

Guidance for TASCC Section M3 Purchasing, Selection and Approval of Suppliers and Sub- Contractors

For TASCC participants to aid in compliance with Section M3 of TASCC 2024

This guidance must be read in conjunction with the TASCC 2024 Standard.

To maintain the integrity of the assured supply chain, the TASCC Standard requires that Participants implement a system to verify the assurance status of their suppliers at the point of entering and executing contracts or agreements. While the specific approach may vary depending on the size and complexity of the business, the key to an effective system is ensuring that all relevant personnel have access to up-to-date supplier assurance information.

Under Clause M3.3, Participants are required to have an effective system for approving feed suppliers to ensure feed safety is not compromised. As such, verifying the assurance status of suppliers should be an integral component of this approval system and is required under Clauses M3.2.a. The list of current Feed/ Food schemes recognised by AIC can be found on the AIC website here: <https://www.agindustries.org.uk/resource/feed-food-schemes.html>

The main areas to consider are:

- a. Sourcing and verification of Information
- b. Frequency of Checks
- c. Use and Communication of Information
- d. Follow up actions

a. Sourcing and verification of Information

The Participant should identify the available sources of information relating to assurance status changes for all suppliers and their assurance schemes. Participants may need to adopt a range of methods to verify supplier assurance status.

If the supplier is a participant in an AIC scheme, the initial assurance status can be established using the AIC Assurance Checker. Current assurance status can be verified when entering and executing a contract using the AIC Assurance Checker or through registering to receive the Assurance Alert emails.

Other schemes may maintain online registers and offer similar email alerts. Links to these resources can be found on the AIC website: [AIC Trade Assurance Schemes](#).

Where such systems are unavailable, there may be no alternative to timely manual checks via a scheme/ certification body website or email confirmation from the relevant certification body or Scheme owner.

b. Frequency of Assurance Checks

The Participant should establish appropriate frequencies for checking supplier assurance status.

Consideration should be given to, but not be limited to:

- Nature/ duration of relationship with supplier
- Supplier history
- Type of feed
- Use of feed
- Complexity of supply chain
- Frequency of purchase
- Period between agreeing and calling off a contract

The overarching principle is that assurance checks should be embedded in the purchasing workflow, and all involved personnel should be competent.

c. Use and Communication of Information

A documented procedure should clearly define:

- Who is responsible for receiving assurance updates or conducting regular checks
- How this information is communicated internally
- Which systems must be updated to prevent purchases from suppliers not holding current certification (including suppliers whose certification has been suspended)

d. Follow Up Actions

Follow up actions should consider, but not be limited to the following Sections:

- M3 Assured Suppliers
- M18 Non-Conforming Products
- M19 and M20 Feed Safety Incidents/ Recall/ Withdrawal