

# AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme (ASCS) Module 2: Chain of Custody within the UK Guidance Document

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

## **Section 1: AIC Sustainable Commodities Chain of Custody Models**

### **1. Introduction**

These Chain of Custody Models apply to any organisation taking legal ownership of certified materials and making claims about the connection between certified volumes intake and certified material supplied to customers.

The AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme (ASCS) Chain of Custody Models establish a connection between any sustainability claims being made by a Participant and the physical flow of product moving through an identified process or supply chain. They are essential components in the ASCS, ensuring that any information provided with regard to the sustainability characteristics of raw materials, intermediate products and feed is credible with regard to its origin and type and can be verified along the entire process and supply chain.

### **2. Chain of Custody Models**

**Participants should use the Chain of Custody model that best suits their location, business needs and operational context.**

#### **2.1. Mass Balance**

Mass balance is a model which allows certified deforestation-free and non-certified materials with differing sustainability characteristics to be commingled into one bulk. There must be evidence that any claims made with regard to the materials within the commingled bulk do not exceed the quantity of those certified materials added to the commingled bulk.

Integrity of the mass balanced certified material in accordance with these Principles must be managed at the following points:

- a) Feed Companies within the UK (merchants, feed mills, blending plants, etc. who will merchant/ produce feed using products/ co-products within the UK); on a site-by-site basis.
- b) Storage sites in the UK (e.g. at ports)

#### **2.2. Segregation**

Segregation allows only certified materials with the same characteristics to be physically mixed, which within this module requires that raw materials are sourced from and products are produced on deforestation-free sites.

Integrity of segregated certified materials in accordance with these Principles must be managed on a site-by-site basis.

### 2.3. Identity Preserved

Identity Preserved allows only certified materials produced at the same site, with the same characteristics to be physically mixed, which within this module requires that raw materials are sourced from and feed products are produced on the same deforestation-free site.

Integrity of identity preserved certified materials in accordance with these Principles must be managed on a site-by-site basis.

### 2.4 Chain of Custody Models comparison

The diagram below explains how Controlled Blending, Segregation and Identity Preserved models compare to other Chain of Custody models:

Supply Chain Traceability Chain of Custody Models	Assurance that certified material present in the physical supply chain	Potential for material of unknown origin in the physical supply chain	Complete separation of certified and non-certified raw materials throughout the supply chain
Book & Claim process	NO	YES	NO
<b>Mass balance</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Segregation</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Identity Preservation</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>

## 3. Principles for Mass Balance, Segregation and Identity Preserved

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.

### 3.1 Compound Feed Mill Raw Materials/ Feed Products Entering and Leaving the Mass Balance Model

Participants must use a Chain of Custody system that:

3.1.1 Ensures that only raw materials/ feed products that will not compromise feed safety enters the system

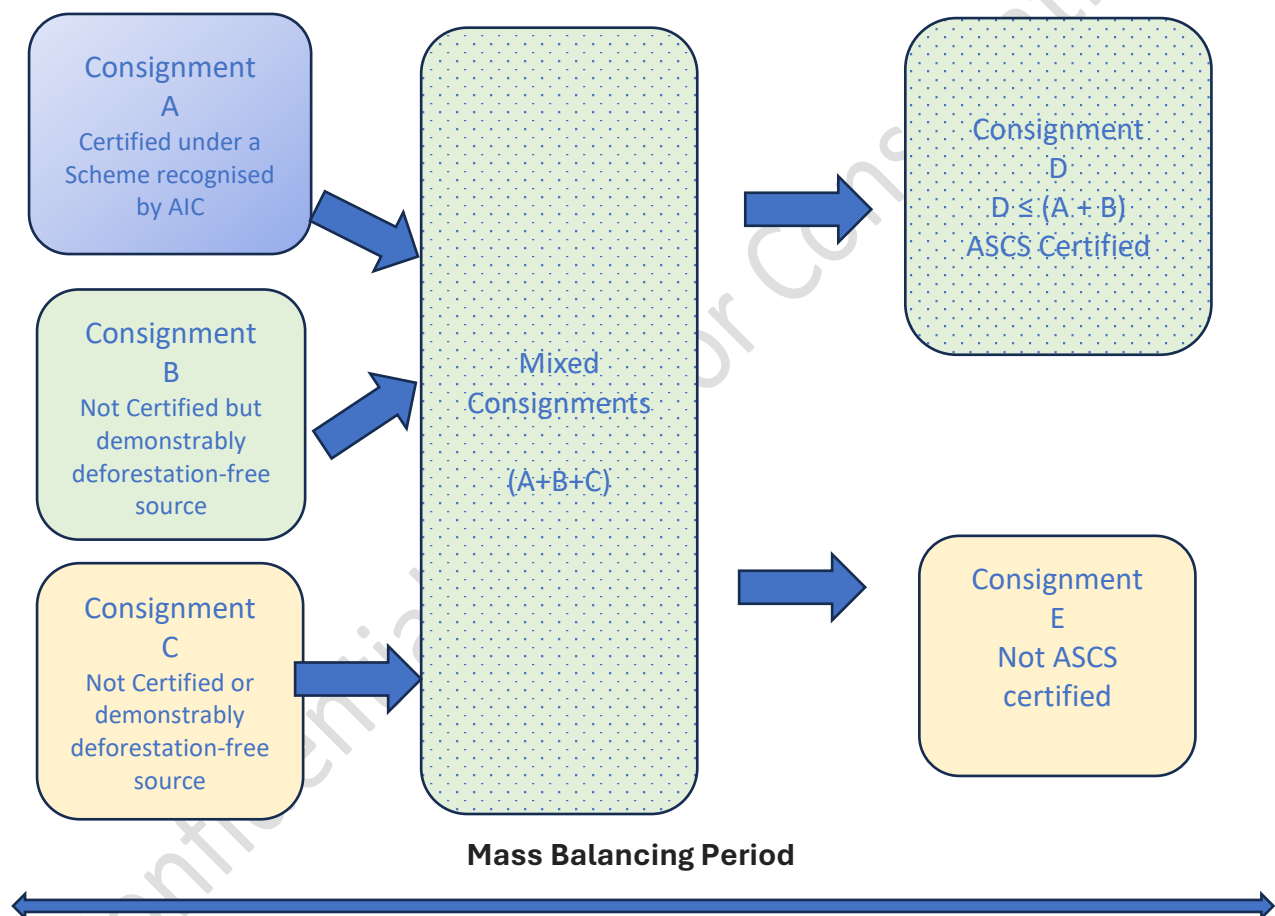
AND

3.1.2 Permits consignments of raw materials/ feed products with differing sustainability characteristics to be commingled into one bulk  
AND

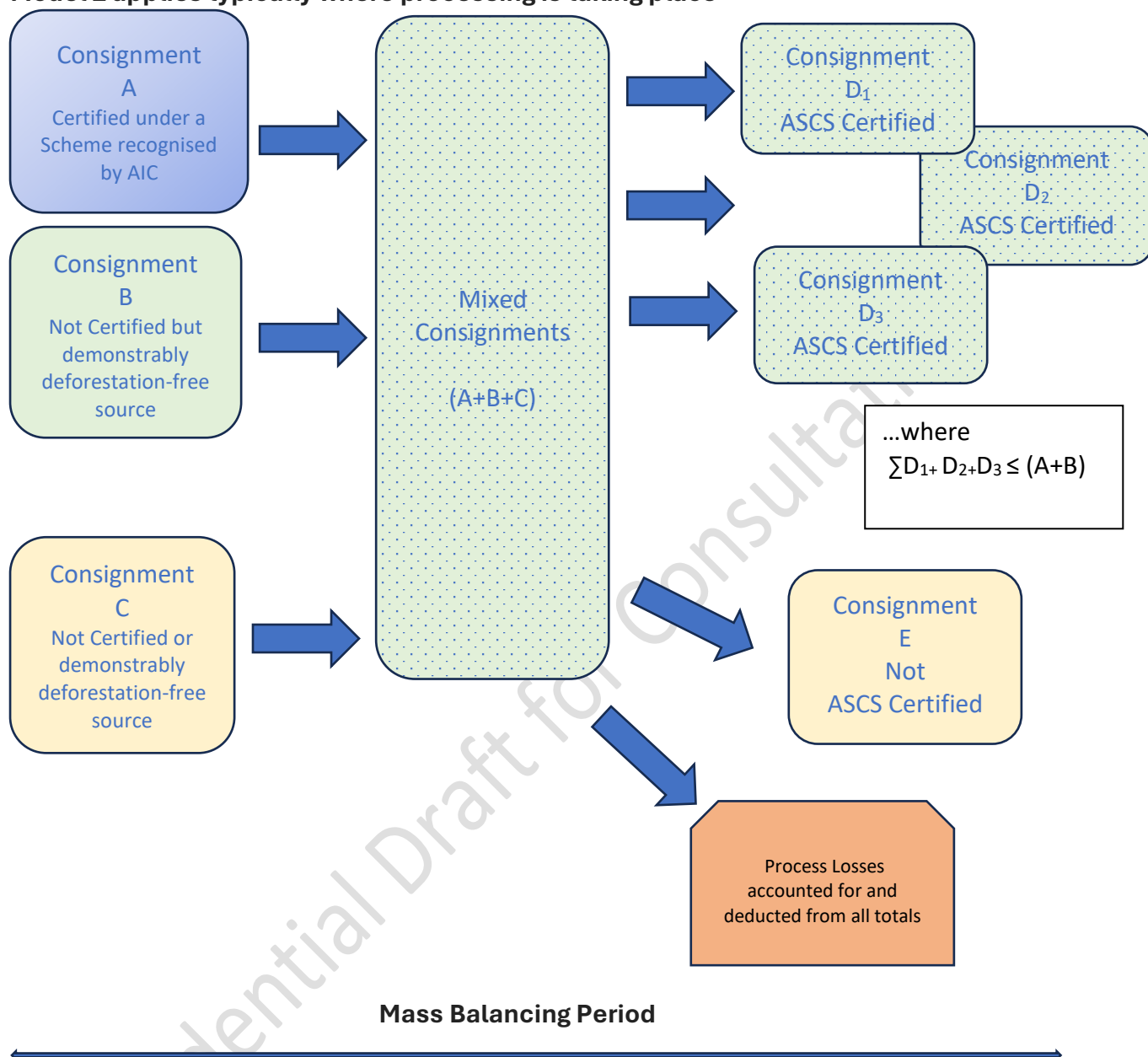
3.1.3 Ensures that any claims made with regard to the materials within the commingled bulk do not exceed the quantity of those certified materials added to the commingled bulk.

*Further Information: It is acceptable for a Participant to adopt more stringent controls if they so choose, for example: Controlled Blending, Segregation or Identity Preserved.*

3.1.4 Model 1 applies typically where no processing is taking place



**Model 2 applies typically where processing is taking place**



### 3.1.5 Mass Balance Periods

Participants must strive to maintain a positive Mass Balance for any sustainable raw material(s)/ feed.

*Interpretation: For practical purposes, in the event of logistical issues the tonnage of raw material(s)/ feed products despatched from the Mass Balance may exceptionally be permitted to exceed the tonnage of raw material(s)/ feed products received into the Mass Balance for a period not exceeding three months.*

### 3.2 Raw Materials/Feed Products Entering and Leaving the Segregation Model

Participants must use a Chain of Custody system that:

3.2.1 Ensures that only raw materials/ feed products that will not compromise feed safety enters the system

AND

3.2.2 Allows **ONLY** certified consignments of raw materials/ feed products with similar sustainability characteristics which are traceable to multiple production sites and free from deforestation to be commingled into one bulk and physically separated from non-certified raw materials/ feed products.

AND

3.2.3 Provides for the sum of all consignments withdrawn from the commingled bulk to be described as having the same sustainability characteristics in the same quantities, as the sum of all consignments added to the commingled bulk.

### 3.3 Raw Materials/Feed Products Entering and Leaving the Identity Preserved Model

Participants must use a Chain of Custody system that:

3.3.1 Ensures that only raw materials/ feed products that will not compromise feed safety enters the system

AND

3.3.2 Allows **ONLY** consignments of raw materials/feed products with similar sustainability characteristics from a single original production site and free from deforestation to be commingled into one bulk.

AND

3.3.3 Provides for the sum of all consignments withdrawn from the commingled bulk to be described as having the same sustainability characteristics in the same quantities from the same production site, as the sum of all consignments added to the commingled bulk.

### 3.4 Sustainability Characteristics

The sustainability characteristics attributed to any raw materials entering the system must include:

3.4.1 The country(ies) and/ or regions of countries of origin

AND

3.4.2 The means by which the absence of deforestation has been verified under a scheme recognised by AIC (e.g. RTRS, Company Scheme etc.) or by the Participant themselves.

### 3.5 Production of Compound Feeds

3.5.1 Where compound feeds are produced, precise weighments and accounting must be used to assign certified materials to those compound feeds for which sustainability claims will be made.

3.5.2 The same sustainability characteristics attributed to a raw material must be assigned to the feed(s) in which it is included.

#### *Interpretation.*

*It is NOT permissible to transfer sustainability characteristics between the different components of a compound feed. For example, if there is an available stock of 'sustainable' soybean meal but a shortage of 'sustainable' soybean oil, it is NOT permitted to assign the sustainability characteristics of the meal to create additional 'sustainable' oil. Similarly, if there is an available stock of 'sustainable' palm kernel meal but a shortage of 'sustainable' palm oil, it is NOT permitted to assign the sustainability characteristics of the meal to create additional 'sustainable' oil.*

### 4. Spatial Boundaries

4.1 Participants must establish a separate administration system for each of their premises, identified by the address where the facility is located to ensure traceability of batches of raw materials and feeds is maintained.

4.2 Each delivery to site and despatch from site must be clearly identified by its associated address and each consignment entering and leaving the administration system must be traceable to this address.

*Interpretation: Where a Participant operates two facilities in close proximity, but with separate addresses, each will be required to operate its own administration system. Where multiple activities are undertaken at a single address, one administration system may apply to all activities.*

### 5. External Storage and Third-Party Storage

5.1 Where a Participant operates or contracts a store at a different address to its other facilities to hold sustainable raw materials/ feed products, the store must operate its own administration system to ensure traceability of batches of materials is maintained.

5.2 Where a third-party store holds sustainable raw materials/ feed products on behalf of one or more Participants, a separate traceability record must be maintained for each Participant.

## 6. Material Accounting System

Records must be maintained of the material and the quantity (weight) of certified inputs received in the material accounting system after legal ownership of the input material is gained, and the supporting documentation must be checked. These data shall form the basis for any sustainable product claimed, using actual measured output quantities.

*Interpretation: A Participant will increase the quantity accounted for in their administration system upon physical receipt of raw materials/ feed meeting the sustainability criteria of the Chain of Custody model in use. Similarly, a Participant will reduce the quantity accounted for in their administration system upon the physical despatch of feed meeting the sustainability criteria of that same Chain of Custody model.*

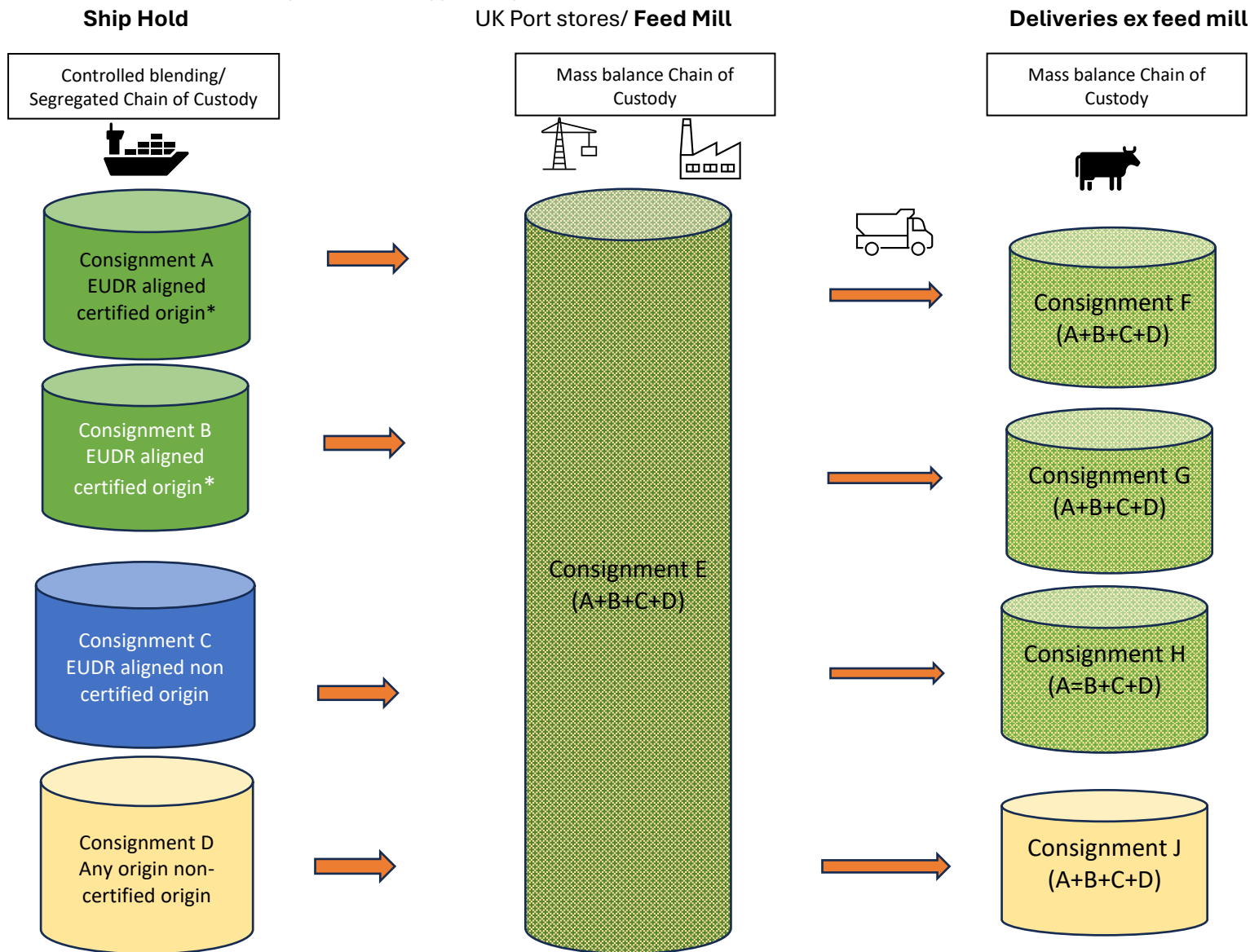
*This means that where Participant 1 at a step in the supply chain supplies raw material/ feed product to Participant 2 at the next step in the supply chain, Participant 1's material accounting system will be reduced when the raw material/ feed product is despatched and Participant 2's material accounting system will be increased upon receipt of the raw material/ feed product on the site, regardless of whether the governing contract was on an 'ex' or 'delivered' basis.*



# AIC Sustainable Commodities Certification System ‘ Mass Balance’ Chain of Custody in the UK Supply Chain

Raw material can be comingled at the UK Port store or feed mill

\*Certified to a Certification system listed as approved by AIC



Where:

Consignments F, G & H  $\leq (A + B + C)$  are ASCS certified via a mass balance Chain of Custody

Consignment J is not ASCS certified via a mass balance Chain of Custody

**Mass Balance Accounting Requirements within 'Mass Balance' illustration:**

**Ship Hold:**

Consignment A – 200 tonnes

Consignment B – 200 tonnes

Consignment C – 200 tonnes

Consignment D – 200 tonnes

**UK Port Store/ Feed Mill :**

Consignment E ≤ 800 tonnes

**Deliveries ex Feed Mill :**

Consignment F ≤ 200 tonnes

Consignment G ≤ 300 tonnes

Consignment H ≤ 200 tonnes

Consignment J ≤ 100 tonnes