

# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme



# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme AIC Stakeholders Webinar – 15th April

agindustries.org.uk

## AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme (ASCS)

**ASCS**  
Commodities Scheme

ASCS is a new voluntary scheme developed, owned and implemented by the Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)

### Background

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The first modules to be released by the ASCS certify that where raw materials and products are sourced from geographies where forests are at risk, this activity does not result in deforestation. AIC is currently developing two modules within the Scheme to address these concerns.

Certification to the ASCS should help the Participant meet the requirements of sustainability criteria set in this area in a cost effective and pragmatic manner.

The Scheme will offer a series of modules against which Participants in the Scheme will be independently certified to confirm that the sourcing of raw materials and products from geographical areas meets key sustainability goals.

- 1 A certification standard designed for Participants to demonstrate alignment with the EU Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products (EUDR) from origin to the UK.
- 2 A certification standard designed for Participants to demonstrate that they operate a Deforestation-Free Chain of Custody for the on-range commodities used within the UK feed industry.

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James McCulloch  
Head of Feed - AIC



Marie Keys – ASCS Scheme  
Manager - Intertek



Sue Whittington  
Technical Manager - AIC

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## Programme:

1. Competition law compliance
2. Background to why AIC has developed the ASCS
3. Scheme Governance and Scheme rules
4. Scheme structure
5. Scheme standards and requirements
6. Certification – application through to certification
7. Q & A



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## COMPETITION LAW COMPLIANCE

It is the policy of the AIC and its Members to comply with competition law. The guidelines below are intended to assist members in their participation in coalition meetings. The consequences of ignoring the law are extremely serious and include fines of up to 10% of worldwide turnover and a prison sentence of up to 5 years.

### DO

- Review the agenda before the meeting
- Object in advance or during the meeting to any item or discussion that you consider may raise competition law concerns
- Ensure that accurate minutes or notes of the meeting are taken
- Review notes and minutes to ensure that they reflect what was discussed



### DO NOT

- Discuss the following topics without taking legal advice:
  - Selling prices including price changes, discounts, rebates and allowances
  - Any other commercially sensitive data
  - Costs
  - Commercial actions of competitors
  - Terms of sale including credit terms
  - Allocation of customers, territories and contracts
  - Tenders or any other bids for contracts
- Forget that competition law applies outside of the formal meeting itself. This includes discussions pre or post meeting and any follow up actions.

### GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS COMPLIANCE

Meeting attendees acknowledge it is necessary to use their personal identifying data to carry out legitimate business activities on behalf of AIC. AIC's full Privacy Notice can be found at <https://www.agindustries.org.uk/legal>

If you have any concerns or need specific guidance, please contact AIC Compliance Officer or consult external legal advisers.

# AIC Sustainable Commodity Scheme Background

Why have AIC developed the ASCS?

- a) In response to Regulation - EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)
- b) In response to other sustainability initiatives such as the UK Soya Manifesto
- c) To provide a single, commodity agnostic, scheme for commodities such as soyabean meal and palm-based products which can potentially be linked to deforestation



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Certification to the ASCS should help the Participant meet the requirements of sustainability criteria set in this area in a cost effective and pragmatic manner.

The Scheme will offer a series of modules against which Participants in the Scheme will be independently certified to confirm that the sourcing of raw materials and products from geographical areas meets key sustainability goals.

- 1 A certification standard designed for Participants to demonstrate alignment with the EU Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products (EUDR) from origin to the UK.
- 2 A certification standard designed for Participants to demonstrate that they operate a Deforestation-Free Chain of Custody for the various commodities used within the UK feed industry.

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ASCS has been developed with whole supply chain engagement including commodity importers, compound feed manufacturers, livestock producers, meat and dairy processors, UK retailers and food service brands.

# AIC Sustainable Commodity Scheme Structure

The Scheme has been developed to help AIC members fulfil any due diligence requirements for the EU Regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EUDR) and to help them meet the requirements of UK supply chains.

The Scheme details can be found here:

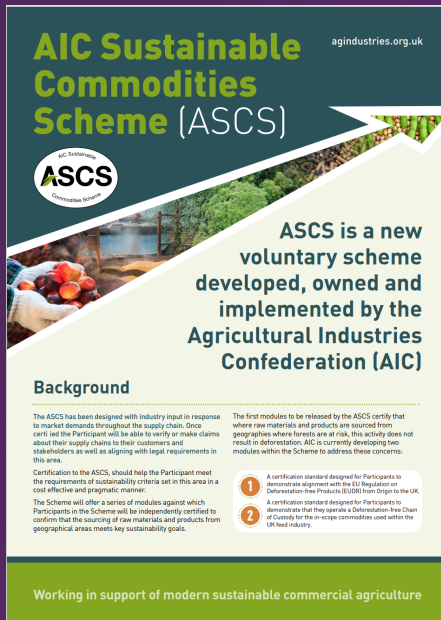
[AIC | ASCS - AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme](#)

There are two modules within the Scheme:

Module 1: For Participants to demonstrate alignment with EUDR from origin to UK.

Module 2: For feed mill operators in the UK to demonstrate that they operate a deforestation free Chain of Custody for the in-scope commodities used within the UK feed industry.

Through this Chain of Custody Certification system Participants must be able to demonstrate that the commodities they 'use' have been produced in accordance with 'local' laws (in origin) and are free from 'deforestation'.



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# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme

## What about the delay to EUDR implementation?

The EU agreed the text of the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) amending regulation on 15 December 2025. This followed the European Parliament's vote which was conclusive, with 402 votes in favour and 250 against, and 8 abstentions, giving a clear political signal to the Commission.

The positive outcome confirms the adoption of:

- **Postponement of the application of obligations of 12 months.** New date of application for large and medium-sized operators/traders: **30 December 2026**. For small and micro-operators/traders, new date of application: **30 June 2027**.
- **A review clause**, with the adoption of amendments providing that: *“By 30 April 2026, the Commission shall carry out a simplification review of this Regulation and, on this basis, present a report to the European Parliament and the Council accompanied, where appropriate, by a legislative proposal.”*



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# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme

## Who is it for?



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The Scheme aims to provide feed and food supply chains with confidence that soya and palm commodities have not originated from deforested land.

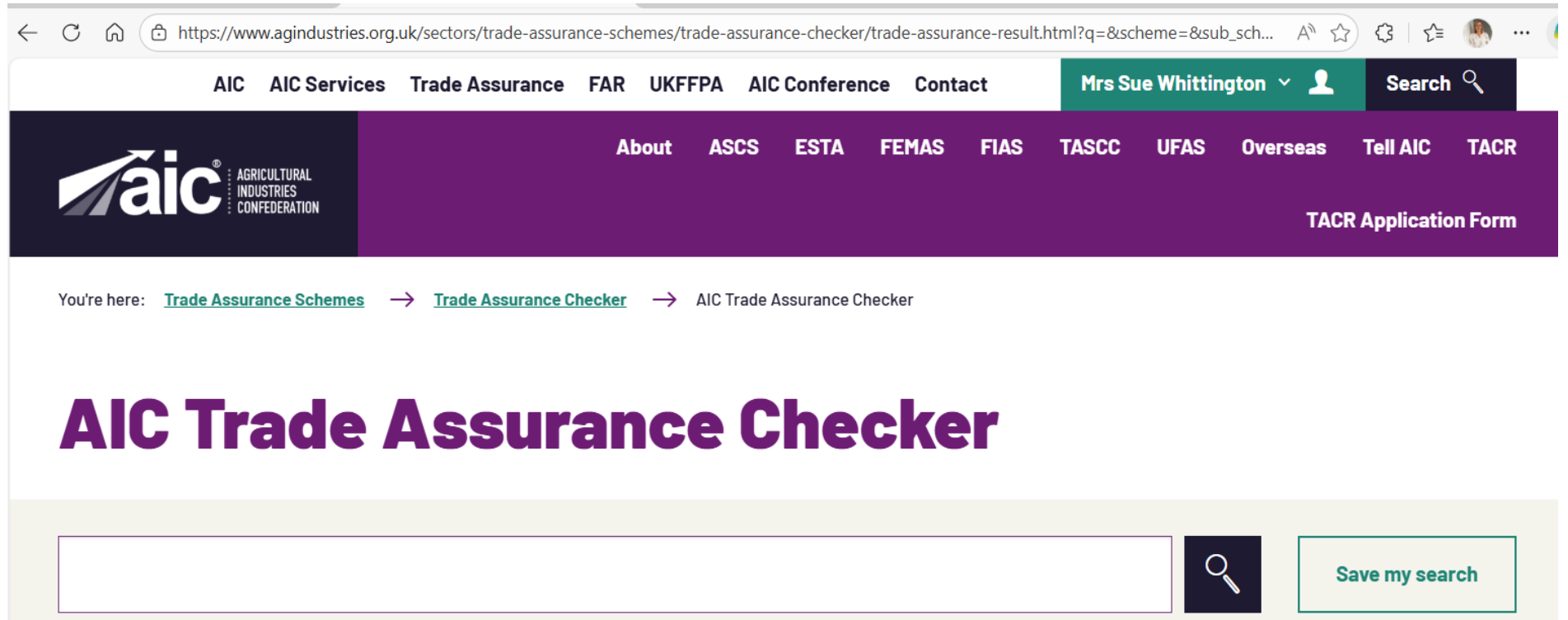
The Scheme is relevant to importers, traders and compound feed manufacturers.

Module 1 is applicable for shippers, importers and exporters to demonstrate alignment with the requirements of EUDR.

Module 2 is applicable for compound feed manufacturers and feed ingredient suppliers using feed products in the UK to demonstrate the deforestation free status of products supplied to livestock producers and downstream customers is maintained.



# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme Trade Assurance Checker



The screenshot shows the AIC website's Trade Assurance Checker page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for AIC, AIC Services, Trade Assurance, FAR, UKFFPA, AIC Conference, and Contact. A user profile for Mrs Sue Whittington and a search icon are also present. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for About, ASCS, ESTA, FEMAS, FIAS, TASCC, UFAS, Overseas, Tell AIC, and TACR. The AIC logo is on the left, and a 'TACR Application Form' link is on the right. A breadcrumb trail reads: You're here: Trade Assurance Schemes → Trade Assurance Checker → AIC Trade Assurance Checker. The main heading is 'AIC Trade Assurance Checker'. Below the heading is a search input field, a magnifying glass icon, and a 'Save my search' button.

[AIC | AIC Trade Assurance Checker](#)



# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme Trade Assurance Checker

## AIC Trade Assurance Checker



Displaying 1 result

**ForFarmers UK Limited** Certified

The manufacture of compound feed, including feed containing controlled products, and the application of a Salmonella kill step for poultry feed.

**Address:** Olympia Mills  
Barlby Road  
SELBY  
Y08 5AF  
England

**Scheme:** UFAS  
**Sub scheme:** Compound Feeds  
**Scheme ID:** 42  
**Expiry:** 31 August 2028

You can login to save the search and save the trade assurance member

### Scheme and sub scheme

- ESTA
- FEMAS
- FIAS
- TASCC
- UFAS

### Scheme status

- Applied
- Certified
- Moved
- Suspended
- Withdrawn

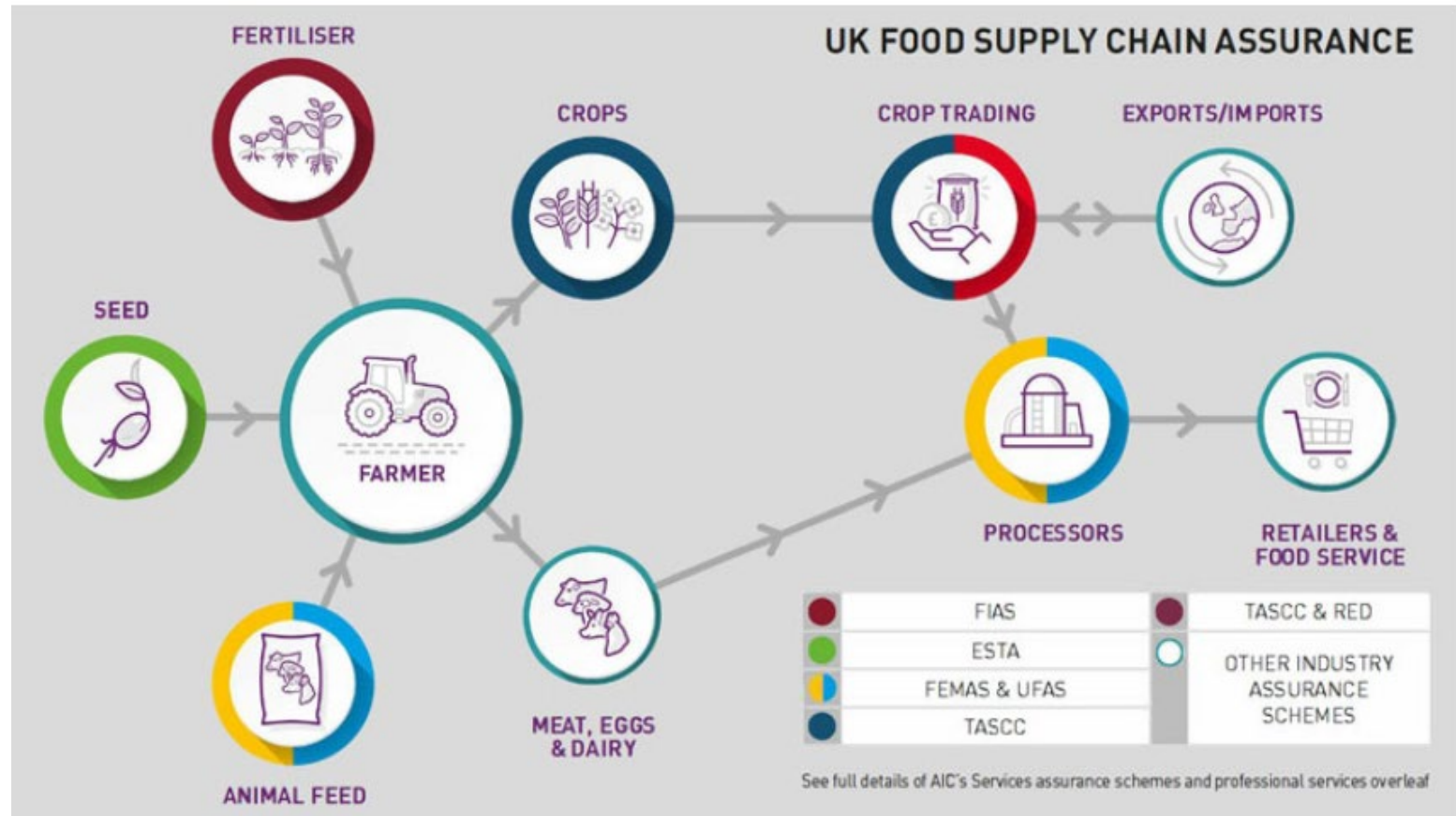
[AIC | AIC Trade Assurance Checker](#)

# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme Scheme Governance

AIC manage a number of trade assurance schemes on behalf of the agri supply industry. These have been developed in consultation with members and other stakeholders and have the following aims:

- To minimise the risk of adverse incidents or publicity in our industry
- To provide due diligence and assist businesses in meeting legislative requirements
- To meet customer requirements in the UK and Internationally
- To add value to participating companies
- To ensure that uniform standards are applied across the industry
- To keep red tape and costs to a minimum

# AIC Services Feed & Food Assurance Schemes - Scheme Governance



With over 4,000 Participants in the UK, Ireland and globally, these schemes are externally audited to UK Accreditation Service (UKAS) standards, ensuring legal compliance and providing a due diligence defence.

# AIC Services Feed & Food Assurance Schemes – Scheme Governance

AIC Services manages trade assurance schemes and professional services for the UK agricultural supply sector, including:

[Feed Materials Assurance Scheme \(FEMAS\)](#)

[Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops \(TASCC\)](#)

[Renewable Energy Directive \(RED\)](#)

[Universal Feed Assurance Scheme \(UFAS\)](#)

[Fertiliser Industry Assurance Scheme \(FIAS\)](#)

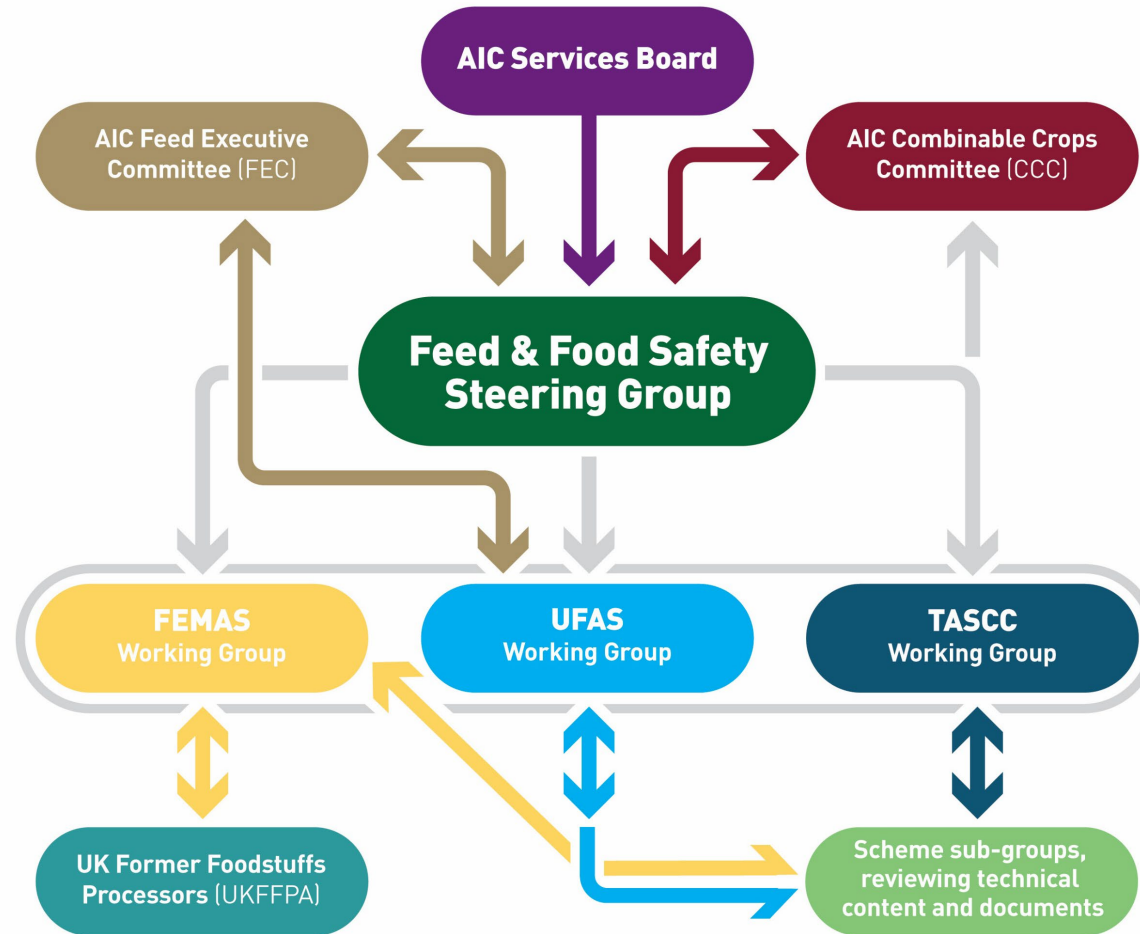
[AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme \(ASCS\)](#)

[European Seed Treatment Assurance scheme \(ESTA\)](#)



# AIC Services Feed & Food Schemes: Scheme Governance

AIC Services Feed & Food Assurance Schemes Committee and Reporting Structure



**FEED & FOOD SAFETY**

**TASCC**

**FEMAS**

**UFAS**



# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme

## Scheme Rules

### Scope

The ASCS encompasses all the operations and activities of a Participant that may have a bearing on their compliance with the requirements of the module(s) specified within their scope of certification: from raw material procurement and supplier approval, through to the point at which any products are transferred to a third party. All products placed on the market by a Participant as compliant must be included in the certification scope or, with the agreement of the Certification Body, be clearly excluded.

The presence of products outside of the certification scope (or other materials) on site must not adversely affect the certified products.

Audits will (as appropriate) include:

- The original selection and sourcing of raw materials and/or products by Participants
- All transport to and from the Participants premises or designated stores
- The process by which products are produced
- The storage of both raw materials and products
- Any offsite activities that may affect the compliance of products



# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme

## Scheme Rules

### Food/ Feed Safety

It is a prerequisite of this Scheme that ALL raw materials/ feeds are ALSO certified under a food & feed safety Scheme recognised by AIC. For Participants in the Feed Sector, this Standard must be applied in addition to any feed safety Scheme recognised by AIC. Applicants must contact the Certification Body to confirm that any feed safety certification that they are considering using to partner this Standard is recognised by AIC.

### Claims Associated with ASCS Certification

Participants who achieve successful certification against the ASCS are reminded that this is a product certification scheme. Claims of certification may only be made in relation to those products included within the scope of the ASCS Certificate of Conformity.



# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme

## Scheme Rules

### Verifying Compliance with the Scheme module(s)

There are a number of types of audit within the ASCS:

- 1 Pre-Assessment** – (voluntary for new Participants). Pre-Assessments will evaluate a new Applicant's ability to meet the requirements of the ASCS module(s) included in their application.
- 2 Initial Audit** – A formal, in-depth, on-site audit to confirm that Applicants comply with the requirements of the relevant ASCS module(s). Certificates are only issued on satisfactory correction of all non-conformances identified at Initial Audit.
- 3 Surveillance Audit** – annual audit for certified Participants to assess compliance with the requirements of the Scheme
- 4 Short Notice Audit** – an audit carried out at least once during the three-year certificate period. The Participant will be informed the working day before the audit is to take place.
- 5 Unannounced Audit** – A random selection of unannounced audits will be conducted to demonstrate the integrity of the Scheme
- 6 Extra/ Immediate Audit** – The Certification Body will carry out extra/ immediate audits at their discretion in response to reports or intelligence suggesting a significant sustainability issue or breach of Scheme Rules and requirements.
- 7 Supplier Audit** – an audit of a non-certified supplier of services, raw materials or products to the Participant carried out at the discretion of the Certification Body.



# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme

## Scheme Rules

### Verifying Compliance with the Scheme module(s)

Classification	Cause	Response
<b>Critical</b>	<p>A gross or deliberate regulatory violation, or;</p> <p>A failure in compliance resulting in the sustainability status of products being compromised, or;</p> <p>A loss of traceability such that recall of non-compliant goods would be impossible, or;</p> <p>A recurrence of a Major Non-conformance raised at the preceding audit, or;</p> <p>A complete unwillingness to cooperate during an audit.</p>	<p>Certification refused/suspended immediately. Re-audit required.</p>
<b>Major</b>	<p>A complete failure to implement a requirement of the Scheme or a failure that may result in the loss of sustainability status, or;</p> <p>A recurrence of a Minor Non-conformance raised at the preceding audit.</p>	<p>Initial certification not granted until rectified, surveillance audits CA plan submitted within 15 days and timescale for actions agreed and completed within 60 days or suspended.</p>
<b>Minor</b>	<p>A partial failure to implement a requirement of the Scheme or poor evidence to demonstrate implementation.</p>	<p>Initial certification not granted until rectified, surveillance audits Cas /plan submitted within 30 days and timescale agreed with CB. Failure to implement CA and provide evidence as agreed will result in suspension.</p>



# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme Standards – Module Structure

**Module 1: Alignment with EUDR from Origin to the UK**

**Module 2: Operators in the UK**

Section A: General Requirements

Scheme and legislative requirements, management and organisational structure

Section B: Documents & Records

Documents & records required to demonstrate compliance and internal audit

**Section C: Raw Materials/Feed Products and their Suppliers**

Supply chain mapping, due diligence risk assessment, respect for land rights, land use and environmental protection, raw material supplier approval

Section D: Merchanting of Products

Approval of products



# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme Standards – Module Structure

## Section E: Suppliers of Contracted Services

Selection and approval of suppliers of contracted services and the management of bulk rail or water transport

## Section F: Sales and Transmission of Relevant Information

Sales contracts/agreements/product specifications, labelling & identification

## Section G: Operations – Intake, Storage, Processing & Despatch

Intake, storage & processing, despatch of bulk and packaged products

## Section H: Sustainability Incidents

## Section I: Traceability & Chain of Custody

Traceability, records, exercise and Chain of Custody models



# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme Standards and requirements

Concentrating on the sections where requirements are different to the feed & food safety schemes:

## **Module 1 – alignment with EUDR from Origin to the UK**

### **Section C: Raw Material/Feed Products and Raw Material/Feed Products Suppliers**

#### **Supply Chain Mapping and Due Diligence Risk Assessment –**

Map/document supply chain for each commodity within scope of certification and the complete a due diligence risk assessment on each supply chain to demonstrate in scope commodities are produced in alignment with EUDR and complete a deforestation risk assessment for each raw material/feed material and it's supplier.

#### **Respect for Land Rights and Traditional Land Use –**

Raw materials/feed products originate only from farms/ locations with evidence of right to use the land and any new acquisition or development of land that may affect Indigenous Peoples or Local Communities (IPLC), the free, prior and informed consent is secured.



# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme Standards – Module 1

## **Section C Raw Material/Feed Products and Raw Material/Feed Products Suppliers**

### **Land Use and Environmental Protection –**

Only sourced from farms/ locations/ plots of land where land has NOT been legally or illegally deforested since 31st December 2020 or the date mentioned in national legislation, whichever is earlier.

Conservation areas, areas of natural vegetation around bodies of water and areas sensitive to erosion are all maintained or restored.

Wetlands, any rare, threatened, or endangered wildlife species and native vegetation are maintained and safeguarded to provide habitat for wildlife species and identified on a map.

## **Section F Sales and Transmission of Relevant Information**

### **Sales Contracts/Agreements and Raw Material/Feed Product Specifications**

Where required, geolocation information for production site(s) and/or due diligence statement(s) must be recorded.



# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme Standards – Module 1

## Section I Traceability & Chain of Custody

### Chain of Custody models –

- Controlled Mass Balance
- Segregation
- Identity Preserved

### **Definition of Controlled Mass Balance:**

A variation of the mass balance CoC model, where all input material entering the system boundary has specific attributes – most commonly that all the material, whether certified or not, is compliant with a set of minimum specified legal or sustainability requirements. (Source: ISEAL Chain of Custody models and definition guidance v2).

If raw materials or products within scope of certification become accidentally or intentionally commingled with other products, the resultant product must be identified as having lost its ASCS Certification status.



# ASCS Module 1 Chain of Custody models

Supply Chain Traceability Chain of Custody Models	Assurance that certified material is present in the physical supply chain	Potential for material of unknown origin in the physical supply chain	Complete separation of certified and non-certified raw materials throughout the supply chain
Book & Claim process	NO	YES	NO
Mass balance	YES	YES	NO
<b>Controlled Mass Balance</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Segregation</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Identity Preservation</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>



# ASCS - Module 1 Chain of Custody model

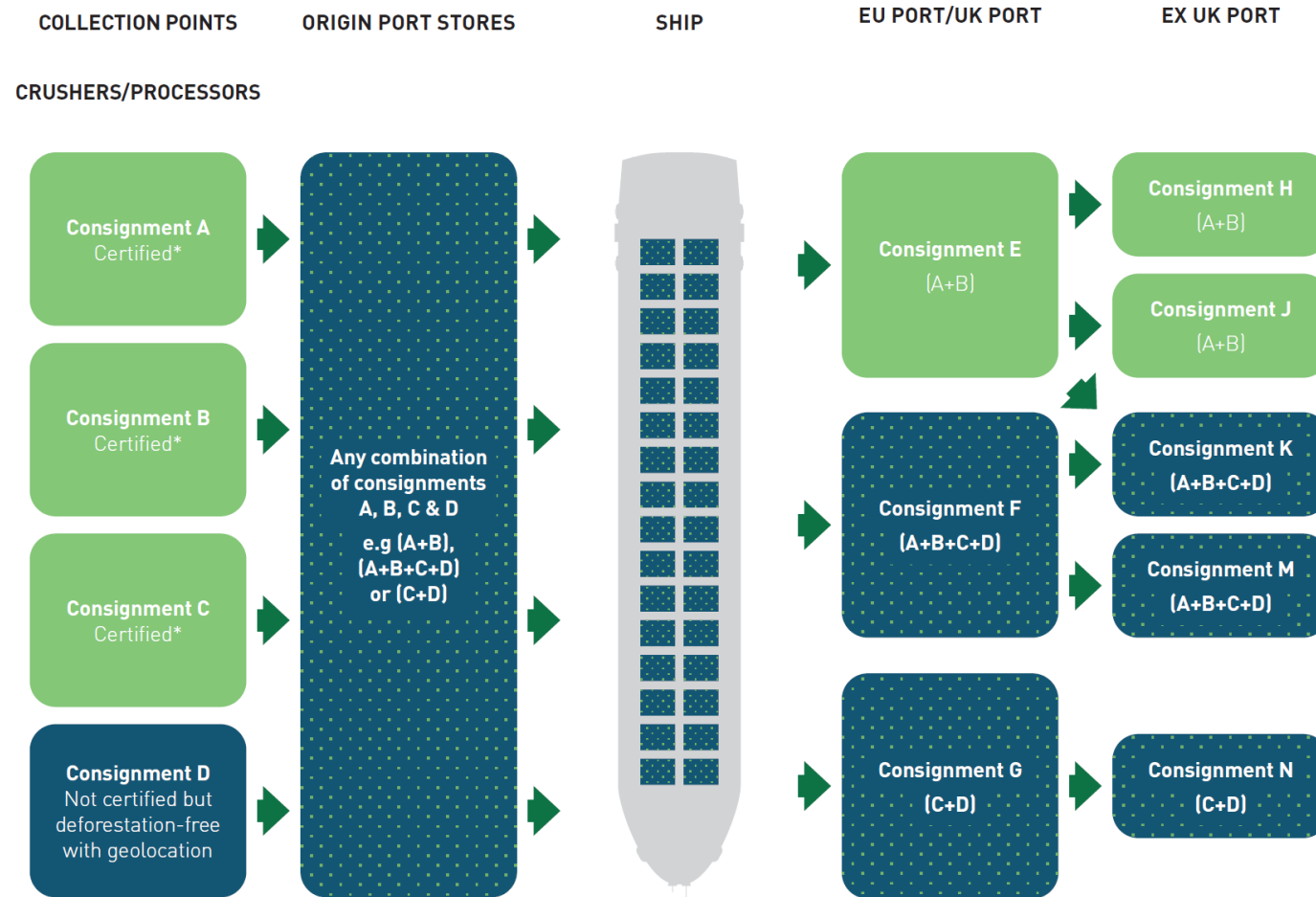


Separate Processing





# ASCS - Module 1 Chain of Custody model



\*Certified to a Certification system listed as approved by AIC

Consignments H, J, K, L, M & N ALL ASCS Certified



# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme Standards and requirements

## Module 2 – for Operators in the UK

### Section C: Raw Material/Feed Products and Raw Material/Feed Products Suppliers

#### Supply Chain Mapping and Due Diligence Risk Assessment

The Participant must map/ document their supply chain for each commodity within the scope of their certification and conduct a due diligence risk assessment on each of their supply chains to demonstrate that all raw materials/feed products within the scope of certification have been produced in compliance with this module and there is a documented risk assessment in relation to deforestation risk for each raw material/feed product and its supplier, carried out prior to use.

Participants within the UK, must obtain raw materials/feed products within their scope of certification only from a Participant/Participants who are themselves certified against the required module(s) of the ASCS or a compatible scheme recognised by AIC.



# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme Standards – Module 2

## Section I Traceability & Chain of Custody

### Chain of Custody models

The acceptable Chain of Custody models for raw materials and/or feed products certified under the AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme Module 2 are:

- Mass Balance (only for raw materials/feed products within the UK)
- Segregated
- Identity Preserved



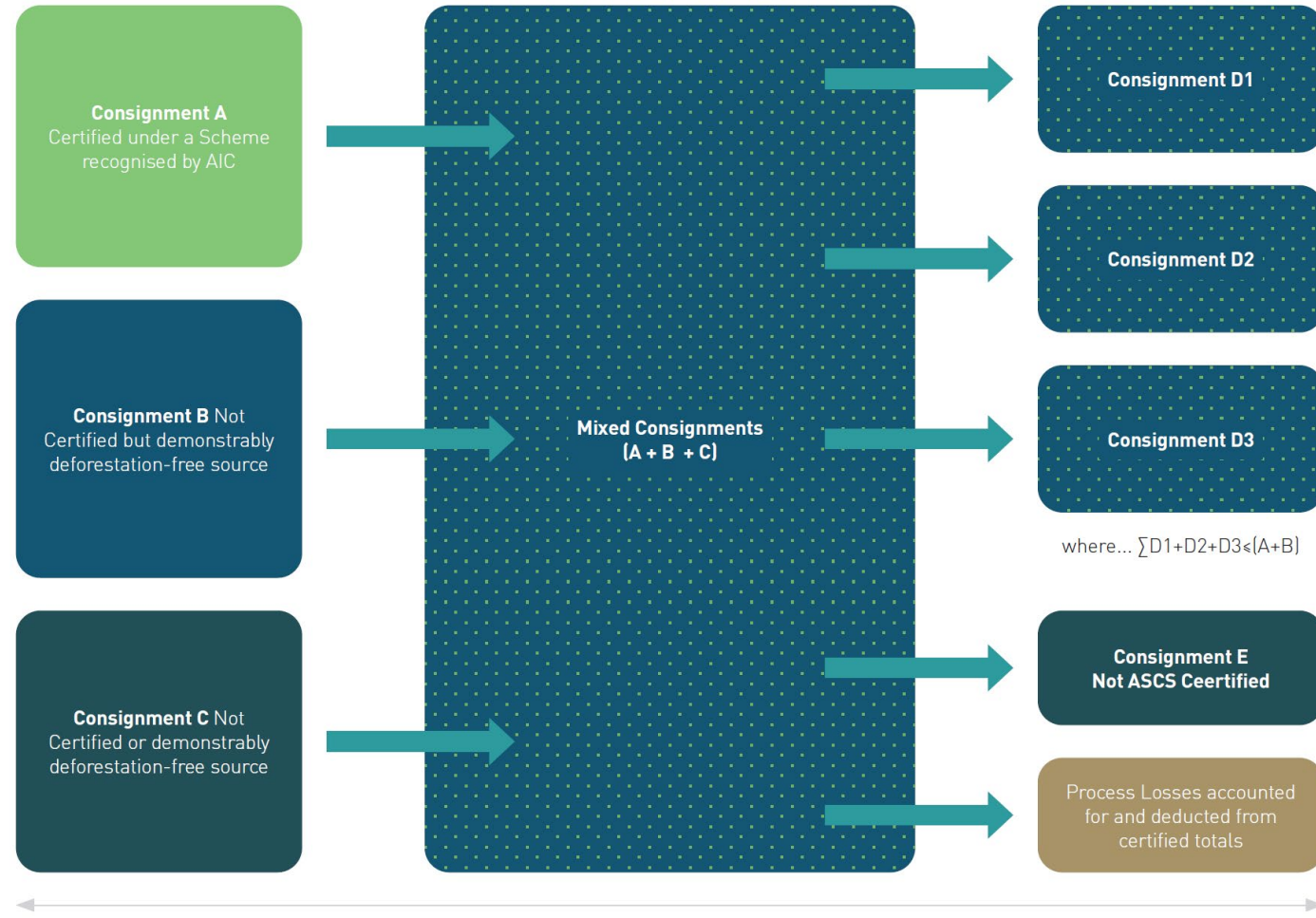
# ASCS Module 2 Chain of Custody models

Supply Chain Traceability Chain of Custody Models	Assurance that certified material present in the physical supply chain	Potential for material of unknown origin in the physical supply chain	Complete separation of certified and non-certified raw materials throughout the supply chain
Book & Claim process	NO	YES	NO
<b>Mass balance</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Segregation</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Identity Preservation</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>



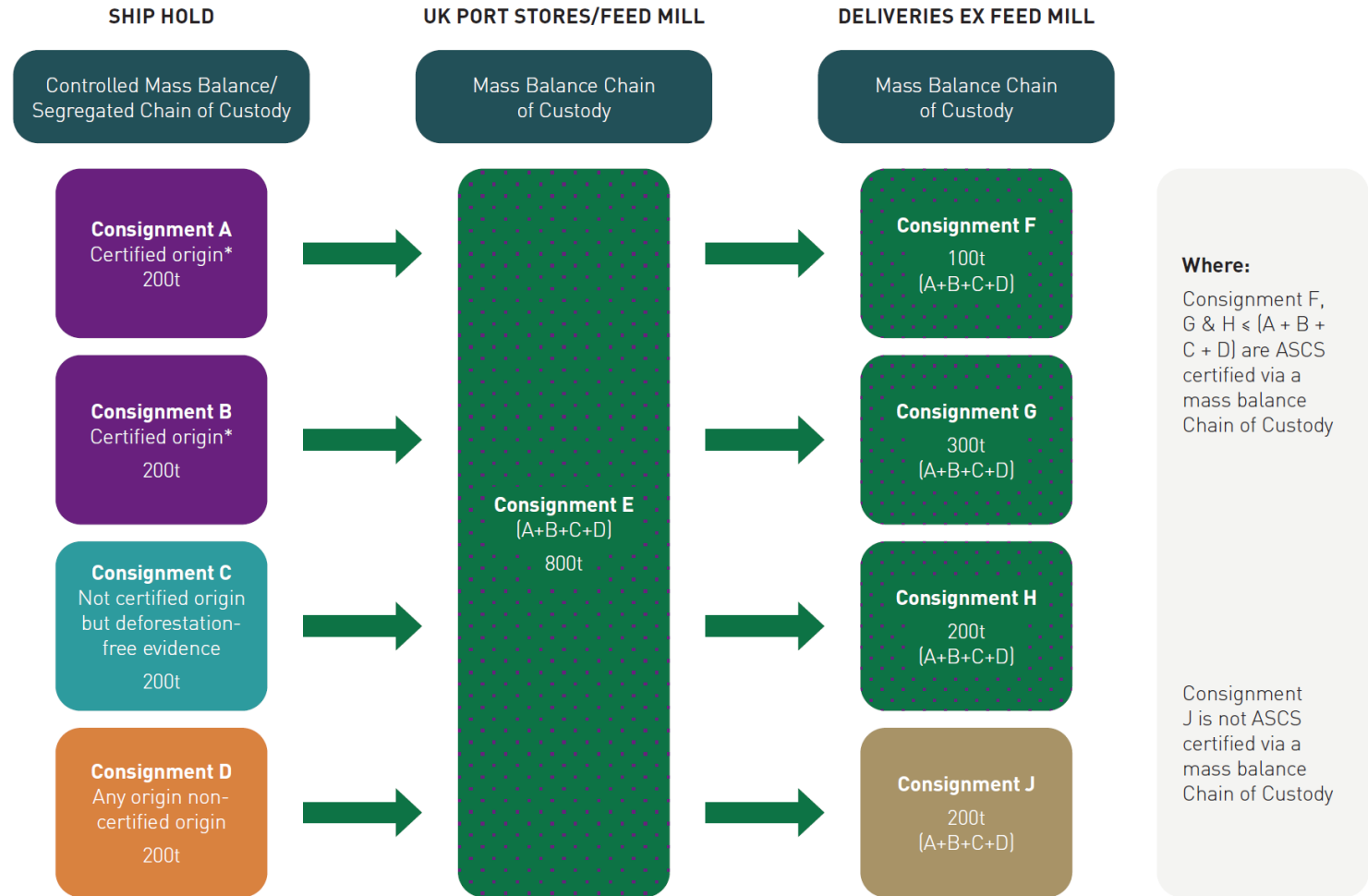
# ASCS – Module 2 chain of custody model

Mass balance where processing is occurring:



# ASCS – Module 2 chain of custody model

## Mass balance:



**Where:**  
 Consignment F, G & H ≤ (A + B + C + D) are ASCS certified via a mass balance Chain of Custody

Consignment J is not ASCS certified via a mass balance Chain of Custody

\*Certified to a Certification system listed as approved by AIC

The Intertek logo is written in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font in a bright yellow color. The background of the entire slide is a close-up photograph of green wheat stalks, with one stalk in sharp focus in the center.

**intertek**

Total Quality. Assured.

The AIC logo features a stylized white arrow pointing upwards and to the right, followed by the lowercase letters 'aic' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. To the right of 'aic' is a registered trademark symbol (®). Further to the right, the words 'AGRICULTURAL', 'INDUSTRIES', and 'CONFEDERATION' are stacked vertically in a smaller, white, uppercase, sans-serif font, separated by small white dots.

**aic**®  
AGRICULTURAL  
INDUSTRIES  
CONFEDERATION

# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme

**Marie Keys** - Scheme Manager

# Intertek Experts Support Our Clients 24/7



**44,000+** EMPLOYEES

**GLOBAL MARKET LEADER IN ASSURANCE**

**3,000** AUDITORS

**350,000+** AUDITS

**130+** COUNTRIES

**GLOBAL MARKET LEADER IN TIC**

**1,000+** LABS & OFFICES

**80+** LANGUAGES

Systemic approach to Quality, Safety, and Sustainability



Our Sectors



Products



Trade



Resources

# Intertek AGRIFood Services Global Footprint

Trinidad and Tobago		
Paraguay		
Panama		
Nicaragua		
El Salvador		
Dominican Republic		
United States		
Canada		
Mexico		
Guatemala		
Ecuador		
Bolivia		
Brazil		
Colombia		
Peru		
Chile		
Argentina		

Germany		
United Kingdom		
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Sweden		
Spain		
Portugal		
Denmark		
Norway		
Switzerland		

Bulgaria		
Turkey		
Russia		
Romania		
Belgium		
Finland		
Ukraine		
Bahrain		
Egypt		

Ethiopia		
Algeria		
Mauritania		
Cameroon		
Namibia		
Senegal		
Togo		
Zambia		
Zimbabwe		

Korea		
Romania		
China		
India		
Pakistan		

Morocco		
UAE		
Oman		
Côte d'Ivoire		
South Africa		
Mozambique		
Kenya		

Ghana		
Tunisia		
Tanzania		
Nigeria		

Singapore		
Indonesia		
Sri Lanka		
Australia		
New Zealand		

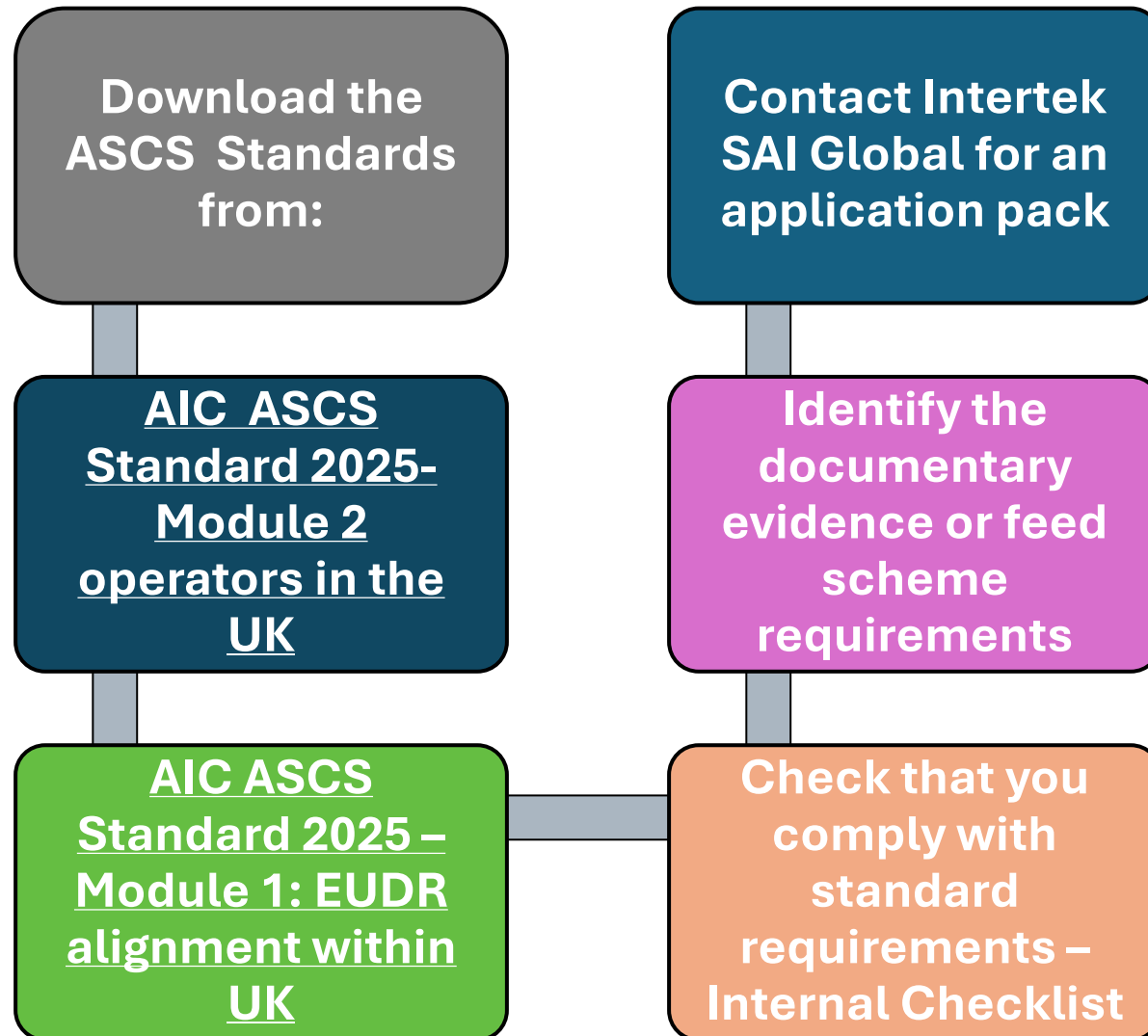
Cambodia		
Malaysia		
Thailand		
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Philippines		
Hong Kong		
Taiwan		

**Legend**

- Supply Chain & Assurance Auditors
- Agri Food Safety Testing
- Agri Food Quality
- Inspection Services
- Agri Food Authenticity

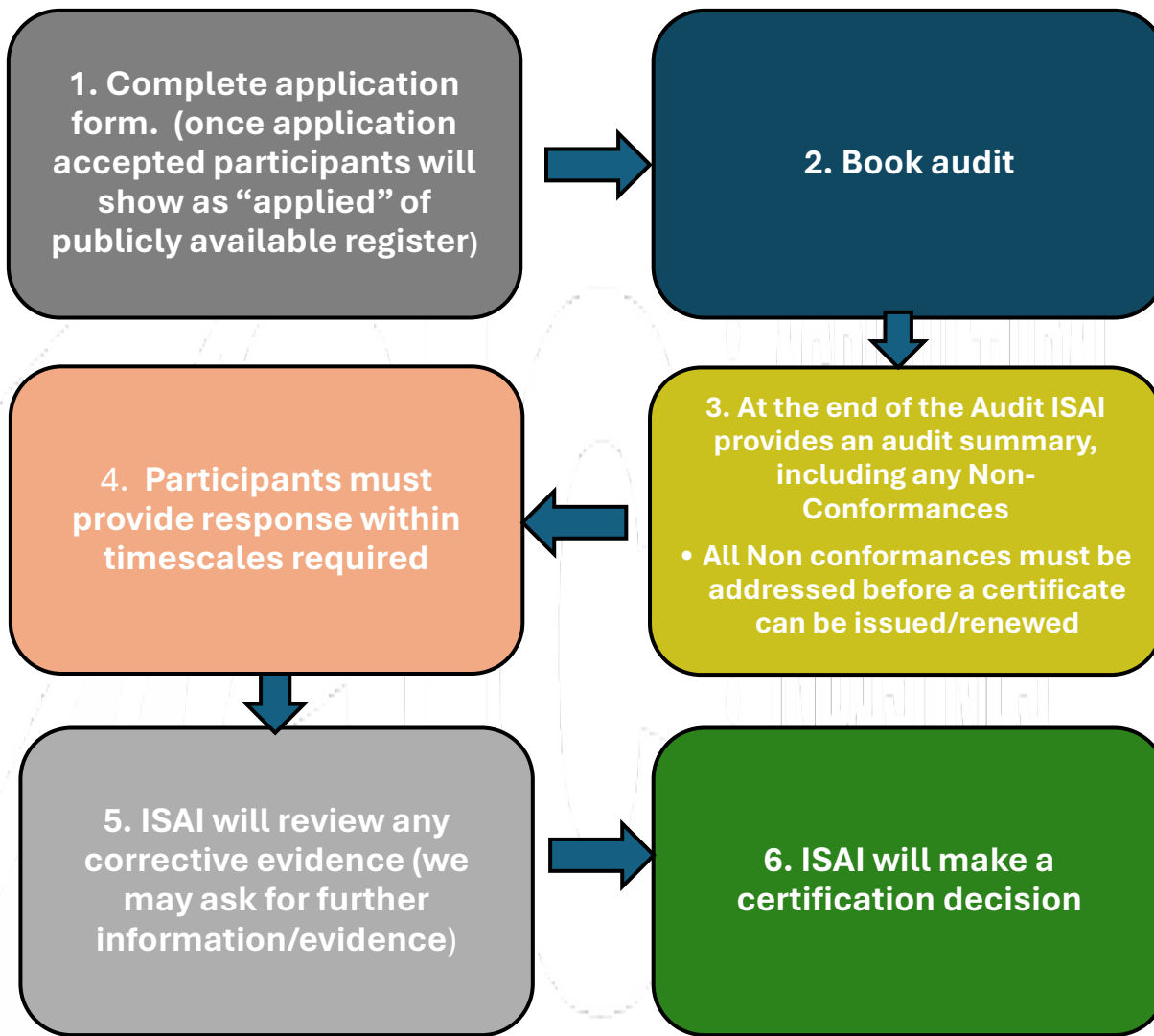


# Steps to ASCS Certification: Audit Preparation





# Route to certification

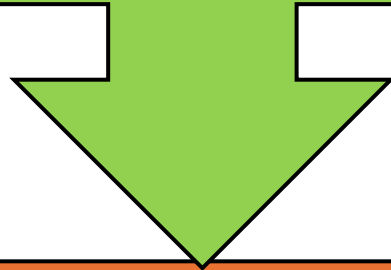


**Certification issued and details listed on the AIC Assurance checker**



# Renewal

Participants will be contacted by ISAI prior to the anniversary of their Initial Audit to request that a renewal form is completed



Participants will be contacted prior to their audit due date to arrange a Surveillance Audit, which must take place within **+/- 6 weeks of this date**

**Short Notice Audit** – an audit carried out at least once during the three-year certificate period. The Participant will be informed the working day before the audit is to take place.



# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme

## What benefit does certification provide?

- a) **Independent verification** that commodities such as soya have been produced free from deforestation.
- b) **Transparency** – participants will be listed on a publicly available register (AIC Trade Assurance checker) providing transparency and confidence for downstream customers.
- c) **Helps meet regulatory and market requirements** for other businesses in supply chain who are in scope of the EUDR Regulation (beef and cattle products exported to EU).
- d) **A certification system** accepted by whole supply chain negating the need for Scheme Participants to meet and report on many differing requirements
- e) **Flexible scheme** enabling further modules to be developed as legislation and market requirements develop
  - Module for ‘deforestation and conversion-free’ commodities
  - Module for ‘Green labelling’ claims on feed



# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme

## Q & A



# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme

## Contact details:

agindustries.org.uk

### AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme (ASCS)



ASCS is a new voluntary scheme developed, owned and implemented by the Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)

#### Background

The ASCS has been designed with industry input in response to market demands throughout the supply chain. Once certified the Participant will be able to verify or make claims about their supply chains to their customers and stakeholders as well as aligning with legal requirements in this area.

The first modules to be released by the ASCS certify that where raw materials and products are sourced from geographies where forests are at risk, this activity does not result in deforestation. AIC is currently developing two modules within the Scheme to address these concerns.

Certification to the ASCS should help the Participant meet the requirements of sustainability criteria set in this area in a cost effective and pragmatic manner.

The Scheme will offer a series of modules against which Participants in the Scheme will be independently certified to confirm that the sourcing of raw materials and products from geographical areas meets key sustainability goals.

- 1 A certification standard designed for Participants to demonstrate alignment with the EU Regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EUDR) from Origin to the UK.
- 2 A certification standard designed for Participants to demonstrate that they operate a Deforestation-free Chain of Custody for the in-scope commodities used within the UK feed industry.

Working in support of modern sustainable commercial agriculture



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