

FEMAS update

THE NEWSLETTER OF AIC'S FEED MATERIALS ASSURANCE SCHEME



Welcome to FEMAS Update

Welcome to the spring 2024 FEMAS Update newsletter.

The new year brings with it a revised scheme Standard, which has been jointly developed with UFAS and TASC to improve understanding across the three assurance schemes.

Following an industry consultation, the new Standard is set to be introduced later this year with AIC's Services team travelling across the UK to run a series of seminars to help scheme Participants prepare and answer any questions.

As ever, it is vital that FEMAS Participants ensure that feed and food safety is the top priority. Over the coming weeks supporting documents such as Sector Notes and Audit checklists will be published to assist Participants in preparing for the new Standard.



Simon Williams
Technical Manager
AIC Services

FEMAS Standard updated for 2024

Following a detailed review process lasting three years, the final draft of the new FEMAS 2024 Standard is now available on AIC's website. The Standard, along with TASC and UFAS are currently being reviewed by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS), which is not expected to require any amendments, and this will be confirmed as soon as possible.

All FEMAS audits taking place after 1 June 2024 will be against the new Standard and Participants are encouraged to review their procedures and systems to ensure they continue to comply with the scheme requirements. In the coming weeks, a document summarising the key changes will be published, and some of the highlights are included in this edition of FEMAS Update.

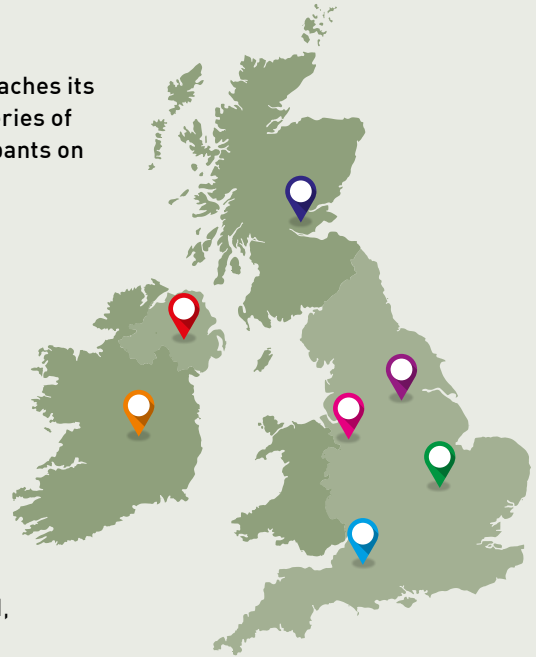


AIC Seminars

As the process of updating the FEMAS, TASC, and UFAS standards reaches its conclusion, AIC Services is pleased to announce that there will be a series of seminars held in the second quarter of 2024 to update scheme Participants on the changes.

Locations and dates for these seminars are as follows:

- Northern Ireland – 24 April 2024
- Republic of Ireland – 25 April 2024
- Bristol – 15 May 2024
- Peterborough – 23 May 2024
- Chester – 4 June 2024
- Wetherby – 5 June 2024
- Perth – 11 June 2024



Further details of venues, timings, and booking arrangements will be provided shortly. As with previous seminars, it will be a valuable opportunity for Participants to hear the latest updates on the schemes as well as meeting AIC’s team and representatives from Kiwa Agri Food, the FEMAS certification body.

<p>Jan-Feb</p> <p>UKAS assessment of Standards</p>	<p>Feb</p> <p>Final Standard published with changes document</p>	<p>March-May</p> <p>Sector notes revised and published, updated checklists published</p>	<p>March-May</p> <p>Auditor training</p>	<p>April-June</p> <p>Participant seminars</p>	<p>01 June</p> <p>Audits to FEMAS 2024 begin</p>
---	---	---	---	--	---



SIGN UP NOW!

Online AIC HACCP course

This accredited Level 2 e-learning course on the principles of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control point has been specifically developed for the feed and agri food industry with relevant practical examples from all sectors.

Designed in conjunction with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, it is widely used by Members and Participants as part of their staff development and induction and refresher training.

The course is self-guided, takes 2-3 hours to complete, and a qualification certificate is issued on successful completion of a multiple-choice test.

To find out more and register directly use the QR code or visit:

<https://www.agindustries.org.uk/resource/haccp-e-learning-course-for-agri-food-from-aic.html>



Kiwa FEMAS training

Since 2019 Kiwa has offered a FEMAS training course to Participants, applicants, and other interested parties.

The course is typically provided online across two mornings, but Participants can also request a dedicated course for their employees either online or in-person. The current list of dates can be found on the Kiwa Training website.



Pre-submission of documents

A significant change to the FEMAS 2024 scheme is a new section in the Scheme Rules covering pre-submission of documents in advance of a routine audit. This approach has been developed in response to feedback on the remote audit process followed during Covid lockdowns, where many Participants felt that the audit was more focused and productive as a result of the auditor having already reviewed some key documents.

Section 11.3 of the Scheme Rules "Documentation to be provided prior to Initial and Routine Audits" lays out the options open to Participants which are:



Upload of documents to the Audits area of the secure Kiwa Portal.



Booking of an online meeting with the auditor prior to the day of the audit to show the requested documents.



Agreeing to an additional half day of onsite audit time to allow documents to be reviewed thoroughly during the audit.

Participants will be asked at renewal to confirm which option they wish to choose.

Salmonella sampling and testing

For the past two years, AIC has been in discussions with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), the Food Standards Agency (FSA), and industry stakeholders to produce an updated Defra Salmonella Code for Animal Feed.

In preparation for this to be published, the requirements for salmonella sampling and testing have been updated with two significant changes that Participants will need to be aware of and potentially update their systems:

- 1 A new requirement that any laboratory used for salmonella analysis must be ISO17025 accredited, and the method used must be listed in the Accreditation Schedule.
- 2 There must be a system to respond to salmonella isolations, making reference to the Defra Code, in particular with regard to when the authorities need to be informed.



New Scheme terminology

FEMAS 2024 includes some updated terminology, with the aim of improving clarity for Participants when reading and complying with the Standard.

In addition to "Requirements" which will form the basis of the checklist and the audit process there is now "Interpretation", "Guidance" and "Further Information".

Full descriptions of these terms are included in the Scheme Rules at the front of the Standard, but in summary:

- Interpretation is something a Participant should consider to ensure that feed safety is maintained, and legislation complied with.
- Guidance is advice that may be useful in achieving the required outcome.
- Further information is any external source of information (web links etc).



Interpretation
Guidance
Further Information

Kiwa videos – what to expect at an audit and using the portal

Kiwa has produced videos to assist Participants with understanding what to expect at an audit and how to log into the assurance portal to upload audit related documents.

Log in to AIC's website to find these videos on the trade assurance page or by following the links below:

AIC Portal Guide - <https://vimeo.com/856809821>

What to expect at your audit - <https://vimeo.com/856773713>



AIC website – set up personal preferences on login

Did you know that you can update your personal preferences and opt-in options via your profile on AIC's website?

When logging in by clicking the icon in the top right corner, click on 'Edit profile' and 'Contact Preferences' to select the topics which are of interest to you.

You can also choose how you wish to be contacted and tailor your opt-in preferences for Member briefings.

