

UFAS update

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSAL FEED ASSURANCE SCHEME



Remote auditing

Since April 2020 the majority of UFAS audits have involved at least some use of online technology, whether it be a fully online, live-streamed audit, or a more traditional onsite walk around with pre-submission of key quality system documents to the participant portal. After initial doubts from the AIC, certification bodies, auditors and participants about the potential effectiveness of remote audits, it soon became clear that there were advantages alongside the limitations.

Whilst remote audits will never completely and permanently replace onsite audits, the AIC is keen that we make use of what we have learned this year about the role technology can play in building increased efficiencies into the audit process. Once the pandemic is under control, we will return to onsite audits to ensure participant compliance but technology still has a role to play.

One area of improvement has been in the pre-submission of documentation in advance of an audit via an online portal. This has increased audit thoroughness and created time efficiencies for the participant, so we will retain this practice moving forward.

But there may be other areas where technology has improved the process and so the AIC are keen to hear from participants with feedback on their remote audit experience (UFAS or other schemes). If you have any comments or observations please contact Simon Williams at the AIC on: 01733 385245 / 07841 422712 or email Simon.Williams@agindustries.org.uk

Welcome

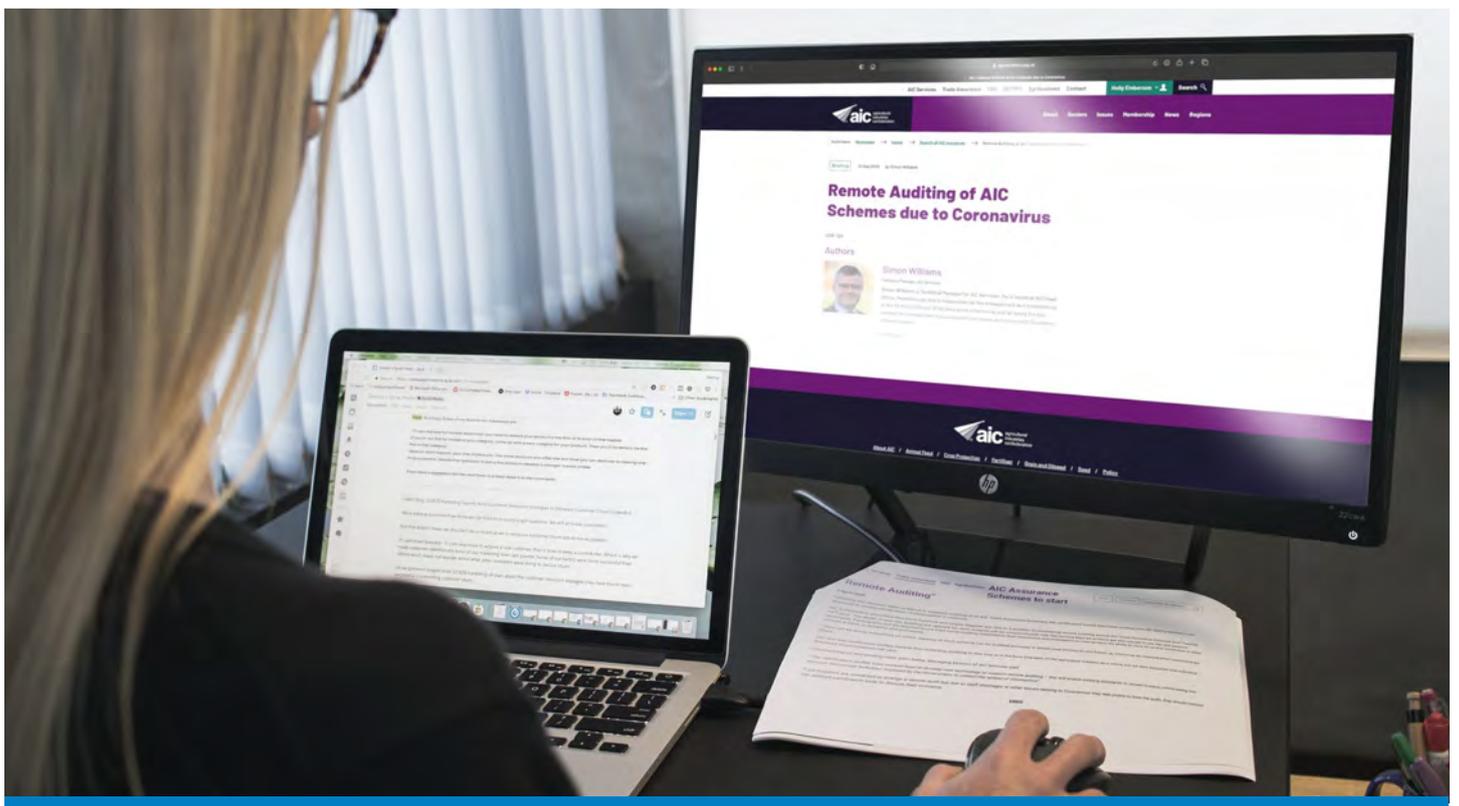
Over the last few months the feed industry has continued to respond to the challenge of COVID-19, including the steep learning curve in implementing remote UFAS audits.

Although it is still unclear when (if?) we will return to 'normal', one thing is certain: we have embraced the capabilities of modern technology and we must not undo this in our rush to get back to how things used to be.



Simon Williams

Technical Manager for AIC Services



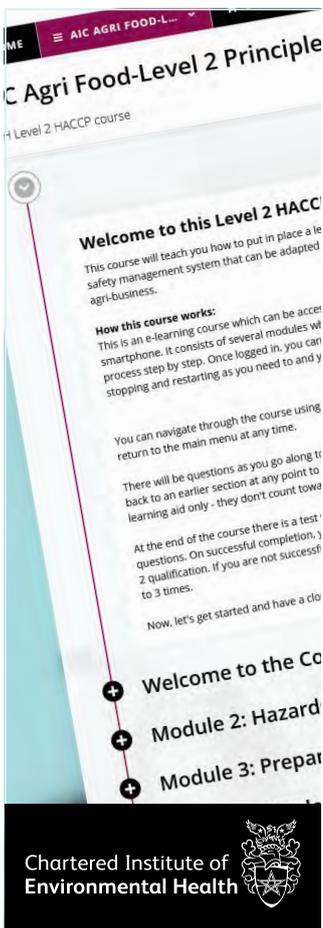
Defra disinfectant list

In recent months there have been a number of incidents of salmonella in feed materials in Great Britain, which has led to participants needing to consider whether they must use an approved disinfectant from the Defra list. The AIC schemes require cleaning chemicals to be suitable for use on food/feed contact surfaces, but the Defra list is also useful in identifying chemicals likely to be effective against pathogens such as salmonella. The list can be accessed via this link: <http://disinfectants.defra.gov.uk/DisinfectantsExternal/>

For salmonella the disinfectant should be approved under 'General Orders (GO)' as well as being suitable for food/feed contact surfaces.

In addition, the AIC have been asked about which disinfectants might be used for viruses such as African Swine Fever (ASF) as it continues to spread across continental Europe.

The Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) have confirmed that GO disinfectants should be used but for maximum efficacy they recommend using one of the approved oxidizing type disinfectants in preference to Quaternary Ammonium Compound (QAC) disinfectants. For vehicle exteriors, where food compatibility is not required, glutaraldehyde based products are recommended.



Welcome to this Level 2 HACCP
This course will teach you how to put in place a safety management system that can be adapted to your agri-business.

How this course works:
This is an e-learning course which can be accessed on a smartphone. It consists of several modules which you will complete step by step. Once logged in, you can stop and restart as you need to and you can navigate through the course using the return to the main menu at any time.

There will be questions as you go along to test your understanding. You can return to an earlier section at any point to learn more - they don't count towards your qualification.

At the end of the course there is a test. On successful completion, you will receive a Level 2 qualification. If you are not successful, you can retake the test up to 3 times.

Now, let's get started and have a look at the course content.

- Welcome to the Co
- Module 2: Hazard
- Module 3: Prepar

Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

AIC online HACCP course

AIC Services are pleased to announce the launch of a new online course: AIC Level 2 Principles of HACCP for Agri-Food.

The course has been developed in consultation with AIC Members and trade assurance participants and in association with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH). While HACCP courses for the food industry are widely available, this course has been designed specifically for those in the agri-food sector including feed, crops for feed and food. It is relevant for all types of businesses from feed mills to merchants, stores and transport companies.

Its aim is to help agri-food businesses meet their legal obligations regarding HACCP, extend HACCP awareness throughout businesses and support their internal training systems.

With a modular structure, the course can be completed on a PC, tablet or smartphone and worked through in stages at a time convenient for the user, so can fit around work and family commitments. Questions throughout the course test understanding and at the end, there is a short multiple choice assessment.

Those who successfully complete the course to achieve the required pass mark will receive a CIEH accredited certificate of qualification in Principles of HACCP Agri-Food, Level 2.

The course fee is £35 + vat per person and companies with full AIC membership are offered one place free of charge. (Please note, registration in an AIC Trade Assurance scheme does not equate to full AIC membership).

To sign up for the course, or if you have any questions, please contact Roberta Reeve on: 01733 385244 / 07741 156512 or email roberta.reeve@agindustries.org.uk

UFAS 2020 v2

In the coming weeks, an updated version of the UFAS Standard will be published. An update is required to incorporate changes made to transport and third party storage requirements in the new TASCC 2021 Standards.

It is important that the requirements of the two schemes remain aligned and with this in mind, the Standard requirements will be implemented from 1st April 2021 to align with TASCC 2021.



Earned recognition update

FSA Competency Framework/Updated Codes of Practice

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) have recently launched a public consultation on an updated Food Law Code of Practice and associated guidance which will cover England, Northern Ireland and Wales. Although this does not directly impact UFAS participants, it is envisaged that the equivalent Feed Law Code of Practice will be updated in 2021.

As part of the current consultation, the FSA have published a draft 'Competency Framework' which outlines the knowledge and skills that enforcement officers need to demonstrate for both food and feed law. This document has added relevance because as the Earned Recognition agreement is reviewed, it will be important that the AIC and certification bodies can demonstrate that auditors, managers and other team members have the relevant competencies. With this in mind we have started benchmarking the scheme training and approval processes against these criteria.

Food Standards Scotland

Food Standards Scotland became a signatory to the Earned Recognition Memorandum of Understanding in 2016, less than a year after it came into being. It has long been the intention of FSS to introduce a centralised approach to feed law enforcement to improve consistency across different regions. This appears to be reaching fruition following a public consultation earlier in 2020 and it is envisaged that the new structures will be launched in 2021. As a result, the full benefits of Earned Recognition will be seen by both UFAS participants and the Scottish Authorities.

VMD Earned Recognition Criteria

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) are signatories to the Earned Recognition (ER) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), but the criteria for a business achieving and maintaining ER, and the benefits to the participant are slightly different.

The VMD have five compliance categories based on the outcomes of their inspections, but only the two highest categories (4 and 5) qualify for ER. The details of the scoring scheme can be found on the VMD website: <https://cutt.ly/og39VFF>. To achieve category 4 compliance, an inspection can raise no more than 6 minor deficiencies and no major deficiencies. However, if a deficiency is raised that is similar to one raised at the previous inspection it will automatically be elevated to a major, leading to the withdrawal of ER.

The benefit to businesses who maintain ER is a 50% extension of the period between inspections.

Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

The current Earned Recognition MoU has been in place since 2016. With the changes planned for the Feed Law Code of Practice and the implementation of the new competency framework, it has been agreed that it is an opportune time to update the MoU at the same time. The basic principles of the agreement are to remain the same, but the review will look at the type and frequency of data supplied by the schemes to the authorities, whilst also strengthening the requirements for data to be supplied by the authorities to the AIC.

All involved in ER over the past few years are agreed that it has been a great success, but this is seen as an opportunity to strengthen and streamline the process further.

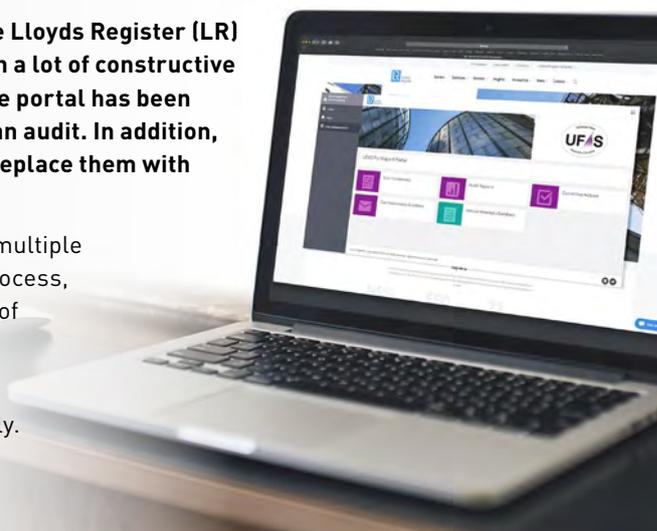
Participant portal update

Following the large increase in participants making use of the Lloyds Register (LR) UFAS Participant portal in the past six months, there has been a lot of constructive feedback provided on how it could be improved. As a result the portal has been updated to make it easier to upload documents in advance of an audit. In addition, the documents will be retained on the portal allowing you to replace them with updated versions as they are reviewed for future audits.

One limitation of the portal is that the software does not allow multiple documents to be uploaded at once. However, to speed up the process, it is possible to upload a 'zipped' folder that contains a number of documents relating to a section or clause of the standard.

In addition to the updated functionality, the user interface has also been refreshed to aid clarity and make it more user friendly.

If you have any comments, feedback or questions or require a login for the portal, please contact: ufas-ca@lr.org



Non-conformance round-up

Following the launch of the UFAS 2020 Standard and the implementation of remote auditing due to COVID-19 restrictions, the AIC and LR have been closely monitoring the level and type of non-conformances raised at audit.

In spite of the changes to how audits are carried out, the average number of non-conformances remains consistent, although the nature of the issues show more focus on underlying systems rather than physical evidence of non-compliance.

The top five most common minor non-conformances since March 2020 are:



Clause	Clause wording	Comments
E3.1	Labelling and claims must comply with current legislation.	The UK feed authorities advise us that this is also an area where they see a number of issues. Many of the problems relate to errors in how feed additives are declared.
F9.1.1	Hauliers must maintain an up-to-date inventory of all UFAS and Non-UFAS vehicles owned and operated (including acquired new and second-hand bulk vehicles), hired or leased detailing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the registration number • type and use • the UFAS ID • manufacturer's chassis number • date of purchase or hire • date of disposal or removal from the scheme. Hauliers must enter UFAS vehicles on the AIC Vehicle Inventory portal.	The use of the Vehicle Inventory portal became compulsory with the introduction of the new UFAS 2020 Standard. Participants who have not yet registered for it should contact: uk.feed@kiwa.com to obtain a log-in.
H5.2	Where mixing (dispersion) forms an essential part of the process, tests must be undertaken to monitor effectiveness of equipment at intervals of no more than six months or more frequently if determined by risk assessment.	Mixer efficiency tests are a key feed safety control where feed additives, or other ingredients with a maximum inclusion level, are used and steps must be taken to ensure that results are acted upon as appropriate.
F1.14	There must be a documented system to ensure all production and storage areas and equipment are effectively cleaned to maintain feed safety.	Cleaning schedules need to be developed and followed, and records maintained to demonstrate effective hygiene and ensure feed safety.
B1.1	There must be a formal feed safety HACCP risk assessment which identifies, monitors and controls hazards that may adversely affect the safety of any feed supplied. Risk assessments must be carried out in accordance with recognised HACCP principles.	HACCP is the foundation of UFAS and current feed hygiene legislation. Minor non-conformances here tend to be a failure to follow all the required HACCP steps or problems with how the HACCP is documented.

For further information on COVID-19 at: www.agindustries.org.uk/coronavirus/



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