

AIC Sustainable Soya Progress Report

May 2025



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AIC Sustainable Soya Progress Report – May 2025

The AIC Soya Supply Group (ASSG) together with the AIC Sustainable Commodities Standard Working Group (ASCSWG) have been engaged in a number of initiatives relating to sustainable soya for several years and provide this report by way of an update on recent activity.

Contents
AIC Soya Supply Group Data Report
AIC Soya Supply Group Data Report - 2024 Import Data
AIC Soya Supply Group Data Report - 2024 Import Data - Origins
AIC Soya Supply Group Data Report - Commentary
AIC Soya Supply Group Data Report – Plans for 2025
AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme Standard Working Group Progress Report
AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme (ASCS) Update
Follow-up Consultation on the EUDR Aligned Standard
Future Plans

AIC Soya Supply Group Data Report - 2024 Import Data

In line with commitments made to report import volumes, ASSG provide the following data for UK imports for the calendar year 2024. All data is expressed as tonnes (t) of soyabean meal equivalent volumes (calculated at 72.5% yield).

1	AIC Soya Supply Group Data Report - 2024 Import Data			
2	Category	Metric Tonnes (t)	% of total	Notes
3				
4	Total soyabean meal equivalent imports	2,389,825	100	
5	Soyabean meal equivalent from any source meeting currently known EU Regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EUDR) requirements + conversion	34,750	1.4%	Note: physically verified DCF and expected to be EUDR aligned
6	Soyabean meal equivalent from any source meeting currently known EUDR requirements	458,700	19.2%	Note: physically verified DF and expected to be EUDR aligned
7	Balance of soyabean meal equivalents not meeting requirements in rows 5 and 6	1,896,375		
8	Volumes of soyabean meal equivalent balance reported in row 7 from a lower risk source	521,831	21.8%	Note: verified DCF on account of low-risk origin (N. American and Europe) but not necessarily EUDR aligned
9	Volumes of soyabean meal equivalent balance reported in row 7 from a higher risk source	1,374,544		Soya from any other origin not included in row 8
10	Volumes of soyabean meal equivalent balance reported in row 9 covered by a certification scheme that has been successfully benchmarked against the European Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC) Soya Sourcing Guidelines 2023 via mass balance or area mass balance OR is traceable to the producer and audited by a recognised 3rd party certification/inspection company where the supplier has an existing soya policy for the country or region referring to a zero deforestation standard	771,444	32.3%	Expected to be UK Forest Risk Commodities Regulation (UKFRC) aligned (provided there is supporting assurance of legality to point of import to the UK)
11	Soyabean meal imported compliant with Amazon Soya Moratorium (ASM) contracts and not included under row 10	185,913	7.8%	
12	Balance of soyabean meal equivalents from any high or lower risk source (as reported in row 7) not covered by a certification scheme that has been successfully benchmarked against the FEFAC Soya Sourcing Guidelines 2023 OR is traceable to the producer and audited by a recognised 3rd party certification/inspection company where the supplier has an existing soya policy for the country or region referring to a zero deforestation standard	417,587	17.5%	Compliance status not yet established

AIC Soya Supply Group Data Report - 2024 Import Data - Origins

Origin	Volumes	%
Argentina	820,430	34.4
Brazil	757,634	31.7
Paraguay	287,578	12.0
North America	494,775	20.7
Other	29,408	1.2
Total	2,389,825	100

All data is expressed as tonnes of soyabean meal equivalent volumes (calculated at 72.5% yield). ASSG data reflects the volumes handled by ASSG members. The report does not include volumes handled by other feed material importers, which would include some speciality soyabean meal such as non-genetically modified (Non-GM) and organically certified. The report does not include imports of soya products used for human consumption.

AIC Soya Supply Group Data Report - Commentary

Soyabean meal import volumes were roughly in line with expectations but were approximately 11% ahead of 2023 imports (2,150,063t).

The volume of soyabean meal sourced from low-risk origins is consistent with the figure for 2023 (557,237t).

The data suggests that 82.5% of UK imports of soyabean meal for use in animal feed could be regarded as being verifiably deforestation free.

ASSG began collecting soya import data in 2019 – the proportion of soyabean meal imports which would be considered verifiably deforestation free (using the same methodology) for 2019 imports was 56.7% of total imports.

Of the 417,587t (17.5%) of 2024 imports for which compliance status is not yet established, using the established risk weighting methodology developed by FEFAC in conjunction with Cámara de la Industria Aceitera de la República Argentina (CIARA) in Argentina, Associação Brasileira das Indústrias de Óleos Vegetais (ABIOVE) in Brazil and Cámara Paraguaya de Oleaginosas y Cereales (CAPRO) in Paraguay, it can be established that a very small proportion of this tonnage may be at risk of being associated with deforestation.

AIC Soya Supply Group Data Report – Plans for 2025

ASSG have committed to supplying data to AIC on a quarterly basis to help deliver greater transparency on the flow of volumes based on the reporting categories of the 2024 report.

First quarter 2025 data is being collected, collated, and anonymised by AIC and will be available shortly.

Disclaimer

AIC and ASSG have exercised due and customary care in preparing this report. No warranty, express or implied, is made in relation to the contents of this report.

AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme Standard Working Group Progress Report

AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme (ASCS) Update

AIC are developing four modules within the Scheme:

A standard designed for participants to demonstrate alignment with the [EU](#) Regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EUDR) from origin to UK.

A standard designed for operators within the UK handling material deemed to be aligned with the EU Regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EUDR)

A standard designed for participants to demonstrate alignment with the [EU](#) Regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EUDR) with an add-on module 'plus conversion-free

A standard designed for participants to demonstrate alignment with the UK Forest Risk Commodities Regulation (UKFRC).

A list of certified Participants, the products within their scope, and the modules against which they have been certified will be made publicly available via the AIC website.

It is a prerequisite of ASCS that all raw materials/feeds are also certified under a feed safety Scheme that is either managed by AIC or recognised as equivalent by AIC.

Follow-up Consultation on the EUDR Aligned Standard

A follow up consultation of Members and the wider industry on AIC's Sustainable Commodities Scheme (ASCS) is launched.

The new Scheme has been developed to help members fulfil their due diligence requirements for the [EU Regulation on Deforestation-free Products \(EUDR\)](#).

The ASCS Module 1 - alignment with EUDR from Origin to the UK and Module 2 - for Operators within the UK standards and associated guidance are contained within the consultation pack (see below) and AIC invite you to review the documents and complete the associated response form.

Please find links to view and download the consultation pack below. This information can also be found on the [Feed Sector pages of the AIC website](#) shortly.

About ASCS

AIC's Sustainable Commodities Scheme (ASCS) is a new voluntary scheme developed, owned and implemented by the [Agricultural Industries Confederation \(AIC\)](#).

The ASCS has been designed with industry input in response to market demands throughout the supply chain.

Once certified, Participants will be able to verify or make claims about their supply chains to their customers and stakeholders and align with legal requirements in this area.

Certification to the ASCS should help Participants meet the requirements of sustainability criteria set in this area in a cost-effective and pragmatic manner.

The Scheme will offer a series of modules against which Participants will be independently certified to confirm that the sourcing of raw materials and products meets key sustainability goals.

The first modules to be released by the ASCS certify that where raw materials and products are sourced from geographies where forests are at risk, this activity does not result in deforestation or the conversion to agricultural use of land with ecological value, or both.

AIC is currently developing two modules within the Scheme to address these concerns:

A standard designed for Participants to demonstrate alignment with the [EU Regulation on Deforestation-free Products \(EUDR\)](#) from origin to UK.

A standard designed for Participants to demonstrate that they operate a deforestation free chain of custody for the in-scope commodities used within the UK feed industry.

A list of certified Participants, the products within their scope and the modules against which they have been certified will be made publicly available via [the AIC website](#).

Consultation pack and response deadline

The follow up consultation on these draft standards and guidance documents will run until 17.00 on 6 June 2025.

The consultation pack consists of the following (click to view and download):

[AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme \(ASCS\) Overview](#)

[Draft AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme – Module 1 alignment with EUDR from origin to UK](#)

[Draft AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme Guidance– Module 1 Chain of Custody and Legality of Production](#)

[Draft AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme – Module 2 for operators within the UK](#)

[Draft AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme Guidance– Module 2 Chain of Custody within the UK](#)

[Module 1 Consultation Response Form which to insert comments and suggestions](#)

[Module 2 Consultation Response Form which to insert comments and suggestions](#)

All responses should be sent by email to Sue Whittington (sue.whittington@agindustries.org.uk) by the closing date.

Development of a Standard Designed for Participants to Demonstrate Alignment with the EU Regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EUDR) with an Add-on Module 'Plus Conversion-free'

As previously stated, AIC will convene the AIC Sustainable Commodity Scheme Standard Working Group to review the development of an EUDR aligned + conversion free standard. This work will commence in Q3 2025 with the preparation of a draft standard. Once complete, as with other standards under the ASCS scheme, the draft will be put out for public consultation.

It is important to reiterate that the development and implementation of a standard does not constitute a supply signal. The availability of material which would meet the EUDR aligned + conversion free standard is entirely a function of supply matching demand backed by realistic expectation of the terms under which material aligned with the standard might be supplied.

Future Plans

AIC Soya Supply Group (ASSG) and AIC Sustainable Commodities Standard Working Group (ASCSWG) will continue to engage with supply chain partners on these issues. Active engagement with the following (non-exhaustive) list of stakeholders will continue:

UK Sustainable Commodities Initiative

UK Soya Manifesto group

UK Soya Manifesto (Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification) MRV group and BSI standard

Environmental Finance and Economics Consultancy Associates (EFECA) and Retail Soy Group (RSG)

Individual retailers



Producer group meetings National Farmers Union, National Farmers Union Wales, Farming Union Wales, National Farmers Union Scotland, Ulster Farmers Union, National Pig Association, British Egg Industry Council, British Poultry Council, etc)

Processor group meetings (British Meat Processors Association, Dairy UK, etc)

Regular speaking slots at conferences, workshops, etc

ASSG will maintain a programme of regular face-to-face meetings with UK Soya Manifesto representatives to provide updates on progress and to discuss how best to overcome barriers to progress.

AIC Contacts

	
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