavored drinks

# Requirements for organic products in UAE

- ▶ List of foreign approved organic bodies:



BioTunisiaOrganic



## UAE Regulations issued recently

- ▶ UAE 9: 2019 Labeling of pre-packaged foodstuffs
- ▶ UAE 2233:2019 Requirements of nutritional labeling
- ▶ UAE 2333:2019 Permitted health and nutrition claims made on food and their conditions of use
- ▶ UAE 192:2019 Additives permitted for use in foodstuffs
- ▶ UAE 147:2019 Honey



هيئة الإمارات للمواصفات والمقاييس  
Emirates Authority For Standardization & Metrology



## UAE 9:2019 LABELING OF PREPACKAGED FOODSTUFFS

- The UAE has issued in **February 2020** the regulation on requirements of labeling of prepackaged food
- **It supersedes and replaces UAE 9:2017**
- The impact of the regulation is huge on all manufacturers as they need to amend the labels accordingly
- The following were some of the important highlights
  - More flexibility in using food safety management logos such as *ISO 22000* or *HACCP*
  - Phrases or logos or symbols related to quality management systems *ISO 9001* shall not be declared on the labels



## UAE 9:2019 LABELING OF PREPACKAGED FOODSTUFFS

The following were some of the important highlights

- Propolis, Royal jelly and Bee pollen have been added to the allergen list
  - Allergens in the ingredient list need to be highlighted (Bold, italics etc) +Allergen statement
  - Milk substitutes of plant origin need to be referred to as **drinks** and cannot be referred to as “milk”
  - Compulsory warning statements have been added for a vast category of products
- The regulation was enforced in **August 2020**



Important  
Update

## UAE 9:2019 LABELING OF PREPACKAGED FOODSTUFFS

The following were some of the important highlights

- Compulsory warning statements have been added for a vast category of products

Food item	Warning Statement
Food products containing sweeteners or a mixture of sweeteners and sugar	A statement indicating that the product contains sugar substitutes shall be declared near to the product name in the same font type and size of the product name
Products containing sucralose	The storage temperature should not exceed 25 Co
Aspartame	"Not used by people with phenylketonuria" or the phrase "contains phenylalanine"
Sorbitol or zelitol	Excess consumption of 40 g per day may cause diarrhea"



## UAE 9:2019 LABELING OF PREPACKAGED FOODSTUFFS

The following were some of the important highlights

- Compulsory warning statements have been added for a vast category of products

Food item	Warning Statement
Food containing guarana or guarana extracts	" Contains caffeine "
Cereal-based beverages, if the fat in these foods is not more than 2.5% m/m and the protein is less than 3% m/m, or if the protein only is less than 3% m/m	A statement as such must be declared "the product is not suitable as a whole milk substitute for children under 5 years of age".
For glass containers	"Fragile" or any expressive symbol



# UAE 2233:2019 REQUIREMENTS OF NUTRITIONAL LABELING

- The UAE has issued in **February 2020** the regulation on requirements of nutritional labeling
- The regulation was enforced in **August 2020** with a grace period ending in **1st January 2021**.
- It supersedes and replaces UAE 2233:2017
- The impact of the regulation was huge on all manufacturers as they needed to amend their labels
- The following were some of the important highlights
  - The value of added sugars and cholesterol must now be declared on nutritional labels
  - Font size of the Nutrition facts, energy content and the serving size must be increased and made clear using bold font
  - Rounding rules for the declaration of nutrients has been added
- All food products exported to UAE must abide by the new regulation

<b>Nutrition Facts</b>	
8 servings per container	
<b>Serving size</b>	<b>2/3 cup (55g)</b>
<b>Amount per serving</b>	
<b>Calories</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>% Daily Value*</b>	
<b>Total Fat</b> 8g	<b>10%</b>
Saturated Fat 1g	<b>5%</b>
Trans Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 160mg	<b>7%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 37g	<b>13%</b>
Dietary Fiber 4g	<b>14%</b>
Total Sugars 12g	
Includes 10g Added Sugars	<b>20%</b>
<b>Protein</b> 3g	
<small>* The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.</small>	



## UAE 2333:2019 PERMITTED HEALTH AND NUTRITION CLAIMS MADE ON FOOD AND THEIR CONDITIONS OF USE

- The UAE has issued in **February 2020** the regulation on health & nutritional claims
  - The regulation was enforced in **August 2020**
  - **It supersedes and replaces UAE 2333:2017**
  - The following were some of the highlights
    - Nutritional, health claims and comparison claims are defined
    - The regulation stipulates the conditions for placing nutritional claims
    - The regulation refers to the EU legislation as a reference to making health claims
- All food products exported to UAE must abide by the new regulation

## UAE 2333:2019 NUTRITIONAL CLAIMS

NUTRIENTS	CLAIMS	CONDITIONS (MORE THAN)
Protein	Source	10% of NRV/100 g, 5% of NRV/100 ml, 5% of NRV/100 kcal (12% of NRV per 1 MJ) or 10% of NRV per serving (As per SFDA, at least 12 % of the energy value of the food is provided by protein)
	High	2 times the values for “source” (As per SFDA, at least 20 % of the energy value of the food is provided by protein)
Vitamins & Minerals	Source	15% of NRV/100 g (solids), 7.5% of NRV/100 ml (liquids), 5% of NRV/100 kcal (12% of NRV per 1 MJ) or 15% of NRV per serving (As per SFDA, it is at least 15% for both solids and liquids per 100 g or 100 ml)
	High	2 times the value for “source”
Dietary Fiber	Source	3 g/100 g, 1.5 g/100 kcal or 10 % of daily reference value per serving
	High	6 g/100 g, 3 g/100 kcal or 20 % of daily reference value per serving

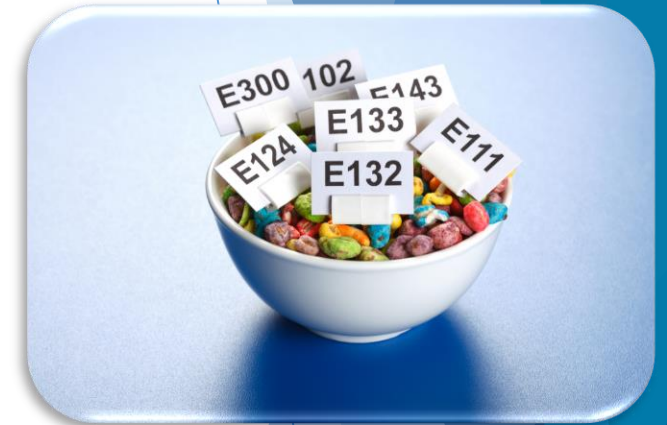
## UAE 2333:2019 HEALTH CLAIMS

NUTRIENTS	CLAIMS	CONDITIONS	STATUS
Protein	Protein is needed for normal growth and development in children	The claim can be used only for food which is at least a source of protein	Authorized
Vitamin C	Vitamin C contributes to the normal function of the immune system	The claim can be used only for food which is at least a source of protein	Authorized
Tabletop sweeteners and F&B containing intense sweeteners	Intense sweeteners have no effect on carbohydrate metabolism, short or long-term blood glucose control or insulin secretion	NA	Non-authorized



# UAE 192:2019 ADDITIVES PERMITTED FOR USE IN FOODSTUFFS

- The UAE has issued in **February 2020** the regulation on additives permitted for use in foodstuffs
  - The regulation was enforced in **August 2020**
  - **It supersedes and replaces UAE.192:2016**
  - The impact of the regulation was on all manufacturers
  - The following were some of the important highlights
    - UAE to follow CODEX most recent additives database as a first reference
    - UAE to follow EU additives database as a second reference
    - The following 2 colors have been added to the list of colors that require a special warning statement
      - ✓ Quinoline yellow (E104)\*
      - ✓ Ponceau 4R (E124)\*
- \*This material may have an adverse effect on the concentration and activity of children
- All food products exported to UAE must abide by the new regulation



## GSO DRAFT COMMENTING

- The GCC members issue draft technical regulations/standards under the supervision of GSO
- Draft regulations pass through two stages: First draft & Final draft
- Manufacturers can comment on drafts and submit them to the GSO board.
- Once the draft becomes finalized it is sent to the WTO where it is open for comments for 60 days
- Following the commenting phase, the standard is published and enforced after 6 months of publication



## GSO DRAFTS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED IN 2020

□ We share with you some of the important **drafts** that were issued by the GSO body:

- GSO 9:2020 Draft- Labeling of pre-packaged foodstuffs
- GSO 995:2019 Draft- Sweeteners
- GSO 2500:2020 Draft- Additives permitted for use in foodstuffs
- GSO Draft- Flavored drinks
- GSO Dairy Draft- Products analogue
- GSO 1871:2020 Draft- Instant Noodles

## GSO DRAFTS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED IN 2020

- ❑ We share with you some of the important **drafts** that were issued by the GSO body:
  - GSO- Draft labeling for bottled drinking water and bottled natural mineral water
  - GSO 2539-2020 Draft-Vitamins and minerals permitted for use in foodstuffs
  - GSO Draft- Conditions for the use of some terms such as fresh, pure, natural and other terms when placing food labels
  - GSO Draft- General Requirements for Novel Foods
  - GSO Draft- Labelling of fruit juices nectars and fruit drinks



## RECENT SFDA STANDARDS & TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

- We share with you some of the important regulations that were issued by the SFDA
  - SFDA 2233:2018 Requirements of nutritional labeling
  - SFDA 2333:2019 Requirements for health and nutrition claims
  - SFDA 58:2020 Processed cheese and spreadable processed cheese and processed cheese imitation and spreadable processed cheese imitation
  - SFDA.FD 5012:2020 Labeling of juices, nectar and fruit drinks
  - SFDA 5003:2019 Infant formula

## RECENT SFDA DRAFTS

- We share with you some of the important drafts that were issued by the SFDA
  - SFDA 9 Draft- Labeling of prepackaged foodstuffs
  - SFDA 150-1 Draft- Mandatory expiration dates for food products
  - SFDA 150-2 Draft- Requirements for food products shelf life
  - SFDA.FD Draft- Vitamins and minerals permitted for use in foodstuffs
  - SFDA.FD Draft- 147 Honey
  - SFDA.FD Draft- Dairy analogue
  - SFDA Draft- General Requirements for novel food



# Emirates conformity assessment scheme

Certificate of conformity of United Arab emirates

# Emirates Conformity assessment scheme (ecas)

- ▶ ECAS is a Product Certification scheme for government-regulated products as mandated by the Federal Law 28 of 2001.
- ▶ Under this scheme, all regulated products must meet the requirements for safety and quality specified in the Technical Regulations adopted by the UAE government.
- ▶ Suppliers must register the products and obtain Certificate of Conformity prior in order to sell inside the UAE.
  - ▶ A proof that the product has been approved by the Federal Government through ESMA.
  - ▶ One of the documents required when clearing shipments from Ports and Customs Authorities.



# ECAS regulated products

Cosmetics and Personal Care

Detergents

Electrical Products- LVE

Energy Drinks

Food Contact Materials

Oxo-biodegradable plastics

Paints

Perfumes

Petroleum Products

Retreaded Tires

Tobacco Products

ROHS

Honey

Organic Products

EESL

Water Fixtures

Metrology

Electrical Products-LVE

Electrical Storage Water Heaters

Cables and Wires/Power Cables

Automatic Doors and Windows

ECASEx

Vehicle Spare Parts

Personal Safety Equipment



علامة الجودة الإماراتية  
Emirates Quality Mark

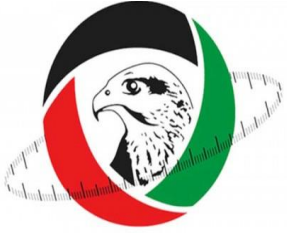
# EMIRATES QUALITY MARK (EQM)

- ▶ Emirates Quality Mark (EQM) is the United Arab Emirates Mark of Quality. Any product with the Quality Mark ensure complete compliance with the country regulations. Emirates Quality Mark has been mandatory for **bottled drinking water**.
- ▶ UAE Cabinet issued a new circular, namely cabinet decision no. 29 & 30 of 2018 on 31<sup>st</sup> of May, 2018.
  - ▶ As per Cabinet Decision no. 29: EQM is mandatory for **Milk & Dairy Products**
  - ▶ As per Cabinet Decision no. 30: EQM is mandatory for **Juice & Beverage Product**
- ▶ The deadline for compliance and getting the EQM for the regulated product was 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2019.
- ▶ The Regulated product will not be allowed to enter the UAE Market without the EQM certificate and logo.
- ▶ Maybe other product categories will be under EQM certification in the future.

# Halal

- ▶ Halal Certificate is mandatory for the following products:
  - ▶ Meat & Poultry Products (Processed & Unprocessed)
  - ▶ Animal Derived Products
  - ▶ Animal Derived Ingredients & Products containing such Ingredients
  - ▶ Halal Labelled (Logo or Claim)
  
- ▶ But authorities maybe ask Halal Certificate for the following products:
  - ▶ Cheese & Process By-Products
  - ▶ Soybean sauce
  - ▶ Other Fermented Products
  - ▶ Product containing Ethyl Alcohol
  - ▶ Product containing ingredients that has Ethyl Alcohol

# Halal



هيئة الإمارات للمواصفات والمقاييس  
Emirates Authority For Standardization & Metrology

- ▶ Only Emirates Authority for Standardization & Metrology (ESMA) approved Halal Certificate are accepted for product entering UAE



الهيئة العامة للغذاء والدواء  
Saudi Food & Drug Authority

- Only Saudi Food & Drug Authority (SFDA) approved Halal Certificate are accepted for product entering KSA



- Only Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) approved Halal Certificate are accepted for product entering Qatar

# UAE Halal



- ▶ No Halal Claims or any other Halal logo apart from UAE National Halal mark are allowed on the product entering UAE market.
- ▶ 67 Halal Certification Body has been approved by ESMA, globally.
- ▶ Halal Correct Poland is the only Halal Certification Body approved by ESMA in Poland.
- ▶ Polish Institute of Halal is accredited but not approved by ESMA
  - ▶ Products with Polish Institute of Halal certificate cannot use UAE National Mark
  - ▶ Products with Polish Institute of Halal certificate may face product recall from the market for mandatory products.



## LIST OF ESMA APPROVED HALAL CERTIFICATION BODY:

<http://halal.ae/OpenData/HalalCertificationBodieswithESMA>

# Excise tax - GCC

EXCISE TAX	TAX RATE	EXEMPTION
Carbonated Drinks	50%	Unflavoured aerated beverage
Energy Drink	100%	None
Sweetened Beverage	50%	75% milk content, food for special dietary use, etc.

# Strategic response is needed to an increasingly dynamic regulatory frame

**Include Policy and regulatory changes early into I&R strategies**

**Act and pro-act at the most appropriate level**

**Early Warning**



# Why Local Consultant?

Manufacturer



- ⊗ Static Communication
- ⊗ Scientific Knowledge Deficiency
- ⊗ Language Barriers
- ⊗ Market Expertise
- ⊗ Authority Identification
- ⊗ Updated Regulation
- ⊗ Limited Options
- ⊗ Process speed
- ⊗ Personnel Identification
- ⊗ Local Presence

Authorities



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Local Consultant

Authorities



# Consultant's Value Offering

## Product Compliance

- Technical translation
- Label validation
- Formula validation
- Registration

## Regulatory Intelligence

- Research and analysis
- Horizon scanning
- Early updates
- Early warning

## Advocacy

- Crisis Management
- Special approvals
- Standardizing claims
- Problem solving

## Quality Assurance

- QA consultancy
- Halal, EQM, ECAS
- Investigating & Auditing
- Training

# We look forward to be your Regulatory Partner

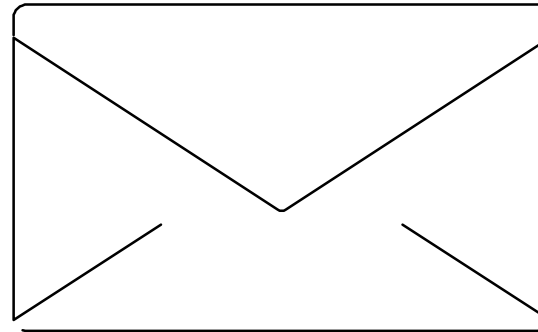
## Contact us

RAQAM CONSULTANCY DMCC

[info@raqamconsultancy.com](mailto:info@raqamconsultancy.com)

[www.raqamconsultancy.com](http://www.raqamconsultancy.com)

00971 4 5520127



Office 3702, Jumeirah Bay Tower X2, Cluster X, Jumeirah Lakes Towers.

Dubai - United Arab Emirates.

P.O.BOX 71993