

# FIAS Update

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FERTILISER INDUSTRY ASSURANCE SCHEME



## Welcome

Welcome to the winter 2025 edition of FIAS Update.

This issue contains an update on progress of the FIAS Standard review, the new Secure Your Fertiliser logo, a suspicious activity report, and an update on unsecure parking.

Please let us know your views on the current FIAS Standard requirements or any questions you may have – your feedback is very welcome.



**Roberta Reeve**  
Technical Manager  
for AIC Services

## FIAS Standard review progress

The review of the current Fertiliser Industry Assurance Scheme (FIAS) Standard has been ongoing since January 2025. At the time of publishing this update, the revised Standard text has been through one consultation with FIAS stakeholders and is nearing the end of a public consultation, open to Participants, AIC Members, auditors, and interested parties for their feedback on proposed changes.

If you have not already reviewed the proposals, please do so and take the opportunity to make your voice heard. The documents can be downloaded from the [AIC website](https://www.agindustries.org.uk). These include a list of key changes as well as the proposed new text.

The consultation is extended until 11 December 2025 to allow FIAS Update readers time to contribute.

The Review Group and Working Group will consider the comments made and agree any amendments.

The next stage is to submit the new text to the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS), which accredits the scheme

and ensures that the clauses are auditable by our Certification Body, Kiwa Agri Food. Work will then start to update audit systems, checklists, auditor training, and i-Learning, ready for implementation of the Standard in October 2026.

An interim version of the Standard will be available to allow Participants to prepare for audits from October, subject to UKAS approval. Once that approval is gained, the final version will be published and available for download.

Based on survey results and usage patterns over the last five years, the Standard will be primarily available as a PDF download from the AIC website. This can be used online with active links, or printed in total or in sections as required. There will not be a web version, and a small number of documents will be printed and available on request.

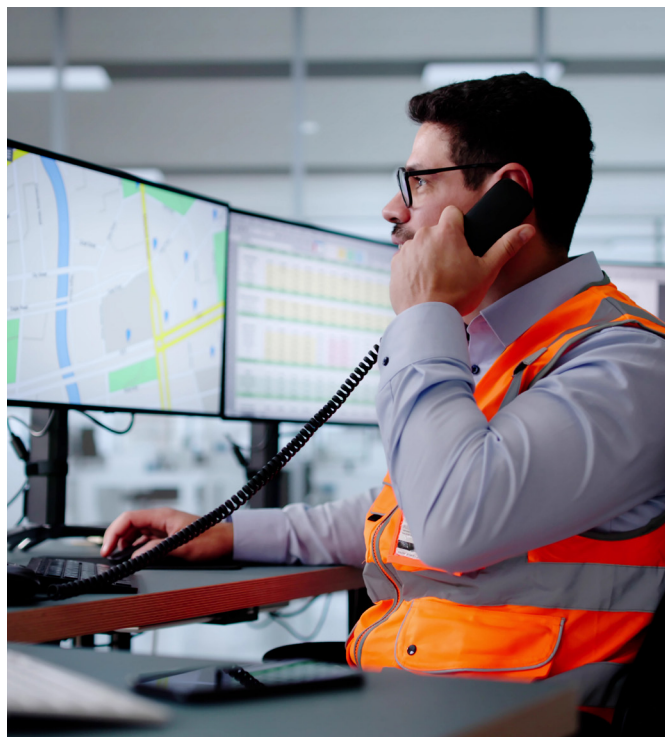
**Watch out for briefings and emails  
from AIC on progress next year.**

## NEW – NaCTSO Secure Your Fertiliser logo and link

The National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) has updated the Secure Your Fertiliser logo to reflect the ProtectUK website address, where it is now hosted. Participants are requested to update their websites and fertiliser bags where they use this logo.

Please contact Roberta at AIC for the file update as required (roberta.reeve@agindustries.org.uk), scan the QR code below, or download from the from the [FIAS Resources webpage](#).

AIC Services has requested that the five-point plan leaflet is also updated. NaCTSO has confirmed that the existing link will still function at present, but the route to information will be less direct.



## Suspicious activity reporting

At the last FIAS Steering Group meeting, NaCTSO reported an incident involving a FIAS Participant, which showed the importance of having reporting procedures in place and knowing how to use them.

In July 2025, information about a potential suspicious incident was received by police from a senior manager at a leading fertiliser supplier. The circumstances were that a male person called the company enquiring about purchasing a small amount of fertiliser. The manager informed the caller that the minimum order would be for five tonnes; however, the caller only wished to purchase a single bag. The manager was naturally suspicious, as this was an unusually small amount, the caller was not a known customer, and when asked further, stated it was for tomatoes, potatoes, and cereals.

The police checked the details the male supplied and found that these did not exist. Details of the incident have been recorded, no fertiliser was supplied, and staff at the company were thanked for their vigilance.

This demonstrates correct action taken by the FIAS Participant. Anything suspicious should be reported, no matter how trivial it may seem.

While we hope not to have to use these procedures often, make sure you know how to report and ensure all staff are up to date in training.

Suspicious activity can be reported [online](#).

You can also report suspicious activity by contacting the police in confidence on 0800 789 321 or your local force via 101.



## FIAS stakeholder visit

In July this year, Origin Soil Nutrition kindly hosted a visit for FIAS stakeholders to their Port of Tyne site. Attendees from the Department for Transport, Defra, Red Tractor Farm Assurance, National Farmers Union, Port Skills and Safety, and AIC heard Michael Pater (Origin Soil Nutrition Managing Director) talk about the Origin global business and fertiliser supply chains. The group then had a tour of the site storage, blending, and packing operations and saw FIAS controls working in practice.

These visits help maintain engagement and support for FIAS. Visitors gave positive feedback, learned more about practical operations, and had their questions answered by the Origin team and site staff, who, in turn, were pleased to welcome those involved in setting FIAS strategy.

Thank you again to Origin Soil Nutrition for their time and hospitality in hosting such a useful visit.



## FIAS case study

A case study was published recently focusing on FIAS Participant John Pocklington and Son, a transport company in Lincolnshire. The owner, Kate Pocklington, explains why the business joined FIAS, how compliance is achieved, and the benefits of being in the scheme.

It was useful for AIC to hear feedback on how the scheme operates, audits are carried out, and suggestions for future developments.

Visit the [AIC website](https://www.aic.gov.uk) to download, or read the case study online.

AIC Services would like to develop more case studies across the FIAS scopes. If you would like to feature, please contact our Communications Manager, Wendy Ford ([wendy.ford@agindustries.org.uk](mailto:wendy.ford@agindustries.org.uk)).



**Wendy Ford**  
AIC Communications Manager

# FIAS Earned Recognition update – Unsecure parking incidents



In the last issue, we reported unsecure parking incidents found by police and involving FIAS Participants. Failure to park in secure areas could lead to theft and misuse of dangerous goods and is detrimental to the Earned Recognition for FIAS.

The Participants involved were contacted by both the Department for Transport and Kiwa Agri Food. The general shortage of HGV parking places in the UK is recognised; however, load security is essential. Recommendations for FIAS Participants and any approved non-FIAS contractors carrying dangerous goods:

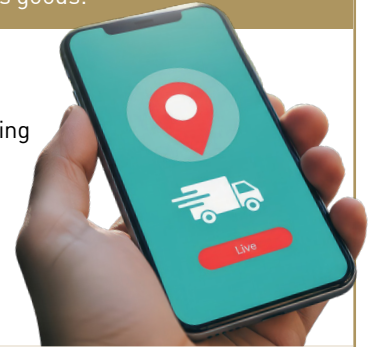
## Transport

### • Training

- Ensure drivers and traffic planners understand the importance of parking securely when carrying relevant products.
- Ensure drivers know the security procedures to follow when parking up, leaving a vehicle unattended and returning to a vehicle.

### • Secure parking – Know where it is available enroute and use. Route planning and tracking apps can help.

### • Drivers must report any police interventions to their transport manager.



## Consigners

Product owners and distributors of relevant products should ensure that secure parking is considered in their FIAS business process risk assessment and is a requirement when consigning transport.

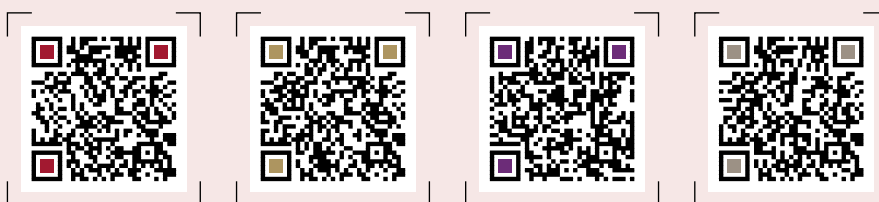
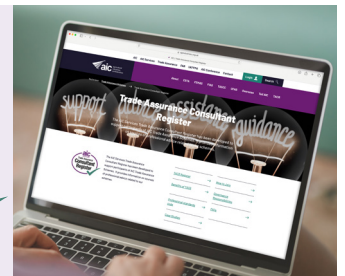
## Useful information

**FIAS web pages:** Scroll and search to find the Trade Assurance Checker, FIAS documents, templates, and videos e.g. “How to access the Portal” and “What to expect at your audit”.

## Trade Assurance Consultant Register (TACR)

To support current or potential Participants of AIC's Trade Assurance Schemes, a list of consultants and advisers is available on AIC's website, along with the TACR professional conduct standards.

The TACR lists individual consultants, the trade assurance schemes they support, services offered, and ways to contact them for further information.



## ProtectUK

Information about security issues, general counter terrorism guidance, ACT Awareness e-learning. Protect UK can be downloaded from: Google Play or Apple's App Store.



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