



## What is ESTA?

The European Seed Treatment Assurance scheme (ESTA), is an assurance scheme for the seed industry. It has been developed by the seed treatment industry to

- preserve essential plant protection products
- protect international trade
- ensure ongoing investment within the sector.



## Why ESTA?

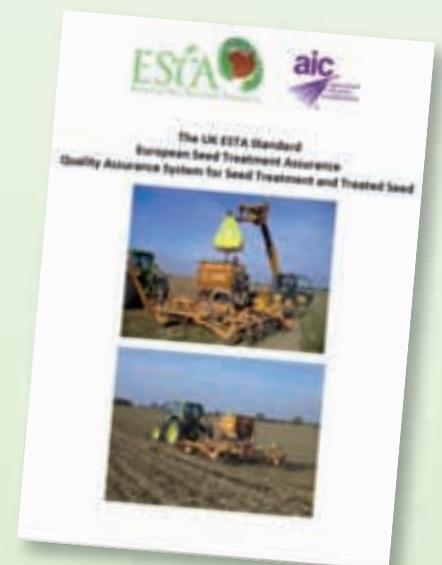


ESTA was jointly devised by the European Seed Association (ESA) and seed treatment manufacturers in response to the EU Directive (2010/21) which required insecticide seed treatments to 'only be performed in professional seed treatment facilities.'

The directive results from incidences of bee deaths in parts of mainland Europe which were particularly associated with treated maize seed.

The industry has decided to act now before the extra burden of EU Legislation so it is important that the industry is seen to be leading the way in its responsibility for the end user and the environment.

AIC will be overseeing the management of ESTA in the UK as they have a proven track record of running assurance schemes. The scheme itself has been developed initially by ESA but the UK version has been finalised by the UK seed treatment industry.





## How does it work?

The standard is based on the participant having a quality manual which covers quality systems (such as calibration of equipment and the response to customer complaints). The standard also requires the use of a HACCP (Hazard, Analysis, Critical Control Point) which is a form of risk assessment.

As the standard is auditable, all records need to be maintained. It can be audited alongside the TASCC (the AIC's Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops) scheme or as a stand alone audit.



## The Audit

AIC will manage the scheme but the Certification Body, PAI, will carry out the audits.

## Europe

ESTA is the umbrella scheme which is owned by ESA. The scheme will also be run in other European countries either by using their own scheme based on the ESTA standard (e.g. the UK) or by using the ESA's ESTA standard directly.

## Costs

Costs will be linked with the TASCC scheme and will be based on the size of the company. There will be a registration and audit fee – please call for a quote.



**Further information can be found on the AIC website on [www.agindustries.org.uk](http://www.agindustries.org.uk) or contact:**



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