

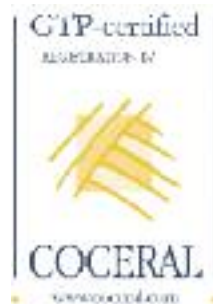
## The newsletter of the Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops

### In this issue

- New passport to be used for harvest 2010
- New mycotoxin reporting system
- Changes to TASCC stickers
- Guide to good storage practice
- TASCC participants invited to join Business Insight

### AIC input on revised COCERAL GTP scheme

AIC welcomed the opportunity to input on COCERAL's revised GTP guide and code which governs European good hygiene practices for the collection, storage, trading and transport of cereals, oilseeds and protein crops.



COCERAL's revised code and certification rules will help

accreditation and mutual recognition of other European schemes. There is also greater emphasis on source assurance, HACCP and auditor training, which was lacking from the previous code.

Certification body training was carried out by COCERAL during February to discuss the changes to the code which will be implemented by the industry in early Autumn 2010.



### New TASCC codes launched



**The new Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops (TASCC) codes have been applied from 1st July 2010.**

The TASCC Working Group has recommended that the next code will be issued in February 2012 and then every two years following that. This approach is being taken to allow TASCC participants plenty of time to implement the codes before the start of the harvest period. All other elements of the scheme will remain unchanged.

As ever, changes have been kept to a minimum but those that have been made ensure that TASCC remains relevant for the industry.

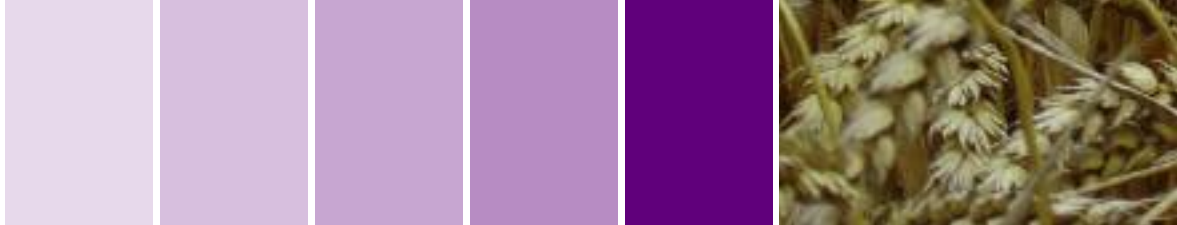
The updates have been written by the industry for the industry and are a great example of how TASCC is leading the way in implementing feed and food safety.

The main changes include:

- Naturally Occurring Prohibited Substances (NOPS) added to the Sensitive list (all codes)
- New DEFRA Salmonella Code of Practice (all codes)
- Amendments to the haulage sub contractor rules (haulage/merchants)
- Changes to the buying and hiring of second hand rigid vehicles and trailers (haulage)
- Simple processing of combinable crops (storage)

The new codes are available to view on the AIC website [www.agindustries.org.uk](http://www.agindustries.org.uk) or by using the following link: <http://bit.ly/deKEZC>





# New reporting system for mycotoxin rejections

A new reporting system is in place governing how the trade should meet its legal obligation to report rejected loads where mycotoxin levels are above those permitted.

Merchants have a responsibility to report to the Food Standards Agency (FSA) any deliveries of grain to the food industry which are rejected, having found to be over existing legal limits for unprocessed grain.

The FSA needs to be able to trace grain through the chain under the "one up-one

down" principle established under the General Food Law legislation. Annex 1 (right) provides details on the minimum information required by the FSA to satisfy its obligations.

One of the primary requirements is being able to prove that grain with a mycotoxin level above the legal limit for food has been redirected to a non-food home such as animal feed. The FSA is keen to see information reported in a common format and would look to have results submitted in an excel spreadsheet format. It is happy to accept

rejection notification on a collated weekly basis. Information should be submitted to FSA at: [foodincidents@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foodincidents@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)

## Annex 1

### Mycotoxin Rejection Form

|                                      |            |                         |                  |                        |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Reporting Merchant:<br>Contact Name: |            |                         | Local Authority: |                        |
| Rejecting Company                    | Date       | Unique Load<br>Ref. No. | Result (ppb)     | Redirection<br>Details |
| e.g. ABC Flour,<br>Milton Keynes     | 03/05/2009 | abc/34532/7             | 1,350            | XYZ Feeds,<br>Oldham   |

## At what point should a TASCC participant report a rejection?

1. If grain delivered to a food industry processor (eg. flour mill) has been rejected for a high DON level and the load has been re-directed to a non-food home without any additional independent or confirmatory testing.
2. If grain has been rejected and redirected, as above, but an independent or confirmatory test has been sought, notification should only be made to the FSA once those results are known and only after confirmation that the load in question is above the legal limit.

3. If grain is rejected but, at the request of the supplier is then returned, a notification should not be made to the FSA. The farmer is permitted to perform additional testing and on the basis of those results, re-submit the grain to a food home.

## Does a rejection on one load mean the rest of the grain from that farm/store cannot be delivered to a food home?

No, the results of that particular load are applicable only to that load and the FSA recognises there will be a degree of variation. However, the decision to continue delivering will need to take into account the farm's risk assessment and the results of any previous tests. This reinforces the need to

keep representative samples of each load for a period of time, post-delivery.

## Can grain, rejected at one food home on the basis of a rapid test, be redirected to a second food home?

Only with the full knowledge and agreement of the second home. That second home must be aware of the reason for redirection and the rapid test result from the first intake.

## Will end users continue to report rejections?

No, it is believed the revisions outlined above could reduce the number of 'false' rejections reported and therefore streamline the process.

**NEW**

## TASCC participants can now join AIC's Business Insight service

All TASCC participants can now join AIC's Business Insight service for trade assurance participants offering advice and practical solutions on employment law as well as health and safety issues.

Business Insight is a partnership between AIC and leading business compliance and information service Croner.

The key benefits of the service are to provide a due diligence defence for organisations; help manage the implementation of legislation and codes of practice; reduce the risk of employees and employers liability; reduce the risk of accidents, injuries and fatalities; protect

the company brand; and reduce the risk of prosecutions.

The service includes:

**Telephone helpline** – A dedicated helpline which will answer all queries relating to Health and Safety and Employment Law.

**Dedicated website** – Password protected website which is updated daily.

**Business insight newsletter** – Newsletter dedicated to employment law and health and safety issues for trade assurance participants. It includes details on new legislation, training, issue management,

case studies and much more.

**Briefings** – Email briefings that will keep your business up-to-date.

**Free site 'health check'** – Complimentary visit from a Croner business manager to ensure compliance with the latest requirements.

The annual cost for TASCC participants to join Business Insight is £150 per year.

**To sign-up, email Garry Rudd, AIC Technical Manager at:** [garry.rudd@agindustries.org.uk](mailto:garry.rudd@agindustries.org.uk) or call 01733 385274.



# Campaign highlights HGCA mycotoxin risk assessment

A new campaign focusing on the timely completion of the HGCA fusarium mycotoxin risk assessment has been launched.

The HGCA risk assessment enables growers to calculate their risk of mycotoxin contamination by entering values for region, previous crop, cultivation, wheat variety, T3 fungicide application and rainfall.

"The HGCA risk assessment tool highlights all the factors of good agricultural practice," says HGCA's research manager, Dr Simon Hook. "Growers should already have the information they need to complete the risk assessment to the T3 stage."

A new logo will front the campaign aimed at reminding growers to complete the relevant stages of the HGCA risk assessment. Growers will also be signposted to fusarium mycotoxin updates on the Crop Monitor web tool at [www.cropmonitor.co.uk](http://www.cropmonitor.co.uk).

"Filling it in along the way from now until harvest will help ensure the mycotoxin risk result is obtained quickly and accurately," added Dr Hook. This will help growers monitor their situation regarding potential



mycotoxin contamination and, if necessary, take appropriate steps to reduce further risk."

From now until harvest, growers also have to record details of rainfall at flowering (growth stage 59 to 69) and rainfall pre-harvest (growth stage 87 onwards).

The risk assessment, which is available online at [www.hgca.com/mycotoxins](http://www.hgca.com/mycotoxins), has

## MANAGE YOUR MYCOTOXIN RISK

Seven steps to good business practice

been reviewed since the wet harvest of 2008 to ensure it remains a robust and relevant tool for growers. Background information on fusarium mycotoxins and grain storage is also available on the website.

Growers who do not wish to complete the risk assessment online can phone 02476 478730 for an information pack.

## New Combinable Crops Passport to be used for first time

A new Combinable Crops Passport, otherwise known as the Grain Passport, is to be used for the first time during harvest 2010.

The common aim of everyone involved in producing the document was to see a standard passport used and remove the customised versions which have previously existed, carrying differing information and often working to a different layout.

The passport has evolved over the past few years from being a document which carried basic information of value to all recipients into something which must now cater for different demands from different sectors. To try and achieve this, a number of the sections on the

passport carry the phrase "as applicable" which indicates they may not be a requirement of all grain users.

To try and avoid confusion, AIC has produced some agreed notes which explain all the major changes and these are attached along with the passport. The notes do not form part of the passport itself but should be used to inform users and assist a smooth introduction.

A copy of the passport and accompanying notes is now available on the AIC website [www.agindustries.org.uk](http://www.agindustries.org.uk) and can be found by using the following link: <http://bit.ly/dDuXks> More notes on how to use the passport can be found at the back of the new TASC codes.

## New DPR form guidance

The new storage code (M1) contains new guidance relating to Delivery Point Rejection (DPR) forms.

These are produced by the Red Tractor Scheme and are issued when the product is rejected because of food or feed safety risks. If the product is rejected, then a copy of the form should be sent by the participant, or the end user, to the relevant certification body (CB).

Although generally the primary producer, end user, and sometimes the TASC merchant (as per Section H1 – Human and Animal Health) would issue, it is important the storekeeper is made aware.

These DPR's are not to be confused with mycotoxin rejection forms (see page 2).





## News In Brief

### Training for every TASCC auditor

During May, all of the TASCC auditors undertook a days training at venues in Edinburgh and Warwickshire.

The main focus was to run through changes to the codes but it also provided an opportunity for auditors and the certification bodies to talk through specific issues.

These training days are seen as being essential to ensure consistency between auditors.

### PDV name change

The owner of the Dutch Feed Scheme, GMP+, has changed its name from PDV to GMP+ International as of the 1st February 2010.



The requirements of the schemes still remain the same as does the mutual recognition agreement with AIC.

The new website for GMP+ International is [www.gmpplus.org](http://www.gmpplus.org)

### More than 220 attend TASCC seminars

TASCC seminars were held during February and March covering such topics as the new Salmonella code of practice, changes to the TASCC codes for 2010/2011 and HACCP.

The seminars, which take place every two years, were held in Bristol, Peterborough, Wetherby, Perth and Belfast, and were attended by over 220 delegates in total.

## HGCA guide will help TASCC members

The Grain Storage Guide published by the HGCA provides TASCC participants with a range of useful information.

As you are aware the TASCC storage code encourages good practice to ensure food/feed safety of combinable crops and animal feeds. However, the HGCA guide covers general storage in more detail.

According to the HGCA guide, successful storage centres on keeping it dry, cool and carefully monitored.

The guide also lays out some tips for good storage, including well-sealed doors to prevent rodent entry, sound roofs and gutters to prevent water entering, and adequate space above grain for air circulation.

The guide can be found on the HGCA website [www.hgca.com](http://www.hgca.com) or by using the following link: <http://bit.ly/dfo0bF>



## AIC and PAI to produce continuation certificates

There are occasions when a TASCC certificate is shown as expired, even though the participants are fully active. It is simply that over a number of years of certification and visits the timings are no longer aligned.

To avoid this problem, PAI can now offer a continuation certificate. Providing the necessary declaration is completed with payment of both the AIC registration and

PAI audit fee, a certificate will be issued. Please note that an annual audit is required.

### Stickers

As stated in the new TASCC Scheme Manual, TASCC stickers now carry different information relating to the participants certification year.

Stickers under the new scheme, will show participants individual TASCC reference

number and the certificate expiry date. To ensure participants have valid stickers at all times it is important that the continuous certification is maintained.

For further information, please contact Simon Williams (PAI Feed Scheme Co-ordinator), Nigel Warnes or Martin Jowett at PAI on 01423 878878, or [enquiries@thepaigroup.com](mailto:enquiries@thepaigroup.com)

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