

## The newsletter of the Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops

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### Revised Salmonella Code of Practice

The Code of Practice for the Control of *Salmonella* during the Production, Storage and Transport of Compound Feeds, Premixtures, Feed Materials and Feed Additives has now been published.

AIC has been involved in the development of the new code, which brings together advice that was previously contained in three codes.

The guidance has been revised to reflect best practice and recent legislative developments.

The code covers the importance of the control of *Salmonella* in the production of milk, meat and eggs.



An integral part of the UFAS, FEMAS and TASCC schemes, the code is available on the Defra website at [www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/atoz/zoonoses/salmonella-cop.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/atoz/zoonoses/salmonella-cop.htm)

### Feedback from TASCC participants leads to lower haulage audit costs

**AIC has launched a new-look TASCC haulage audit which will cut costs by as much as £350 a year while maintaining the high standards which industry expects.**

It has been calculated that 'down time' for vehicles previously undergoing a TASCC audit can cost a haulier around £300 but under the new scheme vehicles will be inspected during the normal working day at mills and stores. In addition, a £50 refund will be paid to a haulier on successful completion of the whole audit process.

The new approach will also allow hauliers to opt for a three year audit cycle which involves two 'offsite' visits, carried out at various sites such as stores and feed mills, and one full site audit. To qualify, a haulier must have been a TASCC participant for a minimum of three years and hold a current certificate. This timescale may be reduced if the haulier has been a subcontractor for a TASCC participant.

From 1 July 2009 participants, that fulfil the necessary criteria, have been invited to choose their preferred route to certified TASCC assurance. Companies that are dedicated to the carriage of food and feed products and have demonstrated compliance to the TASCC scheme will qualify for a desktop

audit and an offsite vehicle inspection. Other businesses will be able to attend clinics, which will be advertised in advance both on the AIC website and through TASCCforce.

PAI, one of the leading approved certifiers of food products, food authenticity, labelling claims and food chain traceability in Europe, is contacting qualifying participants to discuss preferred routes.

### 'This new approach is great news for hauliers'

Garry Rudd, AIC Technical Manager, said: "This new approach is great news for hauliers. It means their vehicles are inspected during the working day rather than being taken off the road for costly periods of time. This new approach is a result of participant feedback and a subsequent pilot study into how TASCC haulage audits were carried out.

"We are delighted that we can now offer an alternative approach to the audit of the TASCC Haulage Standard which will help reduce the haulier's down time and cost but still maintain the high standards people expect."





# TASCC update on trailers

## Trailers must be uniquely numbered

Since July 2009 it has been a requirement of the TASCC codes to ensure that all trailers used in the haulage of combinable crops are uniquely numbered.

The number should be visible on the back and both sides of each trailer (as specified in D2 of the Haulage codes and alluded to in the Storage (E1.3) and Merchants (F2) codes).

Failure to have your trailer numbered correctly will result in rejection from the delivery site due to a loss of product traceability.

## Clearing up confusion over unsheeted trailers

AIC is aware that there has been some confusion as to why agricultural tractors and trailers can deliver to mills unsheeted when TASCC hauliers must remain sheeted.

During harvest, if a tractor and trailer is travelling from the combine straight to a delivery point, then it can run unsheeted. However, if it is delivering from a farm store to delivery point, then TASCC rules must apply.



## Review of rules on hire trailers

TASCC rules relating to selling and hiring bulk trailers are currently being reviewed to ensure that the integrity of the supply chain is maintained.

The changes will affect sections D5, 6 and 7 of the Haulage code. Draft proposals will be circulated for consultation.

# AIC launches new Business Insight Service

AIC has launched Business Insight Service for trade assurance participants offering advice and practical solutions on employment law as well as health and safety issues.

Business Insight was launched in the summer in partnership with leading business compliance and information service Croner. The service replaces the Health and Safety Insight service and has been expanded to include employment law advice.

The key benefits of the service are to: provide a due diligence defence for organisations; help manage the implementation of legislation and codes of practice; reduce the risk of employees and employers liability; reduce the risk of accidents, injuries and fatalities; protect the company brand; and reduce the risk of prosecutions.

The service includes:

## Telephone helpline

A dedicated helpline which will answer all

queries relating to Health and Safety and Employment Law.

## Dedicated website

New password protected website which is updated daily.

## Business insight newsletter

Newsletter dedicated to employment law and health and safety issues for trade assurance participants. It includes details on new legislation, training, issue management, case studies and much more.

## Briefings

Email briefings that will keep your business up-to-date.

## Free site 'health check'

Complimentary visit from a Croner business manager to ensure compliance with the latest requirements.



The cost to use this service is:  
AIC Trade Assurance Participants £150/year  
Other users £175/year

To sign-up for the new Business Insight Service, email Garry Rudd, AIC Technical Manager at: [garry.rudd@agindustries.org.uk](mailto:garry.rudd@agindustries.org.uk) or call 01733 385274.



# Harvest 2009 sees return to low levels of field borne mycotoxins

TASCC merchants and store keepers will have noticed that harvest 2009 has seen the UK return to relatively low levels of field borne mycotoxins with only the odd high result being recorded.

However, post harvest rapid test results have suggested continuing movement with higher results being found in the north of England and the Borders than has previously been the case.

With the requirements from millers for risk assessments and test results, questions have been raised as to how the risk assessment result can be achieved from grain delivered from a central store.

It is not possible for a risk assessment to be compiled for grain coming from any store which contains the product of a number of different farms. Therefore the requirement is for a test result which should relate to the lot from which the grain is drawn.

Risk assessments are needed in all other cases as mills look to establish a correlation between assessments and test results. Only by building trust in risk assessments can industry reduce the need for costly testing.



## Do you need to audit TASCC participants?

In cases where one TASCC participant has been audited by another, concerns have been raised that the same questions are asked as during the TASCC audit.

This is a duplication of work which TASCC sets out to remove and participants are advised that if they do carry out these audits they need to ascertain whether or not they are effective in terms of both cost and time.

## TASCC seminars to be held in February and March 2010

A new series of TASCC seminars will be held in February and March 2010 so make a note in your diary now.

The seminars, which are the first to be held since 2008, will cover the latest changes to the TASCC codes, the new salmonella codes, and TASCC participant feedback.

The seminars will be held on:

**Tuesday 25th February**  
Redwood Hotel, Bristol

**Tuesday 2nd March**  
East of England Showground, Peterborough

**Wednesday 10th March**  
Ramada Hotel, Wetherby

**Tuesday 16th March**  
St. Johnstone Football Club, Perth

**Tuesday 23rd March**  
Park Plaza, Belfast

Further details on how to book will be available shortly.



## New brand guidelines for TASCC logo

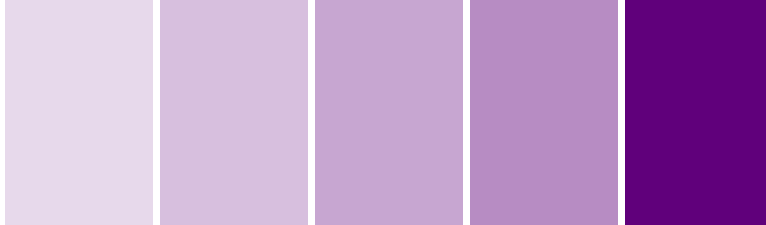
AIC has produced new brand guidelines for participants on how to use the TASCC logo.

Participants have previously added the logo to their office stationary and this new

guidance gives information about colour, shape and areas of use.

The rules are available on the AIC web site <http://tinyurl.com/yjragkv>





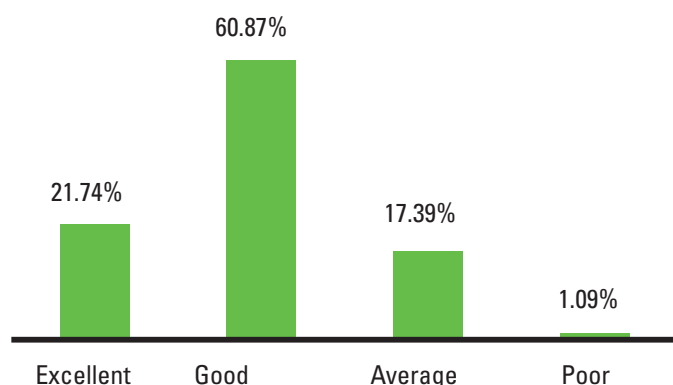
## TASCC receives positive feedback

More than 90% of participants believe TASCC does a good or excellent job in improving food and feed safety, according to analysis of recent feedback forms.

TASCC feedback forms are left with participants after an audit and from this information statistics are developed on the effectiveness of both the auditors and audits.

One key area of interest for the scheme is whether TASCC is improving food/feed safety and, to assist this, whether the codes are easy to read. Further graphs can be found on the TASCC pages of the AIC website.

### How easy to understand are the codes?



## New international trading and shipping module

AIC has been working on an international trading and shipping module which will aid the import and export of combinable crops and animal feeds.

The voluntary module, which will bolt on to the TASCC and UFAS Merchants schemes, has been sent out to stakeholders for review and will be issued at the beginning of January 2010.

One advantage of this new module is that it will allow TASCC and UFAS participants to have a 'one-stop shop' audit thus saving time and money.



## NOPS issue may lead to TASCC changes

Changes will be made to the TASCC exclusion and sensitive lists in relation to the issue of Naturally Occurring Prohibited Substances (NOPS) after AIC met with the British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA).

Certain NOPS, such as morphine producing poppies, can accidentally be found in feeds given to competition horses and may result in disqualification if high levels are found during drug testing.

AIC's UFAS scheme will add a new appendix alerting participants about this issue and while BETA and AIC are set to meet to discuss the next steps, TASCC will alert its participants to NOPS through reference in the exclusion and sensitive lists.

### For further information contact:

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