

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TRADE ASSURANCE SCHEME FOR COMBINABLE CROPS

Welcome



Welcome to the latest edition of TASCCforce. In this edition we discuss the TASCC review, Refuse Derived Fuels and the latest work from the Foods Standards Agency

regarding Biotoxins.

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

TASCC review

The new TASCC Code of Practice, which will come into effect from 1st February 2018, is currently being reviewed.

Three working groups have been involved with the process and they have reviewed the following:

- TASCC Review Group – Storage and merchants code of practice
- Transport Working Group – Haulage code of practice
- Testing Working Group – Testing facilities code of practice

The scheme rules have also been revised to be in line with the other AIC schemes and concentrate on the rules of engagement with the TASCC certification body.

There have been 16 meetings, all of which have had an agenda and have been minuted. Progress on the codes have been sent to stakeholders within the farming, feed and food sectors for comment.

The codes will be amalgamated into two booklets as outlined below:-

All codes

Scheme Rules
General section
Haulage
Merchants
Storage
Testing

Haulage

Scheme Rules
General section
Haulage

The codes will go out for consultation this September to all stakeholders and it is hoped to send the new printed versions to participants in December. The codes will be effective from 1st February 2018 and any new requirements will be noted as observations until May 2018.

The current TASCC code of practice was effective from 1st February 2016 and can be viewed on the AIC website.



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Refuse derived fuels

Refuse-derived fuel (RDF) or solid recovered fuel/ specified recovered fuel (SRF) is a fuel produced by shredding and dehydrating solid waste (MSW) with a Waste converter technology. RDF consists largely of combustible components of municipal waste such as plastics and biodegradable waste.

TASCC storage participants, as with all recycled products, must treat these products with extreme caution before deciding the put RDF materials in their store.



STOP PRESS - RTFA - new codes released

Red Tractor farm Assurance have issued their new codes of practice which can be found on their website and they will be audited from October 2017.



Electric wire guidance

Over Head Power lines (OHPL)

Again, a driver has been killed after hitting an OHPL when making a delivery to farm. It is important here to train the drivers to exercise extreme caution regarding OHPL's but also work with the delivery points to ascertain what the potential H&S risks are before your driver goes onto site. AIC have produced the "Safe Delivery to Farm" documents which has a checklist that can be discussed with the delivery point to establish risks. If you require a PDF of these, then please contact Garry Rudd.

Anaerobic Digestion plants

The increase of Anaerobic Digestion (AD) plants around the country is a positive step with recycling but there are issues when transporting and using the final product.

Following on from discussion at working group level, the TASCC stance is to treat the end product as a compost and, therefore, an exclusion list material. This is because the root stock is generally not known and it could be green waste or meat and bone. The farm schemes have a similar view and will only allow material which has been produced in plants which conform to the PAS100 and PAS110 standards.

TASCC participants should also be aware that the Bio solids Assurance Scheme (BAS) which is now in use and is an audit undertaken by the eleven water companies to ensure that their sewage waste can be used to go onto land. The farm schemes accept this material but it is excluded as a previous load under TASCC.



Earned recognition guidance and Trading Standard Officer (TSO) visits

Many employers worry about having a visit from Trading Standard (TSO) – but if you are running your business properly, there is no reason to be concerned about it. The Earned recognition that AIC has with the FSA/VMD will hopefully start to see a decrease in visits to TASCC participants from TSO's.

The TSO's job is to ensure that your place of business is following any relevant rules or regulations that apply.

They aren't hoping to 'catch you out' and often, if you are in breach of certain conditions, they will give you written notice of the problem and allow you a period of time to put things right.

TSO's can enter your place of work at any time and don't have to give you any notice but in practice, they might well inform you in advance of a routine inspection.

The TSO has the power to:

- enter your premises at any reasonable time
- carry out investigations and examinations
- take photographs or samples
- take possession of articles
- require people to give accurate information or provide statements
- inspect and/or copy any relevant documents

General advice from industry is to work with the inspector and not against them. This approach will work in your favour when addressing the concerns the inspector may have within your business.

New legislation could see motor fleet insurance premiums soar

A recent change in legislation has meant that the cost of claims is likely to significantly increase and, as a result, lead to insurers raising motor fleet premiums. The Ogden rate is used to adjust the personal injury compensation to reflect the amount of interest that could be earned and was amended from 2.5% to -0.75% in March 2017. This can have a huge effect on the larger personal injury claims where the provision of lifetime care is required. Whilst the Association of British Insurers is petitioning against this change, business vehicle operators who take a proactive approach to risk management will benefit by lowering insurance premiums, reducing business disruption as well as protecting their employees. These could include:

1. Reviewing the basic procedures for recruitment and vetting drivers.
2. Implementing and embedding a positive safety culture towards driving.
3. Review and monitor claims trends.
4. Utilise in-vehicle technology to maximise the potential benefits.
5. Attend approved training courses.
6. Being a participant in the TASCC scheme.

No business wants to incur additional expenditure but with proper planning and a positive approach to risk management, the potential impact on insurance costs can be reduced.

Contact Steve O'Donnell, Branch Director, Bluefin Insurance Services (who manage TASCCsure) on 01938 557980 or steve.odonnell@bluefingroup.co.uk



Biotoxins – update

Christina Baskaran from the FSA gave an update on the work being carried out on Biotoxins to the TASCC Working Group in May. A summary is detailed below.

Ergot alkaloids: EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) are carrying out an updated exposure assessment and are also looking at any possible relationship between the levels of alkaloids and sclerotia. The European Commission will start discussions on setting maximum levels for ergot alkaloids in cereal grain and cereal products. Detailed information on ergot alkaloid levels in ergot sclerotia can be found at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2012.2798/epdf>.

Details regarding the submission of data to EFSA can be found at: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/data/toolbox>.

The FSA (Foods Standards Agency) negotiated with EFSA and the Commission on a simplified reporting format and this can be accessed on the link below:-

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/GenericReportingFormat.xls>

T2/HT2: EFSA have looked at the modified forms and concluded that the tolerable daily intake (TDI) level can be used as a group health-based guidance value (HBGV) for the metabolites as well (masked forms). The TDI has been lowered from 100 ng/kg bw to 20 ng/kg bw.

This could become an issue because EFSA's previous estimated exposure in 2011 concluded that there were no concerns no MLs (maximum levels) were set; only guidance levels and the recommendation to monitor. Now that the TDI has been lowered, exposures for some groups, such as toddlers, could exceed the tolerable levels.

The Commission has asked EFSA to update the exposure assessment and is planning a Mycotoxin forum/stakeholder workshop/meeting in Summer this year.

DON (Deoxynivalenol): The FSA are waiting for EFSA's opinion to be published on whether the HBGV can be extended to the masked form as well. Initial reports show the ADI (acceptable daily intake) and TDI have been retained but the modified forms will be included as well. Following on from climate change issues raised in 2015, and combining with T2/HT2, the Commission is going to address these at the Mycotoxin forum/stakeholder workshop.

ZEN (Zearalenone): A report on modified forms of ZEN has been published and the existing TDI will be a group TDI (potency factors have been included for the modified forms). There is no regulatory action for the modified forms with only an informal recommendation to monitor. Further discussions in the latter part of 2018.

Citrinin: Results from EFSA's project, published late February 2017, show low levels detected in cereals (6%) and cereal products (3%). Rye has higher levels followed by rice. Risk management actions will be considered at the EC working group following on from these findings.

Ochratoxin A (OTA): There have been increased rates of non-compliance, although not specifically for cereals and cereal products. However, Sweden raised concerns regarding OTA in rye and barley and wondered if any changes in farming practices, such as bagging grain, may be leading to increased humidity levels and therefore higher levels of OTA. The Commission agreed this needed further investigation and will ask EFSA in the first instance to take a look at their database.

Alternaria toxins: No action will be currently taken by EFSA and the EC regarding these biotoxins on the data submitted so far.

Sterigmatocystin: An EFSA survey published in 2015 (including a UK contribution) showed rice and oats were identified as the cereals most prone to sterigmatocystin contamination. No action proposed at the moment.

Tropane alkaloids (TAs): EFSA have published some TAs ML for cereal-based foods for infants and young children. A range of TAs were looked at but currently toxicity data known only for atropine and scopolamine. The Commission will ask EFSA to look at the toxicity of other TAs. MLs might be set for atropine and scopolamine in other foods e.g. millet and buckwheat flours.

Erucic acid: There is a current ML of 5% in oils and fats. EFSA's scientific opinion was published recently and they estimated that infants and children could be exposed to levels of erucic acid that were tolerable intake levels but may indicate a risk for individuals at high exposure. The main contributor to dietary exposure to erucic acid was the food group 'Fine bakery wares'. The EC is looking to reduce erucic acid levels and current proposals include a reduction to be in line with the Codex standard for rapeseed oil at 2%. The EC are also proposing to set MLs for mustard.

I-learning

TASCC

The TASCC Haulage and Storage I-learning modules are now available. This is a free service for TASCC participants and has so far proved very successful. For further information and a login, please contact Kiwa on 01423 878873 or feed@kiwa.co.uk.

AHDB Testing Modules

AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds have been developing training modules to help grain analysts understand the tests and to support the standardisation of training in the UK cereals industry and last year launched and Oil Seed Rape module. It is hoped to have the Wheat and Barley module out soon and there will be a formal announcement nearer the time.

<https://cereals.ahdb.org.uk/crop-management/grain-storage-and-sampling.aspx>

Proficiency Testing and IQC schemes

There are often questions to AIC as to the difference between Proficiency Testing (PT) and Internal Quality Control (IQC). They are both essential tools for a testing facility to monitor their performance and prevent inaccurate results being reported.



be the mean or median of the test results or the mean of a separate set of reference results. The latter is more effective, as it provides a link between secondary methods (e.g. NIR moisture) and reference methods (e.g. oven moisture). The calculated difference is divided by the agreed standard deviation of the test. Hence, the z-score represents the testing facility bias divided by the standard deviation (see calculation below).

- A monthly PT scheme monitors how your testing facility is performing compared to a population of other testing facilities.
- Daily IQC monitors individual methods/equipment within the testing facility to identify any issues that may occur so that appropriate action can be taken.

$$z\text{-score} = \frac{\text{lab value} - \text{mean value}}{\text{standard deviation}}$$

Below is some further guidance to help you.

Proficiency Testing

Proficiency, or ring, tests provide an independent external check that the Testing Facility is achieving a consistent level of results that are in line with others performing the same tests. Proficiency Testing (PT) schemes are sometimes called Ring Check schemes.

The administrator selects the bulk sample carefully to meet the pre-determined criteria, i.e. to ensure coverage of typical analytical values. The bulk is blended to produce a homogeneous sample, before being sub-divided into the required size for participants. Checks for homogeneity are carried out. Typically, this requires testing one in ten sub-samples for key measurements, e.g. moisture and oil. Proficiency schemes that comply with ISO/IEC Guide 43-1 will normally include a statistically valid assessment of each sample set for homogeneity. Participants analyse the samples and return results to the administrator. The method used may be specified by the scheme or the participants may use their routine test method.

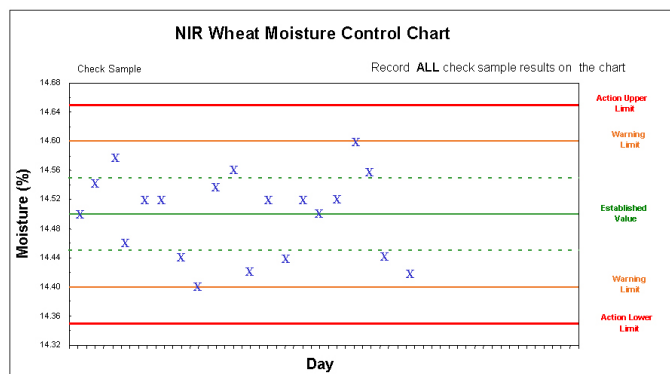
The scheme administrator collates and analyses the data. Proficiency is commonly assessed by measuring the z-score. The difference between the testing facility's result and the 'established' value is calculated. The 'established' value can

Internal Quality Control (IQC)

IQC aims to demonstrate that results gained from a procedure are consistent and under control. An internal quality control (IQC) system must cover each commodity and parameter tested.

IQC samples with established values should be used daily before testing commences and results. These are generated in-house by repeat testing.

The example below is a typical control chart.



The method is, therefore, very tightly controlled and acceptable results are obtained throughout the use of this check sample.



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