

# FIAS Update

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FERTILISER INDUSTRY ASSURANCE SCHEME



## Welcome

Welcome to the Summer 2025 edition of FIAS Update.

Here you will find an update on progress of the FIAS Standard review, a look at the most frequently arising non-conformances, incidents of insecure parking, and updates to scheme support.

Please do let us know your views on the current FIAS Standard requirements or any questions you might have – your feedback is very welcome.



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Technical Manager  
for AIC Services



## FIAS Standard review progress

In January, the FIAS Review Group began working through the current FIAS 2021 Standard to revise and refine it for the next issue.

The Review Group consists of volunteers from the Working Group, representing different aspects of the fertiliser industry. Its remit is to review the Standard wording and clauses and propose amendments to the Working Group for

discussion before the revised document is ready to be approved by the FIAS Steering Group stakeholder members and opened for a consultation period to FIAS Participants and other parties.

Information supporting the review includes results of the Participant and auditor feedback survey and analysis of non-conformance trends since the current Standard came into effect in April

2021. Some of these are detailed later in this issue.

The aim is to launch the new Standard around October 2026. The date will depend on the results of the consultation and the process of accreditation by the UK Accreditation Service (UKAS).

Participants will be updated on progress via this newsletter and briefing emails.

# FIAS top non-compliances

Non-conformance data since the last issue of the FIAS Standard highlights where there are difficulties in complying with requirements or where additional clarification in the clause may be needed. The top non-conformances in each of the Standard's sections from April 2021 to December 2024 are listed below.

Section and Clause		Reasons for Non-conformance	Tips
<b>General</b>			
<b>G6.2</b>	Designated person to complete i-learning or equivalent	Not completed or unable to produce record at audit	FIAS i-learning modules are short online courses that provide an easy way to learn FIAS principles. Contact Kiwa for log ins.
<b>G6.1</b>	Training and records	Training not in place or completed; No record of training; Incomplete record e.g. no signature, no details of content, no date	Train all staff working on FIAS-related tasks to complete their jobs as required. Records are required as evidence at audit otherwise there is no proof that training was completed. Keep certificates of attendance or completion of courses for you and your staff. Details of course content are useful. There is a training record template on the FIAS website.
<b>G3.1</b>	Management review	Not completed; Review does not cover all relevant sections of Participants' FIAS operations	It is important that the senior management or owner/operator of a FIAS approved business reviews the FIAS scheme formally once a year. This shows how well you are complying with the Standard and is an opportunity to find gaps that need attention. Keep a record of your meeting and outcomes to use as evidence at your audit. A template is provided on the FIAS website.
<b>Manufacture and Packing</b>			
<b>MP7.1</b>	Calibration	Calibration not completed, not completed to schedule, recommendations not followed; records not available	Where calibration is required – make sure records are kept and recommended adjustments are made.
<b>Storage</b>			
<b>S6.3</b>	Dangerous Goods Safety Adviser (DGSA) certificate and report	Certificate and/or report not available	Both are required – current DGSA certificate and annual report.
<b>S7.3</b>	Loading and dispatch signature and print	Signature and or printed name missing; not legible	Both are required as a key part of FIAS traceability. The printed name should be legible.
<b>S4.4</b>	Storage operation controls	Controls not in place; records not available	The auditor expects to see controls identified in the business risk assessment and records of implementation as appropriate.
<b>Product Sales and delivery / Merchanting</b>			
<b>M1.1</b>	Product sales	Lack of written procedure system covering all steps in sales process; customer ID and verification not in place; supply chain information re regulated/reportable products	Compliance with FIAS requirements and legislative requirements are checked including Explosives Precursors Regulations.
<b>M3.1</b>	Product advice	Current Fertiliser Advisers Certification and Training Scheme (FACTS) qualification for advisers could not be verified or was not available	Adviser status for FACTS is updated annually - check by telephone or online as detailed in the FIAS Standard.
<b>M2.1</b>	Sales representatives and agents	Training records not available; Training not updated for current Standard	All sales representatives whether employed, non-employed should be trained in FIAS requirements and records kept.
<b>Transport</b>			
<b>T9.3</b>	Signature and printed name on delivery	Both or one missing; illegible	Both are required as a key part of FIAS traceability. The printed name should be legible.
<b>T6.2</b>	DGSA certificate and report	One or both not available at audit; old certificate	Both are required – current DGSA certificate and annual report.
<b>T7.1</b>	Vehicle Safety, ID and documents	Equipment checks are not documented; safety equipment missing; extinguisher service dates expired	These are legal requirements. DGSA recommendations should be followed.

## Ammonium Nitrate Fertiliser Safety Radius Calculator

The **Ammonium Nitrate Fertiliser Safety Radius Calculator** is designed to help FIAS Participants meet the requirements of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) for storage of Ammonium Nitrate (AN) fertiliser.

This tool models scenarios and the consequences of potential incidents, helping with risk assessments and emergency planning. It calculates the distances to properties at risk based on the tonnage of ammonium nitrate stored on-site. Identifying and managing risks effectively is a requirement under section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work Act.

The tool can also provide you with documentation to help support you in demonstrating compliance to the HSE.



Scan the QR code to access calculator

## Scheme owner audit of Certification Body

Kiwa Agri Food, the FIAS Certification Body, is audited annually by AIC Services and the Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops (TASCC) scheme.

In March, a member from the FIAS and TASCC Working Groups joined the audit. Kiwa showed us their systems and processes, from application through auditing, reviewing, non-compliances and corrective action assessment to certification. We also examined auditor training, reporting times, and communications with Participants.

The visit demonstrated that Kiwa's processes are thorough and effective. It is not always appreciated that Kiwa undergo internal audits and audits by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) to maintain their certification body status, ensuring robust independent audits and enhancing the value of FIAS and TASCC certification.



## AIC launches new Trade Assurance Checker app

AIC's **Trade Assurance Checker app** is now available as a free download for iOS and Android devices. Fully synchronised with AIC's **existing Trade Assurance Checker on the website**, the app brings greater accessibility and convenience, allowing the status of a supplier to be checked anywhere. The app enables searches by trade assurance scheme, **FEMAS, TASCC, UFAS, FIAS, RED**, and **ESTA**, and Participant status, including certified, suspended, applied, and withdrawn companies.



## FIAS i-Learning

The FIAS i-Learning courses have been updated and those registering for the course since the end of March have been assigned to the new version. The new format is more modern, user-friendly, and interactive.

Updates are limited to appearance and functionality with minimal content changes, so the courses still cover the requirements of the current FIAS Standard. Participants who have already completed the i-Learning are not obliged to retake the courses unless they wish to as a refresher.

Participants who are partway through the current FIAS i-Learning have until 30 June 2025 to complete it, which is when the current versions will be phased out. Any unfinished courses will need to be retaken in the new format.

Accessing the FIAS i-Learning remains the same: contact Kiwa Training for registration and login details at 01423 878875 or [uk.training@kiwa.com](mailto:uk.training@kiwa.com).

Each user must have an individual email address to receive a certificate for their training records.





## FIAS Earned Recognition update - Unsecure parking incidents



Earned Recognition for hauliers in the FIAS scheme with the Department for Transport (DfT) relates to the Carriage of Dangerous Goods (CDG) and Accord Dangereux Routier (ADR). FIAS certification demonstrates compliance with these regulations, meaning a lower risk rating for certified hauliers.

Regular reporting by AIC Services and Kiwa gives DfT confidence that standards are maintained to meet the Earned Recognition requirements.

Recently, the DfT has forged links with the Commercial Vehicle Units and Dangerous Goods teams across various UK Police Forces, leading to increased information where High Consequence Dangerous Goods are involved.

Incidents reported include FIAS Participants parked overnight in an unsecure manner, such as rear doors left open with contents on display, breaching ADR Regulations 8.4.1. and FIAS requirements. In each case,

recognised secure parking areas were often located less than a mile away.

The police on the scene advised the driver of necessary actions, however, this interaction was not reported by the driver to their transport manager. FIAS haulage Participants and any approved non-FIAS contractors carrying Dangerous Goods must ensure secure parking, understand the importance of secure parking, and follow security procedures (FIAS T7.2, T7.3).

DfT will follow up any reported incident with the Participant involved.

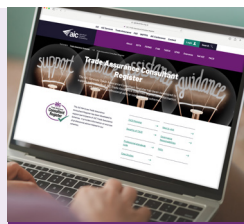
## Useful information

**FIAS webpages:** Scroll and search to find the Trade Assurance Checker, FIAS documents, templates, and videos e.g. "How to access the Portal" and "What to expect at your audit".

### Trade Assurance Consultant Register (TACR)

To support current or potential Participants of AIC's Trade Assurance Schemes, a list of consultants and advisers is available on AIC's website, along with the TACR professional conduct standards.

The TACR lists individual consultants, the trade assurance schemes they support, services offered, and ways to contact them for further information.



### Protect UK

Information about security issues, general counter terrorism guidance, ACT Awareness e-learning. Protect UK can be downloaded from: Google Play or Apple's App Store.



## Become a trade assurance scheme case study

**AIC Services** is inviting Participants of its trade assurance schemes to contribute to a series of case studies, promoting the value of assurance in feed, food, and fertiliser safety.



If your business is a Participant of any of AIC's Trade Assurance Schemes and you would like to find out more about being featured as a case study, please register your interest by emailing AIC's Communications Manager Wendy Ford ([wendy.ford@agindustries.org.uk](mailto:wendy.ford@agindustries.org.uk)).



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