

TASCCforce

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TRADE ASSURANCE SCHEME FOR COMBINABLE CROPS



Welcome

Welcome to TASCCforce. In this edition, we highlight the new Feed Safety Analysis Calculator and how it can be used, along with a reminder to TASCC Participants about short-notice audits and the latest updates on Joint Scheme Development.

There is also an update on new i-Learning and the launch date for the annual Grain Analyst Refresher Quiz.

As ever, we welcome all feedback from Members and Participants. If you have any questions or suggestions for topics you would like to see covered, please get in touch. The AIC welcomes your views and is here to help make your voice heard.



Gill Barrow
Technical Manager

Short Notice Audits Reminder

In addition to routine annual audits, TASCC Participants also receive a Short Notice Audit at least once during each three-year certification period. Participants will be contacted directly by their auditor on the working day before the audit is due to take place.

These Short Notice Audits apply only to TASCC Participants with Storage, Merchenting, and Testing (when associated with Storage) scopes of certification. Hauliers, by contrast, may be subject to spot checks at intake locations.

The purpose is, and has always been, to assess how a business is operating “on the day”. As a result, when an auditor is on site, their focus is on key practical elements such as hygiene, including the cleanliness and overall management of the site. For trading and merchenting activities, the emphasis will be on the traceability system.

Importantly, there is no requirement for specialist technical staff to be present during the audit. For example, the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) team leader or external consultants are not needed. Instead, a member of staff who can accompany the auditor will be sufficient.

Finally, depending on the size and complexity of the site, the audit is expected to last between two and four hours.

New Hub for AIC Feed Safety Calculators

A new online resource is now available, bringing together clear guidance and step-by-step video walkthroughs for all four AIC feed safety calculators.

This central hub covers all four calculators used across AIC Feed Assurance Schemes:

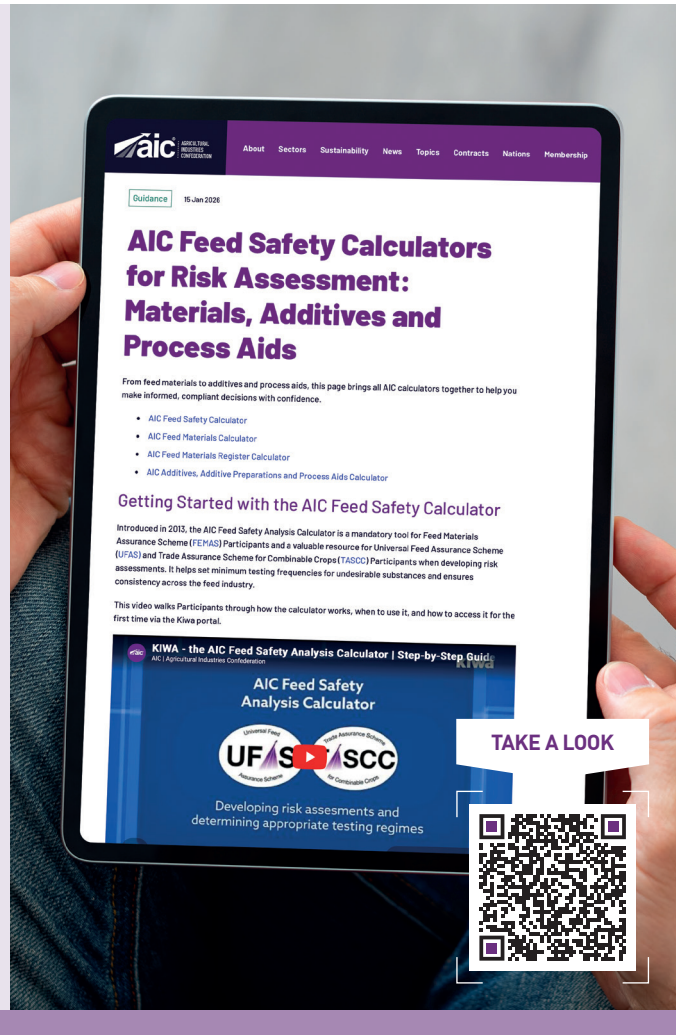
- Feed Safety Analysis Calculator
- Catalogue of Feed Materials Calculator
- Feed Material Register Calculator
- Additives, Additive Preparations and Process Aids Calculator

Each tool is supported by a short instructional video developed with Kiwa. The videos are simple and practical, providing Participants with clear guidance on what they should be doing, making them an ideal reference tool.

The calculators help Participants:

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

By bringing all four calculators into one place, this resource removes confusion about where to find the correct tool and improves accessibility.



Audit Hints and Tips

Did you know? All Kiwa auditors carry photographic identification; the card states their name and the scheme(s) they are approved to audit.

Good practice, and an important site security measure, is to ask to see the auditor's card to confirm their identity upon arrival at your premises.

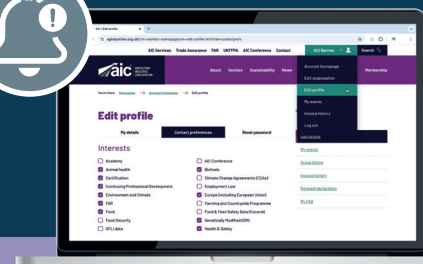


Demonstration Trailers

Be sure to check the previous use of a demonstration trailer. The same level of adherence to the Exclusion and Sensitive Lists is required to maintain safe food and feed.

Assurance Alerts

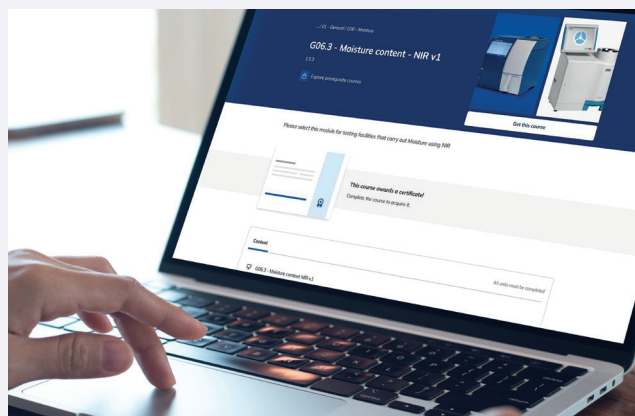
To receive AIC Assurance alerts, select the opt-in preference when logging into AIC's website and editing your profile and contact preferences. This ensures you stay informed about the latest assurance status of AIC Scheme Participants.



AHDB Grain Analyst Training Refresher Quiz

The Annual Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) Grain Analyst Training Refresher Quiz launched on 1 June and is available to Participants for eight weeks.

It provides refresher training on the TASCC Testing Standard, helping to identify areas where testing facilities have received non-conformances. Although not mandatory, it is a valuable tool for both new and experienced analysts, supporting laboratory managers in tailoring further training.



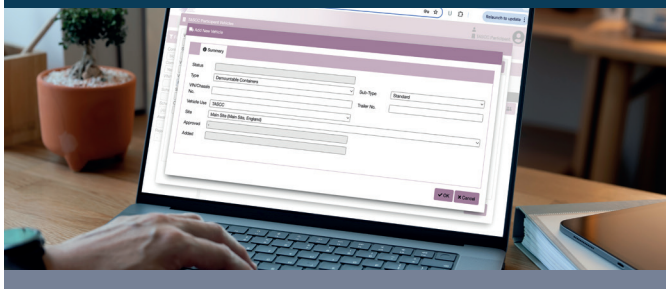
COMING SOON

i-Learning for the TASCC Merchant Standard

A small group of industry representatives has been working to develop training content for TASCC Participants with Merchanting within their scope of certification.

The new i-Learning will follow the same audio-visual format as existing training for the other standards and will be structured into modules to support ease of learning. Each module will be completed through a series of questions.

A briefing for Members and Participants will be issued when the training is launched and becomes available to Participants.



AHDB Analyst Modules

Don't forget you can revisit the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) modules as a reference or information point, not just as training modules.

You now have the option to print or receive modules via email.

For further information, contact:
gill.barrow@agindustries.org.uk

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW MODULES



Safe Storage Time Calculator for Cereals

As harvest approaches a useful resource is available from the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB). The Safe Storage Time Calculator uses information entered on the moisture and temperature levels for stored grain to assess the risks from mould and mycotoxins development, loss of germination and the potential risk for attack by insects and mites.

The tool is designed to help storekeepers manage drying and cooling at harvest to protect the quality and safety of their grain in store.



ACCESS HERE



Non-Conformance Data Report

To support Participants in improving their audit processes and enhancing compliance with the TASCC Standard, a report is published on the AIC website providing an overview of the non-conformances raised across each standard, including the General Section.

Non-conformances are categorised and visually presented, highlighting the top ten most frequent issues. A detailed table also breaks down the specific clauses and their frequency, enabling precise identification of areas requiring attention.

The data is reviewed by the TASCC Working Group, which includes Scheme Participants, stakeholders, the Certification Body, and AIC representatives. The report is published quarterly and is available on the TASCC page.



Certification Body Audit by AIC

In April, AIC carried out an audit of Kiwa at its offices in Harrogate. The audit is conducted annually and reviews the processes, systems, and management of the AIC trade assurance schemes. It was undertaken by AIC in conjunction with a representative from the TASCC Transport Working Group.

Traceability assessments were carried out across a range of audit types and scopes, reviewing processes in relation to the TASCC Participant experience and interaction with the Certification Body.

The audit demonstrated the robust systems and processes in place, as well as the knowledge and expertise of the Kiwa team. One observation and one non-conformance were raised, which will be addressed through the appropriate corrective action process.

Joint Scheme Development Project

Following the implementation of the new TASCC Scheme in October 2024, a review has already begun for the next revision. The Joint Scheme Development group is made up of industry representatives from each scheme – TASCC, FEMAS (Feed Materials Assurance Scheme), and UFAS (Universal Feed Assurance Scheme) – and is jointly developing a common set of requirements and standardised wording across all three schemes.

Public consultation is planned for the end of 2026, with implementation of the new standards scheduled for April 2028.



AIC Portal Support

If you experience issues logging into AIC's Portal, please use the 'forgotten password' link on the portal page or contact Kiwa directly on 01423 878873 or email:

uk.feed@kiwa.com

SCAN THE QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD A HELPFUL USER GUIDE >>>



Three Previous Loads: Avoiding Generic Descriptions

When listing the three previous loads, ensure that the description of the material is sufficiently detailed to accurately identify the goods. The following terms: feed, meal, pellets, nuts, biomass, fertiliser, ash, stone, or dust, are too generic and should not be used. Providing greater detail enables potential risks to food and feed to be properly assessed and ultimately helps to ensure a safe food and feed supply chain.

If you are unsure whether a material is suitable to be carried, please contact either Kiwa or AIC.