

FEMAS update

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AIC FEED MATERIAL ASSURANCE SCHEME



Welcome to FEMAS Update

Welcome to the latest FEMAS newsletter. The pace at which we all must adapt to significant changes just keeps increasing. Just as we were starting to feel that we were approaching a post-Covid "new normal" with the return of on-site audits in most cases, the Russian invasion of Ukraine last year has led to fresh uncertainties in the animal feed supply chain, in addition to the distressing human cost. Having recently marked the anniversary of this conflict, it is still important that FEMAS Participants ensure that feed and food safety are always prioritised. If changing suppliers and/or ingredients, they should keep the certification body informed by emailing uk.feed@kiwa.com where this could affect certification.



Notifications to the GB Register of Feed Materials now open

Following the UK's exit from the European Union (EU), all animal feed legislation was retained as it stood on 31 December 2020. As a result, there has been a need for the UK to manage lists relating to feed, including the Catalogue of, and Register of Feed Materials, and the Feed Additives Register. Now businesses who place feed materials on the market in GB must 'notify' the feed industry.

The maintenance of the Feed Additives Register (required by the retained EU Feed Additives Regulation 1831/2003) and the Catalogue of Feed Materials (Marketing and Use of Feed Regulation 767/2009) are the responsibility of the authorities, the Food Standards Agency (FSA), and Food Standards Scotland (FSS).

The Register of Feed Materials (also from 767/2009) is the responsibility of the 'feed industry' in cooperation with the

authorities, and so a working group with representatives of AIC, British Association of Feed Supplement and Additive Manufacturers (BAFSAM), British Equestrian Trades Association (BETA) and UK Pet Food, plus the FSA has been formed.

Following a significant amount of work, these feed industry stakeholders have launched a website to help feed businesses fulfil the new requirement: www.gbfeedmaterialsregister.org.uk

The notification process for feed materials to enter the Register is now up and running, and in the coming weeks and months, a full list of notified Feed Materials will be published. This will combine those from the EU Register that pre-date EU Exit and those notified to the GB Feed Industry since then. The Working Group will work to ensure that only legitimate feed materials are included in the register.



Simon Williams
Technical Manager
AIC Services

Joint Scheme Development update

In the last newsletter, AIC informed Participants about the Joint Scheme Development project which aims to align the requirements and wording of UFAS, FEMAS, and TASCC more closely.

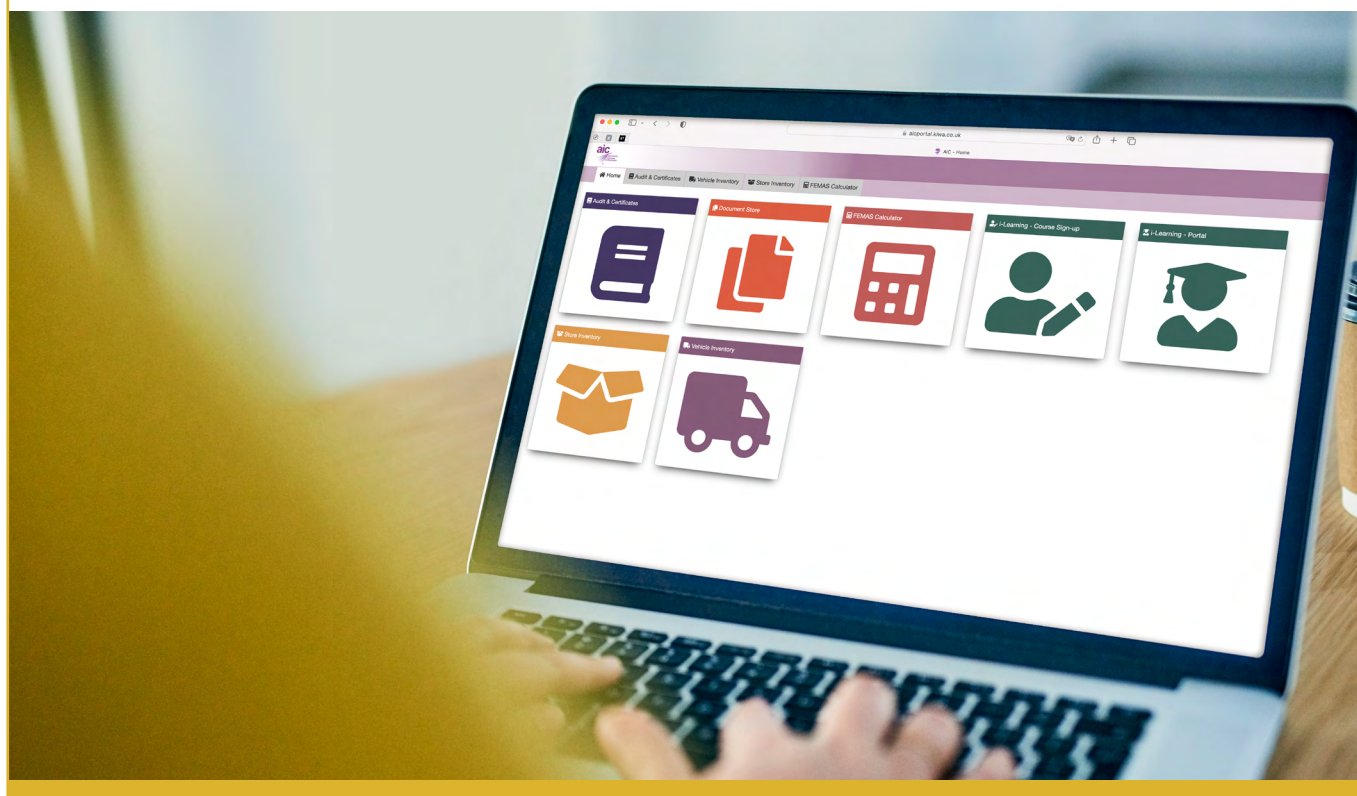
This project is progressing well, but it has now been agreed that the implementation date for the next version of the schemes should be in the first half of 2024, not 2023 as previously indicated. This is to allow sufficient time for the new common clauses to be drafted and a full public consultation process to take place prior to the finalised schemes being submitted for approval by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). We will keep you up to date and ensure that Participants are aware when the consultation process launches in approximately a year's time.



Pre-submission of audit documents

One major change during Covid-19 restrictions was the ability to submit documents in advance to aid the smooth running of a remote audit. Several Participants found this useful and generally felt that the audit was more effective as a result. To ensure that we capitalise on the changes made over the past two years, FEMAS is working on updating the scheme rules to clarify the role of pre-submitted documents and to develop systems that support and make best use of them.

Importantly, there will be multiple options from which Participants may choose to supply the required information which is aimed at permitting the auditor to prepare for the audit, which – as per ISO 17065 accreditation rules – will not start until the opening meeting has taken place.



AIC Services Feed & Food schemes animation

AIC Services has produced an animation explaining the role of the feed and food assurance schemes (FEMAS, TASC, and UFAS) which is available to view on the [AIC YouTube](#) channel. The video gives a basic introduction into AIC schemes and their role in ensuring food and feed safety in the UK and Ireland. Further videos will be produced in the future to explain the role of each scheme in more detail.



FEMAS Participant training

Since the launch of the FEMAS 2019 standard, Kiwa Training have offered a course aimed at FEMAS Participants to assist in compliance with the scheme and animal feed legislation. Since then, over 350 delegates have attended the 45 courses that have been held so far. The courses moved online during Covid-19 restrictions and are now available both remotely and in person. Individual businesses can also arrange a course specifically for their employees. The remote courses are run across two consecutive mornings with availability for the following dates:

April		June		July		August		September	
24	25	7	8	4	5	15	16	12	13
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Wednesday

If you would like to book a place on any of these courses or would like to arrange a bespoke in-house course for your own staff, please contact Kiwa Training at uk.training@kiwa.com

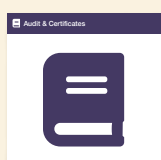


Top non-conformances

The most common non-conformances raised are listed below. Participants may wish to specifically cover these areas in their internal audits and audit preparation to avoid them.

Rank	Clause Ref	Clause	Comments
1	I5.2.Mi	The analysis schedule must, as a minimum, meet the defined analysis requirement from the FEMAS Calculator, unless a derogation from this level of testing has been agreed with the Certification Body.	Participants should regularly review their analysis schedule against the Calculator. Derogations may be granted by Kiwa if the Participant supplies evidence that analysis is unnecessary.
2	G1.15.Mi	There must be a documented system to ensure all production and storage areas and equipment are effectively cleaned to maintain feed safety.	Cleaning processes need to be documented and production areas regularly inspected. The cleaning schedule may need updating to improve effectiveness.
3	F3.1.Mi	Delivery documents must be clear and unambiguous. All relevant contractual information and information required by regulations must be included on delivery documents or on labels attached to the product packaging.	Labelling is an issue regularly highlighted by UK feed authorities. Labels should be regularly reviewed to ensure they remain up to date.
4	J3.6.Mi	The recall procedure (including traceability of raw material(s) and/or feed), including any traded feed products, must be tested at a frequency determined by risk assessment, and at least every 12 months.	It is important to test the recall procedure to ensure it is effective and up to date in case of a real feed safety incident.
5	G2.5.Mi	Personnel competence must be evaluated after training and reviewed at least every 12 months, or earlier if changes to the business or operations relevant to feed safety occur.	Most businesses rely on the ability of individuals to correctly follow procedures to ensure feed safety. It is therefore important that Participants can demonstrate their personnel are competent.

Using the Portal to submit corrective actions post-audit



The Participant Portal is the best method by far for submitting corrective actions to any non-conformances raised during your audit. This can be found on the 'Non-Conformances' tab in the 'Audits and Certificates' tile. It is important that sufficient evidence is included with your corrective actions (e.g. photographs, updated documents, records) to allow the reviewer to close off non-conformances.

Failure to upload enough evidence or uploading in the wrong place could delay the completion of the audit follow-up and ultimately affect your certification.

If you or a colleague require access to the Participant Portal – or you need further guidance – please contact uk.training@kiwa.com or call 01423 878875. For queries regarding audit arrangements, please contact uk.feed@kiwa.com or call 01423 878873.