



AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme

Module 2: For Operators within the UK

16th April 2025

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AIC Sustainable Commodity Scheme Rules

1. AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme

- 1.1 The AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme (ASCS) is a voluntary scheme developed, owned and implemented by the Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC). The Scheme certifies that the sourcing of raw materials and products meets the requirements of the module(s) included within a Participant's scope of certification.
- 1.2 The ASCS is a Product Certification Scheme delivered by a Certification Body approved by AIC. A list of Participants is publicly available via the AIC website www.agindustries.org.uk/sectors/trade-assurance-schemes.html

1.3 Food/ Feed Safety

It is a prerequisite of this Scheme that ALL raw materials/ feeds are ALSO certified under a feed safety Scheme recognised by AIC. For Participants in the Feed Sector, this Standard must be applied in addition to any feed safety Scheme recognised by AIC. Participants must contact the Certification Body to confirm that any feed safety certification that they are considering using to partner this Standard is recognised by AIC.

1.4 Certification

- 1.4.1 Certification against this Scheme is available to any Participant, who complies with the requirements of the module(s) included within their scope of certification.
- 1.4.2 To achieve certification against this Scheme, Participants must be assessed by the Certification Body and demonstrate compliance with the current version of the module(s) included within their scope of certification.
- 1.4.3 The Certification Body administers the Scheme and, in most cases, performs the on-site audits. However, a Participant may select, if they wish, an alternative organization to carry out the on-site audit activity from a list of approved Inspection Bodies appointed by the Certification Body for this purpose. The list of approved Inspection Bodies is available from the Certification Body.
- 1.4.4 All costs of certification are included in the annual fees charged by the Certification Body, with the exception of auditor travel and subsistence expenses and costs relating to extra/ immediate audits. A schedule of Scheme fees is available on the AIC website.

https://www.agindustries.org.uk/sectors/trade-assurance-schemes.html

1.5 Scheme Terminology and Format

The following terms are used throughout this Scheme:

Requirement – Mandatory standards with which Applicants and Participants must comply to achieve and maintain certification.

Interpretation – Specific means for Applicants and Participants to achieve the desired outcome of the associated Requirement. Applicants and Participants are expected to consider Interpretations and apply them as relevant to their business. Failure to follow interpretations, resulting in the desired outcome of the Requirement not being achieved, will lead to a non-conformance being raised against the requirement.

Guidance – Non-mandatory suggestions of useful tools and techniques for achieving and maintaining compliance or continuous improvement.

Further information – External sources of useful information, typically including references/ web links to documents or other sources of information.

2. ASCS Scope

The ASCS encompasses all the operations and activities of a Participant that may have a bearing on their compliance with the requirements of the module(s) specified within their scope of certification: from raw material procurement and supplier approval, through to the point at which any products are transferred to a third party. All products placed on the market by a Participant as compliant must be included in the certification scope or, with the agreement of the Certification Body, be clearly excluded

The presence of products outside of the certification scope (or other materials) on site must not adversely affect the certified products.

Audits will (as appropriate) include:

- The original selection and sourcing of raw materials and/or products by Participants
- All transport to and from the Participants premises or designated stores
- The process by which products are produced
- The storage of both raw materials and products
- Any offsite activities that may affect the compliance of products

3.Communication

The Participant must provide the Certification Body with an up-to-date electronic means of communication. This is preferably an email address. Where this is not possible a mobile telephone number must be provided.

4. Claims Associated with ASCS Certification

Participants who achieve successful certification against this ASCS are reminded that this is a product certification scheme. Claims of certification may only be made in relation to those products included within the scope of the ASCS Certificate of Conformity.

5. Confidentiality

All information concerning Applicants and Certified Participants will be treated in confidence. Specific information (such as details of individual audit reports) will not be divulged to any third party without the written agreement of the Applicant/ Participant. The exceptions are:

- **5.1** The Certification Body and/ or AIC will confirm the Scheme ID number, name and address and confirm if the company is a certified Participant, along with the expiry date and scope of certification. These details are also available on the AIC website at www.agindustries.org.uk/sectors/trade-assurance-schemes.html
- **5.2** The provision of information to AIC in relation to audit findings and non-conformances as required to maintain the standards and credibility of the Scheme.
- **5.3** In the event of a Participant being involved or implicated in a sustainability incident, (see section H of the module(s)) details may be discussed in confidence between representatives of AIC and The Competent Authority.

5.4 Auditor Confidentiality

Auditors are required to sign and comply with the confidentiality agreement provided by the Certification Body. During any contact with a Participant, Auditors must not share any confidential information regarding other participating businesses.

6. Becoming Certified to the ASCS

The ASCS is open to any company involved in the production and placing on the market of relevant products, subject to compliance with these Scheme Rules.

6.1 Application for Certification

In order to become a certified Participant, Applicants must:

- **6.1.1** Apply for certification by completing an application form and returning it to the Certification Body.
- **6.1.2** Identify their activities on the scheme application form. Any subsequent amendments to the activities of the Participant's business must be communicated to the Scheme Certification Body.
- **6.1.3** Confirm that they agree to comply with the Scheme Rules, the current AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme module(s) included in their scope of certification, and Certification Body Terms and Conditions, by signing the Certification Agreement

contained in the quotation and returning it to the Certification Body. The quotation will indicate the fees payable.

The duration of the audit is dictated by the time required to audit the activities as specified in the application form. Examples of audit durations and associated fees can be found on the AIC website:

https://www.agindustries.org.uk/sectors/trade-assurance-schemes.html

- **6.1.4** Pay all relevant fees as per the quotation.
- **6.1.5** Initial audits must be conducted within 6 months of the application date. Reapplication will only be permitted at the discretion of the Certification Body.
- **6.1.6** When the Applicant has been audited, has rectified any non-conformances that may have been identified and the corrective actions have been reviewed and approved by the Certification Body, the Certification Body will undertake a certification decision and issue a Certificate. The Participant's details will be supplied to AIC for publication in the AIC Assurance Checker https://www.agindustries.org.uk/sectors/trade-assurance-schemes/trade-assurance-checker.html
- **6.1.7** The initial Certificate of Conformity will be valid for three years from the date on which the Applicant demonstrated conformance with the Scheme module(s) included in their scope of certification.
- **6.1.8** By applying for certification, the Applicant agrees that, if accepted, they will maintain compliance with the requirements of the AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme module(s) included in their scope of certification and any relevant associated documents.
- **6.1.9** The Applicant or Participant will have no claim against any officers, members or employees of AIC in the event of Expulsion, Suspension or a lesser sanction and/ or the publication thereof as appropriate, nor have any claim against any of the above for any damages and/ or compensation or costs for any financial loss occasioned thereby.

7. Maintaining Certified Status

- 7.1 Certificates will be valid for three years.
- 7.2 Certification is maintained subject to:
 - payment of all relevant fees to the Certification Body
 - ongoing compliance with Scheme requirements, including demonstration of compliance at surveillance audits
- **7.3** Participants will be contacted by a representative of the Certification Body prior to the anniversary of their Initial Audit to request that a renewal form is completed. The renewal form requests updated information on the Participant, scope of operation and management team and confirmation of the continued agreement to comply with the ASCS Rules and Certification Body Terms and Conditions.

- **7.4** Participants will be contacted prior to their audit due date to arrange a Surveillance Audit, which must take place within +/- 6 weeks of this date.
- **7.5** Participants shall comply with the Scheme Requirements at all times as defined in the Scheme module(s) included in the Participant's scope of certification.
- **7.6** Participants and Applicants must inform and obtain approval from the Certification Body in writing for any changes to the operation that may materially affect compliance with this Scheme and/ or the scope of certification.
- **7.7** Participants shall advise the Certification Body of any significant changes to the business, typically but not limited to:
 - Company ownership
 - Key management, including contact details
- 7.8 Participants and Applicants shall advise the Certification Body in the event of:
 - any sustainability investigation by a Competent Authority resulting in Formal Action
 - significant incidents on site (not limited to sustainability) that may:
 - o adversely affect the ability to supply products compliant with the ASCS
 - restrict the ability of the Certification Body to carry out an audit (including unannounced or short notice audits)
 - damage the reputation of the ASCS

8. Verifying Compliance with the Scheme module(s)

8.1 The Certification Body will assess a Participant's conformance with the Scheme module(s) included in scope of their certification. The Certification Body shall be given access to all relevant information needed to confirm conformance with those Scheme module(s) and the right to inspect third parties subcontracted to perform work covered by the Scheme module(s) at the Participant's cost. ASCS audits are not of fixed duration but are determined on a case-by-case basis.

There are a number of types of audit within the ASCS:

- **8.1.1 Pre-Assessment** (voluntary for new Participants). Pre-Assessments will evaluate a new Applicant's ability to meet the requirements of the ASCS module(s) included in their application. At the Certification Body's discretion, pre-audits will involve either an on-site or desk-top audit to confirm that appropriate controls are in place.
- **8.1.2 Initial Audit** A formal, in-depth, on-site audit to confirm that Applicants comply with the requirements of the relevant ASCS module(s). The duration of Initial Audits is dictated by the time required to fully assess the systems and procedures of the Applicant. The number of days required will be indicated prior to audit but may be extended if circumstances require this. Certificates are only issued on satisfactory

correction of all non-conformances identified at Initial Audit. The details and scope of certification for certified sites will be added to the AIC Assurance Checker. Businesses may be required to submit additional documentation after certification.

- **8.1.3 Surveillance Audit** annual audit for certified Participants to assess compliance with the requirements of the Scheme
- **8.1.4 Short Notice Audit** an audit carried out at least once during the three-year certificate period. The Participant will be informed the working day before the audit is to take place.
- **8.1.5 Unannounced Audit** A random selection of unannounced audits will be conducted to demonstrate the integrity of the Scheme
- **8.1.6 Extra/ Immediate Audit** The Certification Body will carry out extra/ immediate audits at their discretion; these audits may incur a cost and may be unannounced. Circumstances where they may be required include, but are not limited to:
- **8.1.6.1** In response to reports or intelligence suggesting a significant sustainability issue or breach of Scheme Rules and requirements
- **8.1.6.2** Current or emerging risks in the supply sector
- **8.1.6.3** Signing off action points following an audit, particularly if the action points relate to Major or Critical non-conformances.
- **8.1.7 Supplier Audit** an audit of a non-certified supplier of services, raw materials or products to the Participant carried out at the discretion of the Certification Body.
- **8.2** Account is taken by the auditor during Unannounced and Short Notice Audits of the fact that key personnel may not be available, however, the continued operation in compliance with the AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme is required.

8.3 Cancellation of Audits

Where a Participant finds it necessary to cancel an audit, they must contact the Certification Body as soon as possible. A cancellation fee will be charged to cover irrecoverable costs as per the Certification Body terms and conditions.

8.4 Refusal of Audits

Refusal to book an audit will result in suspension/ withdrawal of certification. Refusal to allow a booked audit to be conducted will incur charges.

Refusal to accept a Short Notice or Unannounced Audit will result in the client being charged for the rescheduling of the Short Notice/ Unannounced Audit. Refusal to allow access for the rescheduled audit may result in suspension/ withdrawal of certification.

8.5 Classification of non-conformances

Classification	Cause
Critical A gross or deliberate regulatory violation, or;	
	A failure in compliance resulting in the sustainability status of
	products being compromised, or;

	A loss of traceability such that recall of non-compliant goods would be impossible, or; A recurrence of a Major Non-conformance raised at the preceding audit, or; A complete unwillingness to cooperate during an audit.
Major	A complete failure to implement a requirement of the Scheme or a failure that may result in the loss of sustainability status, or; A recurrence of a Minor Non-conformance raised at the preceding audit.
Minor	A partial failure to implement a requirement of the Scheme or poor evidence to demonstrate implementation.

8.6 Response to Non-conformances

Classification	At Initial Audit	At Surveillance, Short Notice, Unannounced or Extra/ Immediate Audit
Critical	Certification refused. Full reapplication and audit required.	Certification suspended with immediate effect. Extra audit required prior to reinstatement of certification.
Major	Certificate not granted until non-conformances rectified. Plan of corrective actions to be submitted within 15 calendar days of audit, and timescales for completion and submission of evidence to be agreed with the Certification Body. Verification of effectiveness of corrective action to be undertaken by Certification Body before certification is granted.	Certification continues subject to plan of corrective actions being submitted within 15 calendar days of audit, and timescales for completion and submission of evidence to be agreed with the Certification Body, typically no more than 60 calendar days from audit. Verification of effectiveness of corrective action to be undertaken by Certification Body before certification is maintained/renewed. Failure to implement corrective actions and provide evidence to the Certification Body within agreed timescales will lead to suspension.
Minor	Certificate not granted until non- conformances rectified. Plan/evidence of corrective actions to be submitted within 30 calendar days of audit, and	Certification continues subject to plan/ evidence of corrective actions being submitted within 30 calendar days of audit, and timescales for completion and

timescales for completion and submission of evidence to be agreed with the Certification Body. Verification of effectiveness of corrective action to be undertaken by Certification Body before certification is granted.

submission of evidence to be agreed with the Certification Body, typically no more than 60 calendar days from audit. Verification of effectiveness of corrective action to be undertaken by Certification Body before certification is maintained/ renewed. Failure to implement corrective actions and provide evidence to the Certification Body within agreed timescales will lead to suspension.

8.7 Observations

Observations may be raised during audits. These are points noted by an auditor that:

- Are not technical breaches of the Standard but could assist the Certification Body, Scheme Owner or Participant
- May constitute a non-conformance, but the auditor is unable to confirm this during the audit

Observations do not require a formal response to the Certification Body unless upgraded to a non-conformance during the report review.

8.8 Reporting

The Certification Body will produce a findings report at the end of the audit, identifying any non-conformances to the Participant. Any non-conformances will be classified as shown in para. 8.5 above and acted upon as stated in para. 8.6. When the Certification Body has accepted the report and reviewed and approved any corrective actions, the Certification Body will notify the client of their continuing certification or issue a Certificate, whichever is appropriate.

8.9 Report Review

Upon completion of an audit report, it will be submitted to the Certification Body for review. As part of this review process the Certification Body may, based on the evidence collected for the report:

- Seek additional information
- Remove non-conformance(s)
- Add additional non-conformance(s)
- Change the classification of non-conformance(s)
- Change the clause allocation of non-conformance(s)
- Change observation(s) to non-conformance(s) or vice versa

8.10 Central Office Activities

When undertaking audits of Participants where some activities are managed centrally, it is important that information to allow these activities to be audited is available. At the discretion of the Certification Body this may be possible during the site audit (through video conferencing links) to allow staff responsible for these activities to be interviewed, or an additional audit may be required.

9. Suspension, Withdrawal and Reinstatement

- **9.1** The Certification Body, following discussions with AIC, may suspend/ withdraw a Participant's Certificate when the Participant has:
 - Critical non-conformance(s).
 - Non-conformances against the ASCS that are not resolved within the required time limits.
 - Failed to supply the signed renewal agreement to the Certification Body by the audit date.
 - Refused to undertake an audit as required by the Scheme.
 - Refused or failed to supply information requested by the Certification Body as part of a sustainability investigation.
 - Failed to pay relevant fees.
 - Failed to comply with Scheme Rules or Certification Body Terms & Conditions.
 - Been found to have brought the Scheme into disrepute.

9.2 Reinstatement of Certification following suspension

- **9.2.1** Participants suspended for non-conformance reasons must correct any non-conformances and have an extra audit by the Certification Body to confirm that all non-conformances have been fully resolved within 30 calendar days of suspension, in order to have their certification re-instated.
- **9.2.2** Participants suspended for non-payment of fees or non-sustainability issues will be reinstated provided all matters are resolved within 30 calendar days of the suspension date.

9.3 Withdrawal of Certification

- **9.3.1** Participants that do not meet the requirements of the Certification Body to have their suspension lifted within 30 calendar days of suspension will have their certificate(s) withdrawn.
- **9.3.2** Companies that have their certificate withdrawn will be required to undergo the complete audit process and will be considered as new Applicants, subject to satisfactory evidence that any issue(s) which led to the certificate being withdrawn have been rectified.

- **9.3.3** Participants that no longer require certification must inform the Certification Body in writing.
- 9.4 Communication Regarding Certification Status
- **9.4.1** Suspended and Withdrawn Participants may not claim to be certified. No new contracts may be agreed with purchasers that require certification until the suspension has been lifted or recertification has been successfully completed.
- **9.4.2** Suspended and withdrawn Participants must notify any purchasers with whom they have existing contracts for both goods and services immediately on their change of status. The Certification Body will write to the Participant confirming the reason for suspension or withdrawal from the scheme and a copy of this letter must be provided to purchasers when notifying them of the change in status. Evidence of the notifications will be examined during the re-audit following suspension and compliance with this requirement will be a condition of reinstatement.

9.5 The AIC Assurance Checker

Those companies that achieve ASCS certification are listed on the AIC Assurance Checker. The Checker includes details of the scope (including relevant modules) against which certificates have been granted. The Assurance Checker is publicly available via the AIC website at:

https://www.agindustries.org.uk/sectors/trade-assurance-schemes.html

The Certification Body will pass all necessary information to AIC to allow the AIC Assurance Checker to be updated with details of a Participant's changing certification status. The names of suspended and withdrawn Participants will also be published in the form of AIC Assurance Alerts.

10. Complaints

Complaints about either an ASCS Participant or the Certification Body should be directed to the Certification Body where they will be acknowledged, reviewed and actions taken to resolve the cause of any problems.

The Certification Body is approved by AIC and works to strict codes of conduct. If Participants are not satisfied with the way in which the Certification Body handles the complaint, they should refer the matter to AIC.

11. Appeals

- **11.1** A Participant has the right of appeal against decisions made by the Certification Body.
- **11.2** Appeals shall be made in writing to the Certification Body within 14 days of being advised of the decision that is the subject of the appeal.
- **11.3** The Certification Body will acknowledge the appeal and nominate a manager independent of the decision to carry out an investigation to check the merits of the

appeal and feedback to the Participant(s).

12. Comments and Updates to this Standard

Updates to this Standard may be made from time to time. Any amendments will be notified to Participants and the latest version of the Standard will be available on the AIC website.

Comments regarding this Standard should be sent to AIC:

The AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme Manager
First Floor, Unit 4
The Forum
Minerva Business Park
Lynch Wood, Peterborough
PE2 6FT
United Kingdom

Definitions

For the purposes of this Scheme, the following definitions apply:

Applicant: A producer or processor seeking certification against this Scheme

Chain of Custody: Process by which inputs and outputs and associated information are transferred, monitored and controlled as they move through each step in the relevant supply chain.

Check: Monitoring and measuring of processes and products against policies, objectives and requirements for the product, with the reporting of results.

Contamination: The undesired introduction of impurities of a chemical or microbiological nature or of foreign matter during production, sampling, packaging or repackaging, storage or transport.

Conversion: Change of a natural ecosystem to another land use or profound change in a natural ecosystem's species composition, structure, or function. Conversion includes severe degradation or the introduction of management practices that result in substantial and sustained change in the ecosystem's former species composition, structure, or function (Source: FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines 2023 and The Accountability Framework).

https://accountability-framework.org/operational-guidance/applying-the-definitions-related-to-deforestation-conversion-and-protection-of-ecosystems/

Corrective Action: Any action to eliminate both a non-conformity and the cause of the non-conformity.

Cross-Contamination: Contamination of a material or product with another material or product that may adversely affect certification status

Deforestation: The conversion of forest to another land use or the long-term reduction of tree canopy cover below the 10% threshold.(FAO)

Deforestation-free: The relevant products contain, have been fed with or have been made using, relevant commodities that were produced on land that has not been subject to deforestation after 31 December 2020. (Regulation (EU) 2023/1115)

Degradation: Changes within a natural ecosystem that significantly and negatively affect its species composition, structure, and/or function and reduce the ecosystem's capacity to supply products, support biodiversity, and/or deliver ecosystem services. Degradation may be considered conversion if it:

- a) is large-scale and progressive or enduring;
- b) alters ecosystem composition, structure, and function to the extent that regeneration to a previous state is unlikely; or
- c) leads to a change in land use (e.g., to agriculture or other use that is not a natural forest or other natural ecosystem)

Due Diligence: In relation to a forest risk commodity, means a system for:

- a) identifying, and obtaining information about, that commodity,
- b) assessing the risk that relevant local laws were not complied with in relation to that commodity, and
- c) mitigating that risk.

Feed (or Animal Feed): Any Substance or product, including additives, whether processed, partially processed or unprocessed, intended to be used for oral feeding to animals. (Regulation (EC) No 178/2002)

Forest: Lands of more than 0.5 hectares, with a tree canopy cover of more than 10 percent, which are not primarily under agricultural or urban land use. (FAO)

Geolocation: The geographical location of a plot of land described by means of latitude and longitude coordinates corresponding to at least one latitude and one longitude point and using at least six decimal digits; for plots of land of more than four hectares used for the production of the relevant commodities other than cattle, this shall be provided using polygons with sufficient latitude and longitude points to describe the perimeter of each plot of land. (REGULATION (EU) 2023/1115)

Local Law: 'relevant legislation of the country of production' means the laws applicable in the country of production concerning the legal status of the area of production.

Mass Balance: A chain of custody model in which materials or products with a set of specified characteristics are mixed according to defined criteria with materials or products without that set of characteristics. The proportion of the input with specified characteristics might only match the initial proportions on average and will typically vary across different outputs (Source ISO 22095).

Participant: A producer or processor certified against this Scheme.

Product: Material produced by a Participant by manufacturing, processing or blending of raw materials.

Purchaser: The party supplied with the product by the Participant.

Quality System: An organised system of documented procedures, controls and practices with the specific purpose of ensuring that the standards intended by the company are met during the course of its activities.

Raw Materials: All materials used by Participants for manufacturing, processing or blending into finished products.

Record: A document providing evidence of a necessary action having been carried out.

Risk: A function of the probability of an adverse effect and the severity of that effect.

Risk Analysis: The process of collecting and evaluating information on risks to decide which are significant and therefore must be effectively managed.

Safe for Consumption: Products shall be deemed to be safe for consumption if they do not have an adverse effect on human or animal health when consumed and, in the

case of feed, do not make the food derived from food-producing animals injurious to health or unfit for human consumption when used as intended and in accordance with normal practice.

Segregation: A chain of custody model in which specified characteristics of a material or product are maintained from the initial input to the final output. Addition of material with different characteristics and/or grade to the input is not allowed. Commonly, material from more than one source contributes to a chain of custody under the segregated model (Source ISO-22095).

Site: Factories / buildings sharing the same premises, under the same senior management control and involved in various stages of the same continuous process.

Specification: A list of tests, references to analytical procedures, and other criteria showing the numerical limits or ranges that must be met by a product for it to be deemed acceptable for its intended use.

Supplier: The external organisation or person that provides the raw materials or processed products from which the Participant will produce his own products or which the Participant will trade onwards without further processing.

Traceability: The ability to trace and follow a substance through all stages of production, processing and distribution.

Validation: Obtaining evidence of effectiveness.

Verification: The application of methods, procedures, tests and other evaluations to determine compliance.

AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme (ASCS) - Module 2 – For Operators within the UK

Introduction to this module:

This module of the AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme is for Participants operating within the UK.

Section A General Requirements		
Interpretation	Reference within this module to 'sustainable', relates specifically to the raw materials/feed products and scope for which Applicants/ Participants are seeking certification/ are certified.	
A 1 Schem	ne and Legislative Requirements	
A 1.1 Requirement	The Participant must have access to current copies of all relevant ASCS documents and implement all applicable requirements included in their scope of certification (including any changes or updates) by the effective date(s).	
A 1.2 Requirement	The Participant must meet contractual and relevant legal obligations and requirements in the supply chain in which they operate, in relation to the commodities included in their scope of certification against the ASCS.	
A 1.3 Requirement	All raw materials/feed products placed on the market by the Participant as certified against this Scheme module must comply with relevant legislation in the country where it is placed on the market and any related purchaser policies/ requirements/ terms and conditions and/ or contractual agreements.	
A 1.4 Requirement	Participants in the Feed Sector must hold current certification against the relevant AIC Feed Safety Standard(s) or another feed safety scheme recognised by AIC.	
A 1.5 Requirement	Participants must demonstrate that they have systems and procedures in place that ensure they remain up to date with legislation relevant to the raw materials/feed products they supply.	
A 1.6 Requirement	There must be a documented review of all legislation relevant to this Scheme module at least every 12 months.	
Interpretation	This may be included as part of the Management Review.	

A 2.1 Requirement	There must be a Policy Statement, endorsed by Senior Management, committing the Participant to compliance with the AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme, and the
Nequilement	provision of all resources necessary to do so.
A 2.2 Requirement	The Policy Statement must be reviewed at least every 12 months.
A 2.3 Requirement	The policy statement must be made publicly available.
Interpretation	For example, via the Company website.
A 2.4 Requirement	Controls must ensure compliance with this Scheme at all times.
A 2.5 Requirement	The Participant must establish, implement and maintain an effective documented management system in accordance with the requirements of this Scheme.
A 2.6 Requirement	The documented management system must be updated to comply with changes to legislation and other developments related to this Scheme, as they occur.
A 2.7 Requirement	There must be a designated and competent person(s) responsible for the implementation of the requirements of this Scheme.
A 2.8 Requirement	Management must provide adequate resources for the implementation and control of the systems and processes necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of this Scheme.
A 2.9 Requirement	The Management Team must review at least every 12 months, evidence from internal and external sources to demonstrate the performance of the business against the requirements of the documented management system and its continuing suitability and effectiveness in meeting the requirements of this Scheme.
Interpretation	Evidence may include, but is not limited to: Internal and external audits Complaints Incident corrective action Training and competence Internal procedures Changes to the business Changes to legislation Supplier performance Recall/ Withdrawal Exercise Traceability exercise
A 2.10 Requirement	The management review of the management system must include opportunities for improvement in implementing a comprehensive approach to sustainable commodities.

A 3 Organisational Chart		
A 3.1 Requirement	There must be an organisational chart setting out job titles of those responsible within the Participant's business for compliance with this Scheme.	
A 3.2 Requirement	The organisational chart must be kept up to date with any changes within the Participant's business.	
A 4 Comm	unication with the Certification Body	
A 4.1 Requirement	Participants and Applicants must inform and obtain approval from the Certification Body in writing for any changes to the operation that may materially affect compliance with this Scheme and/ or the scope of certification.	
A 4.2 Requirement	Participants and Applicants must advise the Certification Body in writing of changes to business ownership or management contacts.	
A 4.3 Requirement	Participants and Applicants must notify the Certification Body within 3 working days where a Competent Authority takes Formal Action in relation to the activities within their scope of certification.	

Section B Documents and Records		
B 1 Documents		
Requirement	requirements of this Scheme.	
B 1.2	Changes to documents must only be made by designated and competent personnel.	
Requirement		
B 1.3	Changes to documents must be communicated to all relevant personnel.	
Requirement		
B 1.4	The title and purpose of the documents must be clear.	
Requirement		
B 1.5	Documents must be dated and only the current versions must be in use.	
Requirement		
B 2 Records	s	
B 2.1	All records must be legible and indelible.	
Requirement		
B 2.2	All records must demonstrate the actions taken, and when/ where they were completed.	
Requirement		
Interpretation	This should be sufficient to provide traceability and may include date, time and/ or	
	location the record was created.	

B 2.3 Requirement	The name of the person making any entry, alteration or deletion must be identifiable.
B 2.4 Requirement	The nature of any change to a record must be clear, so that the original entry is still legible.
B 2.5 Requirement	All relevant records must be retained for a period not less than five years.
Further Information	Retention periods required by legislation or purchaser requirements may be significantly longer than this.
B 2.6 Requirement	Records must be kept in suitable conditions to prevent deterioration and be easily retrievable.
Interpretation	Participants should consider defining a retrieval time for records.
	Participants should consider protecting electronic records from failures of IT systems.
B 2.7 Requirement	The Participant need not hold all records relating to the requirements of this Scheme, but they must be capable of accessing such records, if required to do so.
B3 Interna	l Audit
B 3.1 Requirement	Participants must have a current plan for internal auditing, to ensure the documented management system is effective, implemented and up to date.
Interpretation	 This may include, but is not limited to: The requirements of this Scheme The Participant's documentation and records Forest Commodity legislation Activities and operations under the Participant's scope of certification
B 3.2 Requirement	The internal audit(s) must be documented and effective, ensuring that all relevant activities are audited at least once every twelve months.
Interpretation	 An effective internal audit should as a minimum: collect evidence of compliance, as well as non-compliance record documents and records reviewed as part of the audit include evidence of follow-up actions.
Guidance	The internal audit may be more valuable if carried out at a different time of year to the annual external Scheme audit.
B 3.3 Requirement	Findings from internal audits and any corrective actions must be recorded and completed in a timely manner to preserve compliance with this Scheme. The follow up must be effective and prevent recurrence.

Section C Raw Materials/ Feed Products and Raw Material/ Feed Products Suppliers

C1 Supply Chain Mapping and Due Diligence Risk Assessment

C1.1	The Participant must have mapped/ documented their supply chain for each commodity
Requirement	within the scope of their certification.
Interpretation	For Participants within the UK, the movement of raw materials/feed products from point of import into the UK and any subsequent transport, storage and processing through to despatch to purchaser should be identified and documented. This can be completed individually for each commodity within the scope of certification or as one supply chain mapping document.
C1.2.1	The Participant must have conducted a due diligence risk assessment on each of their
Requirement	supply chains to demonstrate that all raw materials/feed products within the scope of certification have been produced in compliance with this module.
Interpretation	The Due Diligence Risk Assessment should include, but not necessarily be limited to the
	following:
	Origin of raw materials/feed products
	Product-specific risks
	Relevant certifications
	 Evidence of legal compliance where raw materials/feed products were produced Complexity of supply chain
	Risk of contamination with non-compliant raw materials/feed products during Transport, Storage, Processing and Handling
	Evidence may include, but is not limited to, the purchase of raw materials/feed products
	from suppliers certified against this Scheme (or another compatible scheme recognised by AIC).
C1.2.2	These due diligence risk assessment(s) must be reviewed on an annual basis and in the
Requirement	event of any circumstances relevant to the requirements of this Scheme.

C 2 Raw Materials/Feed Products and Raw Material/Feed Product Suppliers

C 2.1	There must be a designated and competent person(s) responsible for the selection and
Requirement	approval of raw materials/feed products and raw material/feed product suppliers.
C. 2.2	Participants within the UK, must obtain raw materials/ feed products within their scope
Requirement	of certification only from a Participant/ Participants who are themselves certified against the required module(s) of the ASCS or a compatible scheme recognised by AIC.
Interpretation	Raw materials/feed products should additionally be certificated in their own right against a Feed Safety Scheme recognised by AIC.

Requirement	The Participant must have an effective system to approve all raw materials/feed products and raw material/feed product suppliers to ensure that compliance with this module is not compromised.
C 2.4 Requirement	There must be a documented risk assessment in relation to the Participants scope of certification, for each raw material/feed product and raw material/feed product supplier, carried out prior to use.
Interpretation	Assessment may include, but is not necessarily limited to: Certification status Origin Transport Storage Processing Handling systems Risk from contamination with non-compliant raw materials/feed products
Interpretation	Where raw material/ product approval includes reliance upon the raw material/ product being 'assured against a scheme(s) recognised by AIC', the approval system should ensure that all stages in the supply chain outside of the supplier's scope are also considered.
Further Information	See the AIC website for the current list of sustainability schemes recognised by AIC: https://www.agindustries.org.uk/sectors/trade-assurance-schemes.html
C 3 Raw M	aterial Supplier Approval
C 3.1 Requirement	The energification and technical varyingments of all your metaviole mount by decumented
rioquii orriorit	The specification and technical requirements of all raw materials must be documented and agreed with the supplier(s).
C 3.2 Requirement	
C 3.2	and agreed with the supplier(s). A list/ database of current approved raw materials and raw material suppliers must be maintained by the Participant and made available to all relevant personnel and sites. The
C 3.2 Requirement	and agreed with the supplier(s). A list/ database of current approved raw materials and raw material suppliers must be maintained by the Participant and made available to all relevant personnel and sites. The list/ database must include details of each supplier's relevant certification. Where the risk assessment relies upon suppliers of raw materials being certified, there must be a system in place to verify the current certification status of the suppliers when

Section D Merchanting of Raw Materials/Feed Products		
D 1 Approval of Raw Materials/Feed Products		
D.1.1 Requirement	There must be a designated and competent person(s) responsible for the selection and approval of raw materials/feed products within the scope of certification.	
D1.2 Requirement	Approved suppliers of raw materials/feed products within the scope of certification must additionally be certificated in their own right against a Feed Safety Scheme recognised by AIC.	
D1.3 Requirement	The Participant must have an effective system to approve suppliers of raw materials/feed products within the scope of certification.	
D 1.4 Requirement	The approval system must ensure that suppliers of raw materials/feed products within the scope of certification meet the requirements of this module.	
Interpretation	Suitable evidence will include purchase of raw materials/feed products from suppliers certified against this Scheme (or another compatible scheme recognised by AIC).	
Further information	A list of Participants in this Scheme is publicly available via the AIC website www.agindustries.org.uk/sectors/trade-assurance-schemes.html	
D1.5 Requirement	Where the Participant relies upon suppliers of raw materials/feed products being certified the approval system must ensure that the raw materials/feed products supplied are covered by the scope of the suppliers' certification.	
D1.6 Requirement	There must be a system in place to verify the current sustainability status of the suppliers when entering and executing a contract or agreement.	
Interpretation	The Participant should be able to demonstrate how appropriate personnel are made aware of any suspensions or withdrawals from all relevant assurance schemes.	
D1.7 Requirement	If a supplier of raw materials/feed products within the scope of certification who is certified to a scheme recognised by AIC has their certification suspended or withdrawn during the execution of a contract or agreement, the Participant must: • Cease merchanting of the raw materials/feed products • Establish the reason for suspension or withdrawal with the supplier • Take immediate steps to ensure that neither sustainability nor feed safety compliance (where applicable) have been compromised • Inform the Certification Body of the suspension/ withdrawal and the outcome or the investigation • Not restart merchanting of the feed products until permission is received from the	

Certification Body and certification is reinstated

Section E S	Suppliers of Contracted Services
E1 Selection	on and Approval of Suppliers of Contracted Services
E 1.1 Requirement	There must be a designated and competent person(s) responsible for the selection and approval of suppliers of contracted services that may affect sustainability status.
Interpretation	Contractors that may affect sustainability status include but are not limited to providers of: Transport Storage Processing Packing For the purposes of this Scheme, contracted processors include third parties who provide: grinding, pelleting, cleaning, screening, packing, de-packaging and any other activity requiring the use of mechanical equipment.
E 1.2 Requirement	Where services are provided by third parties, a documented risk assessment must be carried out, unless the third party is certified in their own right to this Scheme or a sustainability scheme recognised by AIC.
Interpretation	The risk assessment should include, but is not necessarily limited to: Compliance with relevant sustainability regulations Origin (including regulatory regime and environmental impacts) Transport Storage Processing Handling systems (including potential contact with other commodities) Risk of contamination
Further Information	See the AIC website for the current list of sustainability schemes recognised by AIC: https://www.agindustries.org.uk/sectors/trade-assurance-schemes.html
E 1.3 Requirement	The Participant must have an effective system to approve suppliers of contracted services to ensure compliance with this Scheme is not compromised.
E 1.4 Requirement	The approval system must ensure that non-certified contracted processors provide evidence of any necessary environmental approval from the relevant competent authority(ies).
E 1.5 Requirement	All bulk stores contracted by the Participant for storage of bulk raw materials and/ or feed products must be certificated to a storage scheme listed on the 'Service Supplier schemes (including haulage and storage schemes) recognised by AIC', other than as identified in clause E 1.6 below.
E 1.6 Requirement	Where the Participant wishes to use a bulk store that is not currently certified to a storage scheme listed on the 'Service Supplier schemes recognised by AIC', the Participant must apply to the Certification Body and have the store added to their scope of certification.

E 1.7	The Participant must have a written agreement with all third-party providers of haulage,
Requirement	storage, processing and packing, identifying each party's responsibilities in maintaining compliance with this Scheme.
E 1.8 Requirement	The Participant must provide sufficient information to providers of transport and storage to ensure that compliance with this Scheme and traceability are maintained.
E 2 Manage	ement of Bulk Rail or Water Transport
E 2.1 Requirement	The Participant must have a written agreement(s) for all cargoes transported by water or rail, identifying each party's responsibilities in maintaining compliance with this Scheme.
Interpretation	This should include parties responsible for loading/ unloading facilities, supervision of loading/ unloading, chartering of vessels/ rail cars, traceability controls. Requirements for bulk rail or water transport include the use of international containers or ISO tanks for transport of bulk commodities.
E 2.2	Where segregation of commodities is required prior to entry into the UK, raw materials/feed products must be segregated on vessels delivering to the UK.
E 2.3 Requirement	Where the Participant is responsible for chartering the vessel/ rail cars, there must be an effective system to ensure compliance with this Scheme is maintained.
E 2.4 Requirement	Where the Participant loads and/ or discharges raw materials/ feed products into/ from vessels/ rail cars, or contracts a third party to do so, there must be an effective system to ensure compliance with this Scheme is maintained.
Interpretation	This system should include, but is not limited to, appointing a Cargo Superintendent(s) from an inspection company(ies) listed on the 'Service Supplier schemes recognised by AIC', or other designated and competent person(s).

Section FS	Sales and Transmission of Relevant Information
F 1 Sales Contracts/ Agreements and Raw material/ Feed Product Specifications	
F 1.1 Requirement	Each raw material/feed product claimed as compliant with this Scheme must have a documented specification that is made available to purchasers and potential purchasers on request. The specification must include:
	 precise identification of the raw materials/feed products supplied including any definition in relevant legislation country of origin for the raw materials encompassed by this Scheme
	 country where the feed product was produced sustainability status

Interpretation	Sustainability status should indicate the compatible sustainability schemes, recognised b
	AIC, under which raw materials and feed products are certified.
F 1.2 Requirement	Participants may only make claims of compliance with this Scheme for those ray materials/feed products that are specifically included in their scope of certification under this Scheme.
F 1.3 Requirement	Specifications must be reviewed when any relevant changes take place.
F 1.4 Requirement	There must be an agreement between the Participant and the purchaser. This may be provided as a documented contract or confirmation email.
F 1.5 Requirement	Raw materials/feed products must be sold in accordance with agreed specifications.
	ng and Identification
F 2.1	
Requirement	Delivery documents must be clear and unambiguous.
	Delivery documents must be clear and unambiguous. All labelling information required by regulations must be included on document accompanying bulk raw materials/feed products or on labels attached to ray materials/feed product packaging.
Requirement F 2.2	All labelling information required by regulations must be included on document accompanying bulk raw materials/feed products or on labels attached to ray

Section G C	Operations – Intake, Storage, Processing and Despatch
G 1 Intake	
G 1.1	Operations must be planned, scheduled and controlled by a designated and
Requirement	competent person(s), to ensure sustainability status is maintained.
G 1.2	The quantity of each sustainable raw material and feed product must be recorded.
Requirement	
G 1.3	A designated and competent person(s) must be available to inspect, approve/ reject
Requirement	and supervise the unloading and intake of bulk and packaged raw materials/feed products.

G 1.4 Requirement	Documentation accompanying any raw materials/feed products at intake must be checked by a designated and competent person to ensure it is correct and matches the booked raw material/feed product intake.
G 2 Storage	& Processing
G 2.1 Requirement	Raw materials, intermediate products and feed products within the scope of the ASCS must either be clearly segregated or managed in accordance with the ASCS Module 2: Chain of Custody within the UK Guidance Document. Identification and traceability must be maintained at all times.
G 2.2 Requirement	Stock control measures must be documented and adequate to ensure that raw materials, intermediate products and feed products can be fully accounted for at all times.
Interpretation	Participants should be able to provide credible reconciliations at all times, which will validate any quantities of materials claimed as sustainable under the ASCS.
G 2.3 Requirement	Systems must be in place to protect raw materials/feed products from contamination and to ensure that bins/ bays/ silos/ stores/ tanks are suitable for receiving the raw materials/feed products, to ensure certification status and traceability are maintained.
G 2.4 Requirement	For bulk stores holding more than one raw material, intermediate product or feed product, bays, tanks and bins must be identified and there must be a storage plan.
G 2.5 Requirement	When there is a change in the type of raw material or feed product to be stored in a bulk bin or container, there must be a system to ensure it is empty and cleaned as necessary prior to refilling, to avoid cross-contamination.
G 2.6 Requirement	Where raw materials are commingled/ blended/ compounded at a processing plant to produce feed products, the quantity of each raw material must be weighed to ensure that the correct quantities of each resulting feed product are claimed as certified.
G 2.7 Requirement	Where handling or process losses occur, these must be reflected accurately in the quantity of raw materials and/ or feed products claimed as certified.
G 3 Despate	ch of Bulk & Packaged Feed Products
G 3.1 Requirement	There must be systems in place to minimise the possibility of incorrect loading.
G 3.2 Requirement	For outloading of raw materials/feed products to road vehicles, the individual identification and, where available, assurance of the vehicle/ trailer must be checked on the vehicle and recorded to maintain traceability.

G 3.3 Requirement	Any documentation required by legislation or this Scheme to accompany the load, must be provided.
G 3.4 Requirement	Controls must be in place to ensure that accurate and appropriate information is provided with each load.

Section H Sustainability Incidents	
H 1 Sustainability Incidents	
H 1.1	There must be a designated and competent person(s), with deputies, responsible for the
Requirement	management of incidents relating to sustainability.
Interpretation	Incidents include any adverse information received or concerns raised with regard to
	sources used by the Participant, and in relation to the areas covered by this Scheme.
H 1.2	There must be a sustainability incident management procedure (including withdrawal and
Requirement	recall) which is capable of being put into operation at any time.
H 1.3	The sustainability incident management procedure must include immediate notification
Requirement	to the affected purchaser(s), to ensure feed product integrity is not compromised.
H 1.4	Where an incident requires the Participant to inform the Competent Authorities and/ or
Requirement	purchaser(s), the Certification Body must be notified within 3 working days.
H 1.5	The sustainability incident management procedure must include up-to-date contact
Requirement	details for the Certification Body and out of hours contact details for relevant personnel.
H 1.6	The Participant must notify the Certification Body within 3 working days where a
Requirement	sustainability investigation by a Competent Authority results in Formal Action.

Section I T	raceability & Chain of Custody
I1 Traceabi	ility
I 1.1 Requirement	The Participant must have effective traceability for all activities within the scope of certification.
I 2 Traceab	ility Records
I 2.1 Requirement	Purchase records must include details relevant to this Scheme and traceability.

Interpretation	 Examples include, but are not limited to: Supplier name and address Name of the raw material/feed product (linked to an agreed specification) Country of origin Sustainability status of raw material feed product Quantity of raw material/feed product Whether in bags or bulk Contract period
I2.2 Requirement	Records maintained by suppliers of contracted services must include details relevant to sustainability and traceability.
Hoquilottion	odotalilability and tracoability.
Interpretation	 Examples include, but are not limited to: Supplier name and address Origin of any raw materials/feed products involved Name of the raw material/feed products involved (linked to an agreed specification) Batch/ lot numbers where available Transport details Quantity involved Sustainability status of raw material/feed product Date and time of activity Records of any intake/ despatch checks carried out
12.3	Intake records must include details relevant to sustainability and traceability.
Requirement	
Interpretation	 Examples include, but are not limited to: Supplier name and address Source of the delivery Name of the raw material or feed product delivered (linked to an agreed specification) Batch/ lot numbers where available Transport details Quantity delivered Sustainability status of raw material/ feed product Date and time of intake Delivery order or fixing reference Records of any intake checks carried out
	Records of internal movements, processing and storage must include details relevant to sustainability and traceability.
Requirement	sustamability and traceability.
Interpretation	 Examples include, but are not limited to: Sustainability status of raw material/feed product Information to be able to trace a feed product through processing, including any intermediate tanks, bins or other storage back to raw materials used and vice versa Any processing gains or losses Where batch manufacturing is carried out, the quantities of raw materials used into each batch and any deviation from required additions

	 Date and time of production Production sequencing, if processing products outside of the scope of this Standard or different sustainable feed products on the same production line Any reprocessing or reworking of raw material(s) or feed products and point(s) of addition
l 2.5 Requirement	Despatch records must include details relevant to sustainability and traceability.
Interpretation	 Examples include, but are not limited to: Purchaser/ recipient name and address Name of the raw material/ feed product supplied (linked to an agreed specification) Sustainability status of raw materials/feed products supplied Any relevant labelling Transport (name/ transport identification/ load compartment reference) Quantity delivered Production batch numbers Date and time of despatch Transport inspection records Delivery order or fixing reference
I 2.6 Requirement	Sales records must include details relevant to sustainability and traceability.
Interpretation	 Examples include, but are not limited to: Name of the feed product sold (linked to an agreed specification) Sustainability status of feed products supplied Purchaser name Quantity sold Whether in bags or bulk Date(s) of delivery
l 2.7 Requirement	Transport records must include details relevant to sustainability and traceability.
Interpretation	This includes transport by any method including road, rail, water and/ or air. Examples include, but are not limited to: Purchaser name and address Name of the feed product delivered (linked to an agreed specification) Sustainability status of raw materials/ feed products carried Batch/ lot numbers where available Transport details Quantity Date and time of delivery/ despatch Delivery order or fixing reference
I 3 Traceabi	ility Exercise
l 3.1 Requirement	A traceability exercise must be carried out at a frequency determined by risk assessmen and at least every 12 months.

Interpretation	This should include traceability of raw material(s) and/ or feed products, including any
•	traded feed products.
	Any traceability exercise should be reviewed and be used as part of the Management Review.
I 4 Chain of	Custody Models
14.1.	The acceptable Chain of Custody models for raw materials and/or feed products certified under the AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme Module 2 are:
Requirement	Mass Balance (only for raw materials/feed products within the UK)
	Segregated
	Identity Preserved
Further Information	See the ASCS Module 2: Chain of Custody within the UK Guidance Document
14.2	Raw materials and feed products must additionally meet the requirements of the relevant
Requirement	AIC Standard or another feed safety scheme recognised by AIC and be compatible with the raw materials or feed products certified against this Standard.
14.3	Where raw materials/feed products are associated with a claim/ special status, all
Requirement	consignments being commingled must be compatible in terms of their claim/ special status.
Interpretation	Examples of 'claims/ 'special status(es)' include:
	Specific sustainability criteria
	Feed Safety Assurance
	• Non-GM
	Organic Organic
	Country of origin Any other plaim of appoint status
	Any other claim of special status
14.4	If at any point raw materials/feed products with a claim/special status become
Requirement	accidentally or intentionally commingled with other products, the claim/special status will no longer be applicable.