

# FEMAS update

THE NEWSLETTER OF AIC's FEED MATERIALS ASSURANCE SCHEME



## AIC Feed Safety Calculators for feed risk assessment

**A new online video resource developed with certification body Kiwa is now available, bringing together clear, step-by-step guidance for the AIC feed safety calculators: the Feed Safety Analysis Calculator, Catalogue of Feed Materials Calculator, Feed Material Register Calculator, and the Additives, Additive Preparations and Process Aids Calculator.**

**The calculators are designed to help Participants:**

- Meet UK and EU feed safety requirements
- Identify relevant hazards and undesirable substances
- Determine the absolute minimum number of analyses needed
- Build consistent, risk based monitoring plans
- Prepare for audits with clear, documented evidence

The AIC Feed Safety Analysis Calculator, introduced in 2013, is a mandatory tool for FEMAS Participants when developing feed risk assessments and analysis schedules. The calculators are also useful resources for Universal Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS) and Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops (TASCC) Participants when risk assessing materials and determining testing requirements.

If you find these videos helpful and have topic ideas for future short training videos you would like us to produce, please get in touch at [sarah-jane.godfrey@agindustries.org.uk](mailto:sarah-jane.godfrey@agindustries.org.uk).

## Welcome

Welcome to the spring 2026 edition of the FEMAS newsletter.

This season brings a number of important updates. We have introduced new training videos to support users of the AIC Feed Safety Calculators, and we are pleased to announce the launch of the AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme (ASCS). You will also find practical audit hints and tips to help strengthen pest management on your site. In addition, we are sharing a new poster that clearly and simply sets out what Participants can expect during the audit process, all aimed at building confidence from start to finish.

As always, we welcome your questions, ideas or suggestions. Please feel free to contact us at [sarah-jane.godfrey@agindustries.org.uk](mailto:sarah-jane.godfrey@agindustries.org.uk), or use the details on the back page.



**Sarah-Jane Godfrey**  
Technical Manager  
AIC Services

## Launch of the Sustainable Commodities Scheme

The AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme (ASCS) has been developed with engagement from across the entire supply chain including commodity importers, compound feed manufacturers, food processors and retailers. Its aim is to help feed ingredient suppliers and compound feed manufacturers fulfil their due diligence requirements under the EU Regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EUDR) and to support compliance with the requirements of UK supply chains.

ASCS launched on 8 December and provides a single, commodity-agnostic scheme for commodities such as beef, soya, and palm products that may be linked to deforestation.

The certification Scheme is delivered through two modules:

- Module 1: Alignment with EUDR from point of origin to the UK
- Module 2: For operators within the UK

Through this independently verified Chain of Custody certification system, Participants must be able to demonstrate commodities they 'use' have been produced in accordance with 'local' laws and are free from 'deforestation'.

Participants will be listed on a publicly available register (the AIC Trade Assurance Checker), providing transparency and confidence for downstream customers. This approach will also support other businesses within the supply chain, including livestock farmers and those handling beef and cattle products destined for the EU, in meeting both regulatory and market requirements.

For further information, please visit the AIC website, or contact **Sue Whittington** at [sue.whittington@agindustries.org.uk](mailto:sue.whittington@agindustries.org.uk)

## Verifying Supplier Assurance Guidance

Guidance has been produced to help Participants of the Universal Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS), Feed Materials Assurance Scheme (FEMAS) and Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops (TASCC) comply with new requirements relating to the verification of supplier assurance status in the 2024 Standards. These Standards state that businesses must have a system in place to verify the current assurance status of suppliers whenever entering or executing a contract or agreement.

This requirement aims to protect feed and food safety by ensuring suppliers are appropriately approved and their assurance status is verified. Verification should form part of each business's documented procedures and routine workflows, although the exact approach may vary depending on business size and complexity.

The guidance highlights **four key areas** Participants should focus on when verifying supplier assurance:

1. **Sourcing and verification of information**
2. **Frequency of checks**
3. **Use and communication of information**
4. **Follow up actions**

Guidance documents for UFAS, FEMAS and TASCC are available on the AIC scheme webpages.

This guidance should be read in conjunction with the applicable Standard.

FEMAS GUIDANCE



## UK-EU Sanitary and Phytosanitary Updates

AIC, alongside the British Association of Feed Supplement and Additive Manufacturers (BAFSAM), the British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA), and UK Petfood, met with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the Cabinet Office in December. Discussions focused on the opportunities and challenges of 'dynamic alignment' and how transition and implementation should progress.

Feed industry representatives stressed that the dysfunctional regulated products approval process in Great Britain is holding the industry back. Reverting to EU approvals, using European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) opinions, and regaining access to the EU Register of Feed Additives and the Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) Register would be preferable.

AIC highlighted the need for a substantial transitional period to allow businesses to adjust and manage existing stocks. Securing full access to EU decision making structures, particularly the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF), where decisions are taken on regulated product authorisations and on matters such as maximum residue levels (MRLs) and mycotoxins, was also emphasised.

AIC further noted that the FSA must resource industry engagement effectively once any agreement is reached and keep the industry informed of EU regulatory changes, consultations and transition arrangements.

The Government has also launched a six week Call for Information (9 Mar–23 Apr 2026) seeking evidence to shape SPS guidance ahead of a potential mid 2027 implementation.



**James McCulloch** Head of Animal Feed



## 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](mailto:gill.barrow@agindustries.org.uk), or visit the AIC website to access the A4 hard-copy order form.

## Audit Tips: Strengthening Site Pest Management

Effective pest management is a cornerstone of maintaining high feed safety standards. Kiwa's Quarter 4 2025 review of participant non conformances highlighted several recurring issues related to G6 Pest Management, particularly under the following clauses:

- G6.4: Production and storage facilities must be adequately proofed against the ingress of pests.
- G6.5: Surrounding areas must be managed to minimise food sources and harbourage for pests.
- G6.8: All control points, traps and bait stations must be uniquely identified.

### Creating a Pest Resistant Facility

Keeping sites clean and well maintained reduces the likelihood of pest presence. Key areas to support the pest management plan include but are not limited to structured maintenance and site cleaning programmes; following a clean as you go policy to quickly address spills; storing feed securely; appropriately proofing entrances and vents; and clearing vegetation, debris or unused equipment from around the site and building perimeters.

### Pest Control Points and Monitoring

Pest control points, traps and bait stations must be uniquely identified, with their locations clearly recorded on a site map. This helps ensure that no points are missed during inspections. Unique identifiers also support accurate tracking of bait consumption, monitoring pest activity trends, and enabling quicker reporting and replacement of damaged stations. Bait stations must also be secured, unless risk assessment confirms this is not necessary.

### Don't Forget: Documentation Matters

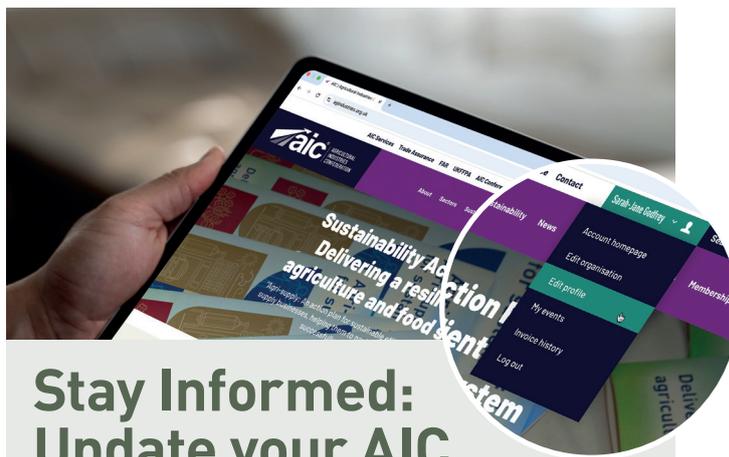
Auditors rely on accurate records to verify site activities and demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the Standard. Well kept documentation and records shows control, supports continuous site improvement, and helps prevent non conformances during audits.



## 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](mailto: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.

## Upcoming FEMAS training dates

**Kiwa has released new dates for Feed Materials Assurance Scheme (FEMAS) training courses, along with training dates for the following AIC Trade Assurance Schemes: the Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops (TASCC), the Fertiliser Industry Assurance Scheme (FIAS), and the Universal Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS). These sessions are now available to book for the coming months.**

Attending one of these courses is a practical way to ensure that you and your team have a clear understanding of each Scheme and any recent changes. Participants will receive a Certificate of Attendance upon successful completion.

Two FEMAS course options are available:

- FEMAS Update Training – a half-day session covering key updates.
- FEMAS Participant Training – delivered over two morning sessions, this course provides comprehensive coverage of the full Standard.

Both courses are delivered online. However, onsite training can be arranged for groups upon request. To book your place, contact the Kiwa training team at [uk.training@kiwa.com](mailto:uk.training@kiwa.com) or call 01423 878875.



## Short Notice Audits

**In addition to routine annual audits, Participants will receive a Short Notice Audit at least once during each three year certification period. The auditor will contact the Participant on the working day before the audit.**

These audits assess how the business operates "on the day". The auditor focuses on hygiene, site cleanliness and management, or, for trading/merchandising, the traceability system. Specialist technical staff, such as the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) team leader, are not required; any staff member who can accompany the auditor is sufficient. Audits typically last two to four hours, depending on site size and complexity.

Participants should notify the certification body of dates when an audit genuinely cannot be accepted, such as planned shutdowns or other scheduled audits. Absence of key staff is not an acceptable reason. Refusing an audit will result in charges and may lead to suspension or withdrawal of certification.

**Note:** Certification bodies may still conduct unannounced audits where necessary.



Agricultural Industries Confederation Ltd  
 First Floor, Unit 4 The Forum,  
 Minerva Business Park,  
 Lynch Wood, Peterborough, PE2 6FT.  
 T: 01733 385230  
 E: [enquiries@agindustries.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@agindustries.org.uk)  
[www.agindustries.org.uk](http://www.agindustries.org.uk)



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