

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSAL FEED ASSURANCE SCHEME

# UFAS Certification Body contract awarded

After an extensive and detailed tender process AIC Services – with support from several AIC committees – has awarded the UFAS Certification contract to Acoura Certification with effect from 1st September 2017.

Kiwa will remain the appointed certification body for FEMAS, FIAS and TASCC. Both Acoura and Kiwa are committed to continuing to provide joint audits where required.



### UFAS Certification tender background

AIC Services contract independent certification bodies to carry out the auditing and certification for all their schemes under UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service) accreditation. The UFAS contract runs for four years and the current one expires at the end of August 2017.

Therefore, a tender process began in September 2016. The process was completed

during April 2017 after a series of interviews and visits to candidate businesses, during which AIC were supported by the UFAS Review Group. Members of the group were involved in every stage leading to a recommendation that was then endorsed by the UFAS Working Group and the Feed Executive Committee.

## Inside

Introducing Acoura

UFAS mycotoxin monitoring

Dioxins in feed

FEMAS intermediate supplier

Earned Recognition update

Call for ergot alkaloids data

## Combatting feed fraud

**AIC has an ongoing, constructive dialogue with the National Food Crime Unit (NFCU), a new department within the Food Standards Agency (FSA) which was formed in 2015 following the 'Horsegate' scandal.**

During routine meetings with the NFCU team, AIC has highlighted a small number of areas where our supply chain could be at risk from fraud, in particular the authenticity and integrity of commodities with restricted supply (eg organic certified protein sources). The NFCU has concluded, in part due to the commitment of the industry to an assured supply chain, that the feed sector represents a relatively low risk.

In spite of this welcome conclusion, it is worth noting that elsewhere in Europe adulterated feed ingredients have been identified as entering the feed chain. The most recent instance concerned

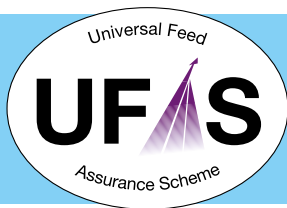
an issue with yeast products produced in Russia, which were found to have been routinely adulterated with urea to boost the apparent protein content. Some batches from one company were found to contain 12% urea, which the authorities estimate was worth almost 300 Euro/tonne to the fraudsters.

There are no guaranteed ways to avoid becoming a victim of feed fraud but the risks can be minimised by ensuring purchasing processes are robust:

- Buy from reputable suppliers certified to a recognised scheme
- Get as much information about the full supply chain as possible
- Think: Is the price too good to be true?
- If you have suspicions about a specific supplier, contact the authorities, or AIC using the 'Tell AIC' page on the website

More details on the work of the NFCU, and their assessment of the food crime risk can be found on the FSA website.





## Introducing Acoura – new UFAS Certification Body

Acoura, part of the Lloyd's Register group, offers industry leading risk management services to the food and drink sector. Acoura works across the entire food and drink supply chain and supports primary producers, feed and food manufacturers, retailers and hospitality providers with a range of services tailored to meet their specific needs. These services include accredited and non-accredited audits and assessments, training, consultancy and technology solutions.

This work is undertaken with more than 25,000 businesses across the UK and Ireland and entails both Red Tractor, QMS and SQC farm assurance, BRC and organic manufacturer certification and a range of risk management services to hotels, restaurants, pubs and retail stores.

Acoura has a very good understanding of the feed sector having delivered UFAS audits since 2000 and works with the feed manufacturing sector within both organic and aquaculture sectors as well.

Acoura has a successful track record of working with Scheme Owners across a range of categories and using technology and innovation to improve services for them and the Scheme participants. Acoura will introduce a range of new technology offers for UFAS members including offering dedicated participant online portals, compliance

record 'filing' and the ability to manage compliance and corrective action updates online. There will also be the ability to access reminders to help with post audit and ongoing compliance.

The overall delivery of the UFAS Scheme will be managed by the Acoura UFAS Technical Manager, Forbes Fyfe. Forbes has more than 25 years' experience of the animal feed sector having worked in quality and technical roles for a range of businesses producing compounded and blended feeds and feed ingredients. He has a very good understanding of feed assurance compliance having successfully implemented and maintained compliance against eight different standards including UFAS and FEMAS. Forbes will work closely with Simon Williams and the AIC team as well as providing technical support and assistance to the Acoura team, auditors and Scheme participants.

Forbes will be closely supported by Morag Cunningham, UFAS Scheme Manager, who will be Acoura's main day to day UFAS contact. She will be supported by other colleagues who we will introduce to participants in due course. Morag is a farmer's daughter with more than 20 years' experience of the agriculture and farm inputs sector and over 10 years' experience of managing agriculture assurance schemes for Acoura.



**Forbes Fyfe, Acoura UFAS  
Technical Manager**



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## UFAS Mycotoxin monitoring finds little of concern

Since autumn 2016, UFAS has been analysing compound feed samples for the presence of a suite of mycotoxins as a means of verifying the controls on the feed materials at risk from contamination.

The only mycotoxin with a limit defined in the Undesirable Substances Directive is Aflatoxin, but UFAS is also monitoring for others where guidance limits have been set.

The suite includes:

- Aflatoxins
- Zearalenone (ZON)
- Deoxynivalenol (DON)
- T2/ HT2

To date, the majority of feeds analysed have only shown very low levels of DON or ZON (less than 1% of the guidance limit) and one result with a safe level of aflatoxin B1 requiring no action. The exception was one result in which the sum of T2 and HT2 exceeded the guidance limit.

T2/ HT2 is an increasing concern in the UK oat crop, particularly in oat co-products going into animal feed. However, it is rarely detected in other cereals.

AIC also continues to be a partner in the AHDB mycotoxin monitoring project and a summary of the recent results can be found on the AIC website.

## European Schemes

### New FAMI-QS documents

FAMI-QS, the international additives and speciality feed ingredients scheme, has published new versions of its standards.

The new standard is based on the latest ISO document structures and includes additional guidance documents to be applied by businesses depending on production method(s) employed.

### Coceral GTP & EFISC to Merge

The GTP commodity trading scheme, owned by Coceral, is to merge with the European Feed Ingredient Safety Code (EFISC) scheme. As both schemes already have mutual recognition with AIC, this is not expected to cause any disruption to trade.

# Dioxins in feed

## European issues

Recent Rapid Alert System Food and Feed (RASFF) alerts relating to illegal levels of dioxins being detected, serve as a timely reminder of the broad range of feed ingredients that can be contaminated. One alert concerned excessive levels in maize and maize gluten which was believed to have been caused by drying practices in Ukraine, the country of origin.

The other alert related to zinc oxide from Spain. The origin of this contamination is not so clear, because although the RASFF system classifies dioxins as 'industrial pollutants' their presence in minerals can be due to prehistoric volcanic eruptions and forest fires.

Regardless of the original source of dioxins,

the risks should be understood by producers and managed at source. From a due diligence perspective, UFAS participants would be advised to understand the controls which their suppliers have in place.

## UFAS monitoring

The UFAS dioxin monitoring programme is nearing the end of its fifth year. We now have robust and consistent data to demonstrate that the risk of dioxins in UK feed is well controlled. As a result, the number of samples analysed for dioxins has been reduced, and mycotoxin screening has begun. However, recent RASFF alerts emphasise the need for ongoing monitoring.

# Top Non-conformances

Clause	Requirement	No of times raised
I 2.7 minor	The product recall procedure must be tested annually.	42
C 2.6 minor	Where treatments are used the participant must either be qualified or use a qualified pest controller.	26
A 8 minor	All bulk road transport owned by a UFAS participant must conform to sections D and E of the AIC TASC Code of Practice for Road Haulage of Combinable Crops & Animal Feeds.	24
J 4.2 minor	The training of each member of staff must be recorded. Receipt of training must be signed off by the trainer and trainee to confirm receipt and understanding.	24
D 12.1 minor	The correct labels must be used and must conform to current legislation.	20
A 2.1 minor	The Company must have a policy statement.	19
C 4.2 minor	Scales and metering devices, including weighbridges, must be calibrated according to a written schedule at intervals not exceeding 12 months.	19
A 4.1 minor	Participants must have a schedule for an annual programme of internal auditing covering compliance with the UFAS Standard	18
B 2.1.1 minor	The approval system must ensure that suppliers are certificated participants of a scheme	17
G 3 minor	Where additives (including vitamins and minerals) are incorporated and levels declared, sampling and analysis to check efficiency of mixing (dispersion) must be carried out at intervals of no more than 6 months.	13

# FEMAS Intermediate Supplier Standard



**A basic principle of AIC's feed assurance schemes is to purchase ingredients from certified suppliers, but this is not always feasible for some materials.**

As a result, AIC developed the FEMAS Intermediate Supplier (IS) Standard which allows a company to act as a 'gatekeeper' to the assured supply chain. Without this option, the UK feed industry could be denied access to some ingredients, notably some feed additives and minerals.

The FEMAS IS approval process begins with a business submitting an application, which is then considered by a small group of industry experts. They concentrate on two key questions:

1. Is gatekeeping necessary? Why is source assurance not possible?
2. Does the application give evidence that gatekeeping can be implemented to ensure safety and legal compliance are maintained?

If the application passes these tests, it is then permitted to proceed to audit. Once the applicant has corrected any non-conformances, they will be certified with the scope specifying the products covered. In some cases, these will be listed on the AIC assurance checker, but others will refer to a list held by KIWA PAI. If a UFAS participant is considering purchasing an ingredient from one of these companies, they can contact Kiwa to check that the material in question is within scope.



## Earned Recognition update:

### Scope of ER extends, close working on feed safety issues

AIC continues to work closely with the FSA and local Trading Standards officers under the Earned Recognition Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Arrangements have now been in place for three years, and the sharing of information critical to maintain feed and food safety has steadily increased as trust develops between the various parties to the MoU. In recent months, the MoU has allowed a two way flow of information on a number of issues ranging from poor hygiene standards to the use of unauthorised feed additives.

The scope of ER is also extending as the FSA in Northern Ireland has published enforcement guidance, and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), whose inspectors enforce feed legislation has confirmed

its recognition of industry schemes leading to reduced inspections and feed sampling.

Separately, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) has agreed to extend the scope of its recognition of UFAS to include merchants who sell medicated animal feeds.

#### New Feed Law Code of Practice drafted

The FSA is developing a revised Feed Law Enforcement Code of Practice including revisions to the risk rating scheme and making the document clearer for local authorities to implement. AIC has been invited to comment on an early draft and will help ensure that the revisions lead to proportionate enforcement of feed law, ensuring that compliant companies gain the full benefits of earned recognition.

#### FSS new enforcement approach

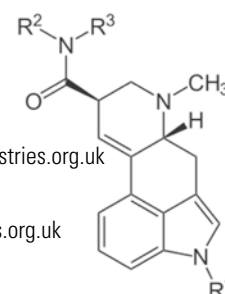
Earlier this year, Food Standards Scotland (FSS) published its proposals for a centralised enforcement model for feed law enforcement. Once the required legislative changes have been made, FSS will become the competent authority for feed legislation enforcement. Responsibility will be delegated to nine local authorities who will carry out enforcement regionally. It is hoped that this approach will lead to more consistent enforcement across Scotland and allow trading standards officers' experience and specialism in animal feed to develop.

## European call for data on ergot alkaloids

The European Commission is seeking data, via national governments, on ergot alkaloid levels in cereals.

The FSA is aware that the UK grain trade has operated on the basis of visual checks for the absence of ergot sclerotia in a consignment. They feel that this has proved more than adequate to protect human and animal health. However, other

member states are pushing to define acceptable levels of alkaloids produced by ergot. To help UK Government defend current industry practice, the FSA Contaminants Branch has asked for any industry data on correlations between sclerotia levels in a sample and the analytical levels of alkaloids. Companies with data they can share with FSA should contact:



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