

FEMAS update

THE NEWSLETTER OF AIC's FEED MATERIALS ASSURANCE SCHEME



FEMAS Standards Development Update

The development of the next version of the FEMAS Standard through the AIC Joint Scheme Project has been underway since the 2024 Standard came into effect in October 2024.

The project brings together industry representatives from FEMAS, the Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops (TASCC), and the Universal Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS) to develop a common set of requirements and more standardised wording across the three Schemes. This approach is intended to support greater consistency and clarity for Scheme Participants, auditors and the wider assured supply chain.

Since the last update on this project, the implementation timetable for the revised FEMAS Standards has been updated, moving from October 2027 to April 2028. This change will ensure sufficient time is available for document review, Scheme consultation and accreditation by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). Public consultation on the new Standards is planned for late 2026. This will provide Participants and other key Scheme stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on the proposed updates before the revised Standards are finalised and submitted to UKAS for review and accreditation.

Welcome

Welcome to the autumn 2026 edition of the FEMAS newsletter.

As we move into autumn, businesses across the agri-food supply chain will be reflecting on the hottest summers in recent years. The season has highlighted the need to assess the impact of climate change on feed material availability, quality and supply chains. In managing these risks, the value of FEMAS becomes even more apparent, reinforcing its importance to both the feed and food chain.

In this edition, we share the latest Scheme updates, regulatory developments and industry news to support your assurance and quality management activities.

As always, we welcome your questions, ideas or suggestions. Please feel free to contact us at sarah-jane.godfrey@dagindustries.org.uk, or use the details on the back page.



Sarah-Jane Godfrey
Technical Manager
AIC Services



Top 5 Minor Non-Conformances

The FEMAS Scheme reviews the type and number of non-conformances raised each quarter to identify trends across the Scheme. By highlighting the top five non-conformances from the most recent review, Participants can focus attention on common areas of non-compliance and strengthen their assurance systems accordingly.

Clause	Scheme Comments	
F 3.2	All labelling information required by regulations must be included on documents accompanying bulk feeds or on labels attached to the feed packaging.	Feed labels should be regularly reviewed to ensure they remain accurate and legally compliant. Labelling information must be provided to ensure traceability, safety and proper usage instructions accompany the feed from production to the end user. Regulation (EC) No. 767/2009 sets out the requirements for the marketing, labelling and composition of animal feedingstuffs. The following resource on the AIC website provides links to relevant feed legislation to help Participants understand their legal requirements. Scan the QR Code for more details.
G 6.8	All control points, traps and bait stations must be uniquely identified.	Unique identification of pest control points, traps and bait stations supports effective inspection, monitoring, reporting and replacement.
I 4.4	There must be a procedure for handling and disposal of samples.	A documented procedure is required to ensure samples remain identifiable, protected from contamination, and available for traceability and regulatory purposes throughout their retention period. It should also ensure that samples do not inadvertently re-enter the feed chain without appropriate risk assessment and traceability controls.
B 4.2	The internal audit(s) must be documented and effective, ensuring that all relevant activities are audited at least once every twelve months.	The internal audit enables Participants to evaluate how their business operates between annual FEMAS Scheme audits, helping to confirm that procedures are being followed effectively and remain aligned with Scheme requirements. During the annual FEMAS audit, auditors will verify that internal audits have been completed, review their effectiveness and associated records, and confirm that the audits have been properly documented. They will also check that any non-conformances identified have been addressed and closed out to prevent recurrence. To support Participants in carrying out effective internal audits, AIC has developed a FEMAS Standard Checklist, which is available on the AIC website. Scan the QR Code for more details.
G 1.1	The layout, design and maintenance of the site, buildings, storage facilities, drainage systems and other facilities must be fit for purpose, in a good state of repair and protect the raw materials/ feed from contamination and/ or deterioration and not compromise feed safety.	Participants must ensure that their site does not negatively impact feed safety by directly or indirectly increasing the risk of contamination, cross-contamination, pest ingress or deterioration of raw materials and/ or feed. Regular site maintenance inspections, together with an up-to-date documented maintenance schedule that identifies, records and closes out maintenance tasks, are among the ways Participants can maintain effective site standards.



Checking Accreditation Status on Salmonella Analysis Tests

When reviewing analysis results, Participants should check whether any Salmonella tests have been subcontracted and whether the analysis was carried out under accreditation. Reports often use symbols, such as asterisks (*) or hash symbols (#), to indicate this. The meaning of these symbols is usually explained in a footnote or key on the certificate.

The laboratory commissioning the work is responsible for ensuring that any subcontracted laboratory is accredited for the specific test method by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS), or an equivalent accreditation body in the country where the test is carried out.

Participant Reminder: Check Auditor Identification (ID)

Validating visitor identification is a simple but important way for FEMAS Participants to help protect their sites from the risk of unauthorised visitors gaining access. By ensuring that only authorised individuals can enter offices, production areas and other sensitive locations, Participants can help maintain supply chain integrity, feed safety and the effective safeguarding of site personnel.

Kiwa auditors carry photographic identification showing their name and the Scheme(s) they are approved to audit. When an auditor arrives on site, Participants should check their official identification card and, if necessary, confirm the audit appointment with the Certification Body.





EU Commission Publishes Recommendation 2026/1801 on Mycotoxin Guidance Values in Feed

The European Commission has published Recommendation (EU) 2026/1801 on guidance values for mycotoxins in feed. The values listed for mycotoxins in Annex I (deoxynivalenol, zearalenone, ochratoxin A, T-2 and HT-2 toxins, and fumonisins) will apply in the EU from 1 July 2027, except for maize, sorghum, soya bean and sunflower, and their co-products, where they will apply from 1 October 2027.

The guidance values will apply in Northern Ireland in line with EU implementation dates and in Great Britain, subject to any agreement arising from UK-EU Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) negotiations. AIC will discuss the UK monitoring approach with the Food Standards Agency (FSA).

The Recommendation sets out risk management expectations for the feed supply chain, including Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) systems, communication of mycotoxin levels, and the provision of clear information to buyers where guidance values are exceeded. The European Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC) Feed Safety Management Committee, of which AIC is a member, will consider the consistent communication of mycotoxin levels across supply chains. AIC will update Members on any outcomes.

For more information, please contact James McCulloch at james.mcculloch@agindustries.org.uk.

Government Sets Out Plans for GB Deforestation Regulation and the Implementation of EUDR in N.Ireland



The Government has announced plans to introduce new rules in Great Britain (GB) to tackle illegal deforestation in supply chains, with a consultation on the proposed GB deforestation policy expected later this year. Businesses with an annual turnover above £1 million that use forest-risk commodities will be in scope. They will be required to establish a due diligence system, report on relevant activities and retain evidence of compliance, including geolocation data on product origin.

This due diligence reporting model differs from the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), which applies when commodities are placed on the EU market. In Northern Ireland, the EUDR will apply from 30 December 2026, with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) acting as the competent authority.

AIC is seeking meetings with governments in Westminster and Stormont to better understand the details of the proposed plans.

Please contact James McCulloch for more information via email at james.mcculloch@agindustries.org.uk.



James McCulloch Head of Animal Feed

Reminder... Check Your AIC Scheme Portal Access



The AIC Scheme Portal, managed by Kiwa, enables Participants to manage their certification activities, access Scheme documents and maintain key certification information in one place.

To avoid delays in accessing important Scheme information and certification records, Participants should ensure they can log in to the portal when needed. If you experience any issues logging in, please use the Forgotten Password links on the portal page or contact Kiwa directly on 01423 878873.

Have you Subscribed to our Podcast?



AIC's monthly podcast series provides clear and accessible updates on the issues shaping the agri-food supply chain. Each episode covers current challenges, trends, policies, and updates from AIC's assurance Schemes.

Recent episodes include a discussion on FEMAS where AIC Technical Manager Sarah-Jane Godfrey explains how the Scheme supports feed safety, traceability, compliance and continuous improvement across the supply chain.

Episodes are available on Spotify, Amazon Music, Apple Podcasts, YouTube Music, or via the AIC website.

Upcoming FEMAS Training Dates



FEMAS Participant Training courses taking place on 28 to 29 October and 9 to 10 December are now open for bookings.

The course is run online and split into two half-day sessions.

Visit the AIC website to register and find further information, or contact Kiwa Training UK directly on 01423 878878 or by email at uk.training@kiwa.com



FEMAS CASE STUDY: Adams and Green Ltd

FEMAS Participant Adams and Green, a producer of liquid feed fats for livestock, hosted an informative site visit for the AIC team in June and explained how FEMAS adds value to its business and operations.

Stephen Barnes, Commercial Manager at Adams and Green Ltd, highlighted the following key benefits of FEMAS participation:

- Customer confidence
- Continuous improvement
- Stronger business systems

SCAN THE QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE CASE STUDY

If you would like to see your business featured as a case study, please email AIC Communications Manager, Wendy Ford (wendy.ford@agindustries.org.uk) for more details.



AIC Dinner and Conference '26

FIND OUT MORE

"Delivering for the Agri-Food Supply Chain in an Ever-Changing World" is the theme of this year's 2026 AIC Dinner and Conference.

Taking place on 10 and 11 November at the Holiday Inn West, Peterborough, the AIC Dinner and Conference 2026 will explore the key political, technical and commercial issues affecting the agri-food sector. The Conference Dinner will formally open the event, followed by the Conference on the following day.

