

FIAS Update

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FERTILISER INDUSTRY ASSURANCE SCHEME



Welcome

Welcome to the summer 2026 edition of FIAS Update.

With global events affecting fertiliser supply and a rising national security threat level, FIAS remains vital.

This issue looks ahead to the implementation of the new FIAS 2026 Standard in October, and marks **20 years of FIAS**.

Inside, you will find audit poster support, FIAS-specific Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) training, guidance on the transport of dangerous goods, and updates on Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and Health and Safety Executive (HSE) concerns.

Please let us know your views on the current FIAS Standard requirements or any questions you may have – your feedback is very welcome.



Roberta Reeve
Technical Manager
for AIC Services

FIAS Standard Review Update

Implementation of the latest version of the FIAS Standard is approaching. The current plan is for the new standard to apply from October 2026. The updated text has been reviewed by the UK Accreditation Service (UKAS), and the report has been completed. It is now awaiting final sign-off to confirm that an independent review process has been applied.

An interim version, highlighting changes in red text alongside a full list of amendments, is available on the AIC website.

The full and final version, including a downloadable PDF, will be made available once UKAS approval has been confirmed.

Audits from October will assess compliance against the new FIAS 2026 Standard requirements. Participants should familiarise themselves with the changes and ensure any necessary updates to systems, processes, or supporting evidence are in place ahead of their audit.

While the planned implementation date is 1 October, this may vary depending on final UKAS approval. Once granted, the certification body, Kiwa Agri Food, will apply to UKAS to extend its certification scope for FIAS.

In parallel, Kiwa and AIC will continue to update templates, i-Learning, and training materials to support the new standard. These resources will be published on the website in due course.

Watch out for briefings and update emails from AIC. Some of the key changes are discussed inside this update on page 2.

SCAN TO ACCESS INTERIM VERSION



Key Changes in FIAS 2026 Standard

The most significant updates are summarised below and a full list of changes is available if you scan the QR Code:



G6.2	This new clause expands on competency requirements outlined in G6.1. It is designed to ensure that FIAS-related training remains up to date and effective through annual competency reviews. Auditors will expect to see evidence of this, and some examples are given of suitable records.	
G6.2	Competence must be reviewed, recorded annually, and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any training needs identified • An understanding of the purpose of FIAS • Any in-house procedures implementing the detailed requirements of FIAS [R] 	Examples to demonstrate competency may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • i-Learning • Performance key performance indicators (KPIs) • Quizzes or tests • Practical evaluation • Relevant Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) training
G18.2	Internal audit requirements are a common source of non-compliance. This clause has been clarified, and the guidance expanded to explain that internal audits of FIAS systems can be scheduled to take place in stages over the year and does not need to be a daunting exercise.	
G18.2	Findings from internal audits must be documented, and the follow up must be effective and prevent recurrence. Any corrective actions must be completed in a timely manner. [R]	The internal audit and any corrective actions can be programmed over a period covering all relevant activities
S2.1	This new clause is added for clarification on the requirement for a Fire Risk Assessment to be in place and a record held. Further links are added to the guidance section.	
S2.3	A suitable fire detection system and firefighting equipment must be installed if indicated by the Fire Risk Assessment. These must be maintained and serviced as appropriate. [R]	Frequency of maintenance and service is based on Fire Risk Assessment and equipment manufacturers' recommendations.
S5.3 and 5.4; also M4.3, M4.4, T6.3		
Requirements for a Dangerous Goods Safety Adviser (DGSA) certificate and a current report have been separated into two clauses, as a common non-compliance is to have only one or the other available on audit when both are required. In product sales section, this has been added to cover Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) consignors.		
S5.3	[.....] The Company must hold a copy of the DGSA's current certificate. [R]	The duty of a DGSA is to advise the Company and provide an annual report on all necessary measures to ensure full compliance to ADR.
S5.4	The Company must hold a copy of the DGSA's current annual report. [R]	
S5.5; also S6.3, T9.3		
Where signatures are required for collections or deliveries, the full printed name must now be clearly legible. This change, requested by the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTS0), improves traceability in the event of an incident, clarity of detail of the person involved is available to the authorities. Currently, lack of a legible signature is a common source of non-conformance.		
S5.5	Upon receipt, the receiving Company must provide the delivery driver with the signature and full legible printed name of the Company representative authorised to receive the raw material or fertiliser product. By prior arrangement, other verifiable means of demonstrating correct delivery may be agreed between the receiver and the consignor. [R]	
M1.8	Supply chain information requirements of explosives precursors legislation has been added as non-compliances have been raised in this area.	
M1.8	The Company must ensure that information about regulated or reportable status for the product is notified in writing to their customer [R]	Refer to Appendix 7 and https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supplying-explosives-precursors/supplying-explosives-precursors-and-poison

FIAS at 20 – Celebrating Two Decades of Assurance

This year, we are celebrating 20 years since the FIAS scheme was launched.

You may already have seen blogs and social media posts as part of a year-long communications campaign marking the anniversary. These celebrate FIAS's role in improving safety, security, and traceability across the UK fertiliser supply chain.

Why it matters

- Reinforces the value of independent assurance for Participants, customers, and regulators
- Highlights FIAS's contribution to protecting people, products, and reputation
- Strengthens AIC's external profile and policy credibility

Activities include blogs, social media, podcasts, a webinar, interviews and a new logo.



Please support the campaign by following AIC, sharing posts and using campaign materials.

FIAS Working Group

The April meeting of the FIAS Working Group in Harrogate gave members the opportunity to learn more about the certification process at Kiwa Agri Food. The team outlined each stage, from registering as a FIAS Participant and undertaking an initial audit (where required), through to audit reporting, review of findings, addressing non-conformances, and final certification decisions.

Kiwa also explained how auditors are recruited and trained, which involves several stages, including witnessed audits. Their procedures are fully documented, and each AIC scheme is subject to a system audit by the UK Accreditation Service (UKAS), alongside further witnessed audits conducted with UKAS.

It is important to note that the audit itself is not the final step. All reports are reviewed and assessed within Kiwa. Auditors and reviewers have undergone the same rigorous process and understand the challenges Participants may face.

This provides confidence that audits are thorough and consistent. The Kiwa FIAS team is there to support Participants throughout their certification journey.

In future editions of FIAS Update, we will focus on the steps to certification to make the process as transparent as possible. If you have any questions, please do get in touch.



Kiwa Team (left-right): Marie Beasley, Suzie Benbow, Lauren Fraser, Jo Blair, Hattie Lord, Barbara Piwowarczyk

Join the FIAS Working Group

If you feel you can contribute to the future development of the FIAS scheme and would like to take part in Working Group discussions, representing your part of the fertiliser supply chain, please register your interest by emailing Roberta Reeve at roberta.reeve@agindustries.org.uk.



Improving Confidence on Audit Day – New Poster Available

Audit day can naturally feel stressful. Uncertainty, documentation checks and the pressure to demonstrate compliance can all contribute to anxiety. Over the past year, AIC Services has been working closely with certification body Kiwa to make the audit experience clearer and more transparent for everyone involved.

This collaboration has resulted in enhanced auditor training and the launch of the new How to Improve Audit Confidence poster, designed to support Participants throughout the audit journey. Together, these improvements aim to make audits less stressful and more constructive for Participants.

Enhanced Auditor Training

All AIC Scheme auditors receive routine training, but last year's sessions placed particular emphasis on audit-day wellbeing and communication. The training explored practical techniques for managing both their own and Participant stress levels, helping to foster a positive and constructive audit environment.

Introducing the 'How to Improve Audit Confidence' Poster

To build confidence among Participants and their teams, AIC Services has developed a new poster that clearly and simply outlines both the expectations of Participants and the audit process from start to finish. The aim is to help everyone feel prepared, informed, empowered and, ultimately, confident. A key message of the poster is that an audit is designed to demonstrate compliance and good practice, not to find fault.

Requesting Copies

Hard copies of the poster are available to order, and a printer-ready file can be provided on request. To obtain copies, please contact Gill Barrow at gill.barrow@agindustries.org.uk, or visit the AIC website to access the A4 hard-copy order form.

Dangerous Goods Transport Guidance

The National Farmers' Union (NFU) has partnered with the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Carriage of Dangerous Goods Practitioners Forum (CDGPF) to produce agriculture-specific guidance for the transport of these products.

The guidance is available to download and print.

FIAS distributor and storage Participants may find this particularly useful in relation to collections by farm vehicles.

It covers:

- Relevant regulations
- Vehicle exemptions and definitions
- Load exemptions
- Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) requirements
- Load security
- PDF download and poster



HSE Audit Concerns

At the FIAS Steering Group meeting, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) raised concerns following audit findings across the industry that may also apply to FIAS businesses. For Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) sites, these areas will be a focus this year.

1. Electric vehicle (EV) charging point location: Locations must be considered and documented as part of the site risk assessment, particularly where ammonium nitrate (AN) is stored, as these could act as ignition sources.
2. Documentation and embedding of procedures: Training must go beyond a 'tick-box' exercise. Further investigation showed that staff did not always fully understand the training or the procedures they are expected to follow.

The new FIAS Standard addresses this by requiring evidence of staff competency, such as certifications, training records, or performance evaluations, helping to ensure staff are qualified and high standards are consistent across the business.

3. Safety Data Sheets (SDS): Some SDS reviewed by HSE contained incorrect product information, appeared fake or potentially generated using artificial intelligence (AI). While specialised software is often used to produce SDS, it is essential that SDS are accurate, up to date and relevant to the product sold.

Participants should use this information to ensure systems are correct and safety and security compliance is maintained.



Three-Year Certificates

To coincide with the implementation of the FIAS 2026 Standard, the FIAS Working Group has agreed to move to a three-year certification cycle.

Certificates issued from October 2026 onwards will reflect this change.

There will be no change to the practical operation of the scheme. Routine audits will remain annual, and renewal fee periods unchanged.

This brings FIAS into line with other AIC trade assurance schemes and reduces administrative burden while maintaining cost efficiency.



FIAS Driver CPC Training Course Available

Did you know that Kiwa Training offers a FIAS Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) course approved by the Joint Approvals Unit for Periodic Training (JAUPT)?

The course is available online, in-person and on company sites. It lasts seven hours and counts as one full day towards the required Driver CPC training.

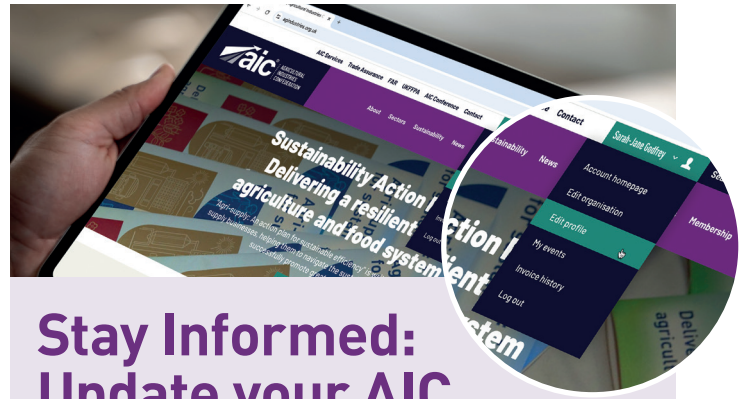




Feature as a Case Study

AIC Services is inviting Participants of its Trade Assurance Schemes to contribute to a series of case studies, promoting the value of assurance in feed, food, and fertiliser safety.

If your business is a Participant in any of AIC's Trade Assurance Schemes and you would like to find out more about being featured, please register your interest by emailing AIC Communications Manager, Wendy Ford, at wendy.ford@agindustries.org.uk



Stay Informed: Update your AIC Profile Preferences

Did you know you can update your personal details and contact preferences on AIC's website?

Simply log into your account, then click on 'Edit Profile' and 'Contact Preferences' to choose your topics of interest and opt-in for communications such as 'Assurance Alerts'.

You can also select how you wish to be contacted to suit your needs.

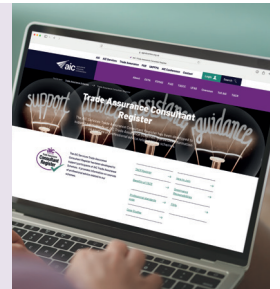
Useful Information

FIAS WEB PAGES: Scroll and search to find the Trade Assurance Checker, FIAS documents, templates, and videos e.g. "How to access the Portal" and "What to expect at your audit".

Trade Assurance Consultant Register (TACR)

To support current or potential Participants of AIC's Trade Assurance Schemes, a list of consultants and advisers is available on AIC's website, along with the TACR professional conduct standards.

The TACR lists individual consultants, the trade assurance schemes they support, services offered, and ways to contact them for further information.



FIAS WEB PAGES

AMMONIUM NITRATE FERTILISER SAFETY RADIUS CALCULATOR

TRADE ASSURANCE CONSULTANT REGISTER (TACR)

TRADE ASSURANCE CHECKER



ACT ACTION COUNTERS TERRORISM Awareness



ProtectUK

Information about security issues, general counter terrorism guidance, ACT Awareness e-learning. Protect UK can be downloaded from: Google Play or Apple's App Store.



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