

TASCCforce

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TRADE ASSURANCE SCHEME FOR COMBINABLE CROPS



Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of TASCCforce. In this edition we discuss the impact COVID-19 has had on our hauliers, introduce new training opportunities and explore mycotoxin data.

I do hope you find TASCCforce informative. If you have any questions about the items included or potential articles for future editions, then please contact us via the details on the back page.

TASCC and COVID-19: Impact on haulage

In an effort to limit the spread of COVID-19, our TASCC hauliers and their drivers are operating under constantly changing regulations and government guidance. We are grateful that despite this, our participants continue to be supportive in adapting their protocols to keep customers safe throughout the pandemic.

This positive attitude has been essential in keeping food and feed supply chains running and is all the more impressive when you consider some of the pressures put on the haulage sector as a whole:

- 45% drivers were furloughed
- Significant reduction in compatible market volumes
- Reduction in harvested grain and oilseed yields

The impact of COVID-19 on the haulage and agricultural industries has not gone unnoticed and we are delighted that the AIC and haulage industry representatives were invited to meet with the Department for Transport in August to discuss this issue.

It is clear to us that transporting compatible commodities is key to survival, but we must protect the assured specialist hauliers as any losses could have a greater impact for harvest next year.

Changes for hired vehicles

From April 2021, in-line with the new TASCC scheme, the requirement will be added that all hired rigid vehicles and trailers will need to be from a TASCC certified company from 1st April 2022.

AIC has contacted hire companies known to them highlighting the new requirement together with links to supporting documents that will be available on the AIC website.

CPC Driver Training

The Driver TASCC CPC Training is now being delivered by Kiwa as a 1 day online as well as the classroom based training. Available dates are regularly released and announced in your briefings, but if you'd like details sooner please email: uk.training@kiwa.com

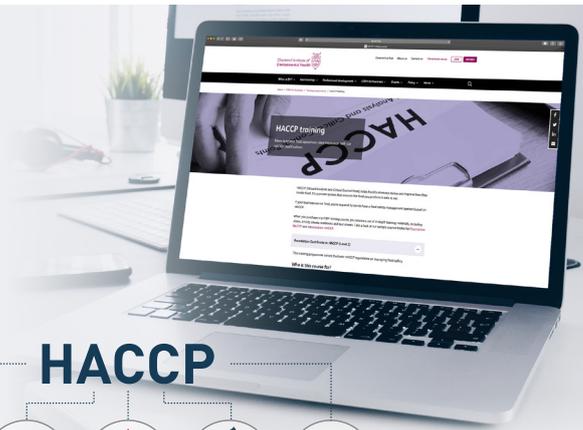


Online AIC HACCP course

This accredited Level 2 e-learning course on the principles of HACCP has been specifically developed for the feed and agri-food industry. It was designed in conjunction with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and has been widely supported by our Members because of the practical examples covering all agri-food sectors.

It takes up to 2 hours to complete, is suitable for someone new to HACCP, and if you pass the test at the end, you'll be awarded a certificate of accreditation.

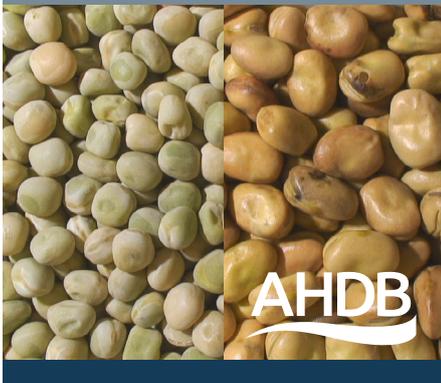
For further details please contact Roberta.Reeve@aicindustries.org.uk or visit the AIC website.



NEW: AHDB grain analyst training – peas and beans

AHDB's suite of grain analyst training modules now includes courses on peas and beans. The courses have been produced by AIC Members and other industry experts and are available online.

To access the modules visit the AHDB website and register. All courses can be viewed prior to registration at: <https://ahdb.talentlms.com/catalog>



AHDB

New 2021 TASC C scheme requirements

The new TASC C Scheme will be implemented in 2021 which will require you all to re-visit the i-Learning modules associated with the new scheme's requirements. We will notify you when the scheme has been released and the new i-Learning modules are available.

People announcements



Gill Barrow

Technical Manager, AIC Services

Contact: gill.barrow@aicindustries.org.uk
Mobile: 07407 224872

Gill joined AIC in June and has hit the ground running with the TASC C review and getting to grips with virtual working. As a result of this Gill has been able to (virtually) meet lots of people in a very short space of time.

Gill has spent 18 years working in technical management for the fresh produce industry, responsible for site quality management, food safety and assurance as well as being the key contact for UK retailers. Prior to that she worked in the agri-chemical/animal health industry after studying agriculture at university.

“Although it is a very strange time in which to start a new role, everyone has been very welcoming and helpful. My role is diverse and encompasses involvement with a wide range of organisations, I'm very much looking forward to the new challenge.”



Alan King

NEW Elected Chair of TASC C Working Group

Alan King, Technical and Quality Manager at Camgrain, has been elected to Chair the TASC C Working Group after being a member since 2011.

Having worked for a co-operative of over 500 farmers Alan is well-versed in BRCGS, organic schemes and the Red Tractor standard. He holds industry recognised qualifications in HACCP and Health and Safety and is a member of the Royal Society for Public Health.

Alan holds Transport Manager (CPC) qualifications plus a Category C+E driving licence meaning he fully understands the needs of the haulage sector and has been a member of the UK Grain Testing Network Steering Committee since December 2010 so has good knowledge of the laboratory and contractual testing aspects of TASC C.

Alan has also often presented to industry groups at events such as Cereals and AHDB conferences.



Protecting grain revenue – setting realistic mycotoxin levels

This harvest AIC has been running its annual mycotoxin monitoring exercise with nabim. By combining Member mycotoxin test results with those from mill intakes, we are able to determine the risk level each year.

We send this mycotoxin data to the European Commission (EC) as it provides us with valuable evidence to support changes in maximum mycotoxin limits, ensuring that they are realistic and prevent unnecessary rejections.

For example, in 2019 they were considering a legal maximum of 500µg/kg for T2-HT2 in oats. Without our intervention, this would have led to large levels of rejections across the UK.

In September, the EC held a formal consultation on reducing the DON limits and setting maximum limits for T2-HT2 for food use. A consultation for ZON is on the horizon. The result of these consultations will be known in coming months.



The proposed new limits for cereal grains for food use include:-

DON	
	Proposed limit (µg/kg)
Unprocessed cereals (excl. oats and maize)	1000
Unprocessed maize	1250
Oats after the husk is removed	1750
T2-HT2	
	Proposed limit (µg/kg)
Unprocessed barley, maize	100
Unprocessed oats (some with husk)	1000
Unprocessed wheat, rye, and other cereals	50

TASCC review

Public consultation closed for the TASCC scheme on 9th September and the review groups for the individual codes of practice have already met to review feedback. A summary of the agreed scheme was presented to the TASCC working group at their autumn meeting and the new version will be effective from April 2021.

The review process was kept on track, despite the pandemic, by virtual meetings which made the most of screen-sharing and live-editing functionalities. These virtual meetings have actually made the whole process more efficient whilst keeping everyone safely distanced in the fight against COVID-19. Meetings will remain virtual until the end of 2020 and will be reviewed by individual groups in the new year.



Aligning AIC food/feed safety assurance schemes

Due to crossovers between the three feed and food safety schemes, we are proposing a common set of requirements be developed that would be applicable to FEMAS, TASCC and UFAS standards.

The new approach would ensure that each participant, regardless of scheme would be audited to the same requirements for the same activity. Although the auditable requirements would be identical, specific guidance/sector notes could, where necessary, be developed for each standard to aid with interpretation.

All existing scheme branding will remain unchanged including certification and mutual recognition to minimise the impact of these changes.



Remote audit update

The remote audit process has proved very successful and the Kiwa portal a beneficial resource. It has enabled sites to maintain their certification whilst ensuring feed and food safety.

Since 6th July, when COVID-19 restrictions started to ease, a blended audit approach has been adopted resulting in much of the work being done remotely whilst allowing for a physical on-site audit. Tighter restrictions came into force in the middle of September and the decision was made to stop all on site audits. If a physical audit is required this will be carried out on a case by case basis, thoroughly risk assessed and agreed by the site and assessor.

The ever changing restrictions, local lockdowns and country variations have added to the challenge but the speedy and proactive approach taken at the start of the pandemic by Kiwa has allowed everyone to maintain food safety and assurance.



Reviewing major non-conformances

General			
Clause No.	Clause wording	Times raised out of 36 major action points	%
G7.1bMa	Records must demonstrate traceability	10	27.7
G18.1Ma	HACCP carried out	4	11.1
G10.1bMa	Evidence of registration with feed hygiene regulations	3	8.3
G21.1Ma	Participant must carry out an internal audit	3	8.3

Haulage			
Clause No.	Clause wording	Times raised out of 42 major action points	%
H2.5aMa	Load carrying areas sanitized at least 6 weekly	9	21.4
H9.1gMa	Gain approval from Kiwa before use of hired, new or second hand vehicles	6	14.2
H2.5dMa	Sanitizer food grade	5	11.9
H2.5eMa	Inactive periods recorded	3	7.14

Merchant			
No major non-conformances identified within reporting period			

Storage			
Clause No.	Clause wording	Times raised out of 18 major action points	%
S3.2aMa	Store to protect material from damage, deterioration and contamination	3	16.6
S18.2Ma	Animals excluded from stores	2	11.1
S1.1aMa	Before using non-certificated store or temporary holding notify TASCC CB in writing	2	11.1

Testing			
Clause No.	Clause wording	Times raised out of 1 Testing Major action points	%
T11.1aMa	IQC must cover each commodity and parameter tested	1	100

