

## Grains and Feedstuffs in the UK – Checks and Controls

This document is intended to outline the checks and controls in place to ensure grain and feedstuffs in the UK are safe and legal whether it arrives from an already assured supply chain or production is from outside of an assured chain e.g. imported from a third country (outside the UK).

### UK Production and Supply Chains

UK arable production is largely farm assured through the Red Tractor Assured Food Standards scheme and Scottish Quality Crops. Post farm gate, food and feed ingredients each have their own dedicated assurance schemes (depending on use and destination): the Universal Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS) covers the area of compound feed production; the Feed Materials Assurance Scheme (FEMAS) covers the area of feed materials, which are the ingredients for compound feeds; the Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops (TASCC) covers the area of combinable crops ingredients into the feed sector, milling and brewery sector.

These assurance schemes cover the sourcing, physical handling/ processing (e.g. road transport, bulk storage) and traceability of the goods on the market. In addition to ensuring legislative requirements for food/feed safety and certain environmental requirements are met, these assurance schemes also provide robust traceability. Independent audits of companies are carried out annually by experienced auditors to examine food & feed safety management systems to ensure risks are minimised. Information about these schemes can be obtained from <https://www.agindustries.org.uk/sectors/trade-assurance-schemes.html>

From the 01 January 2021 the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and Food Standards Scotland (FSS) will be responsible for many of the functions that were carried out by the European Commission (EC) and the European Feed Safety Authority (EFSA).

### UK Imports

The UK is not self-sufficient in all the grains and feedstuffs it requires, particularly protein sources for animal feed. Therefore, imports are necessary. The following table shows tonnes of imports of the main products from EU and non-EU destinations for this season to date, and the previous 5 seasons, with a 5-year average.

	2020-21	5 year	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
	*to Dec	average					
<b>Barley</b>	23,543	93,238	68,645	70,271	104,680	99,713	122,881
	49	1,933	1,719	93	91	5,985	1,774
	<b>23,592</b>	<b>95,171</b>	<b>70,365</b>	<b>70,363</b>	<b>104,771</b>	<b>105,698</b>	<b>124,655</b>
<b>Wheat</b>	1,070,962	962,757	462,092	1,129,830	1,108,120	1,181,500	932,244
	316,430	576,927	524,127	657,454	582,498	626,774	493,784
	<b>1,387,391</b>	<b>1,539,684</b>	<b>986,219</b>	<b>1,787,284</b>	<b>1,690,617</b>	<b>1,808,274</b>	<b>1,426,028</b>
<b>Oats</b>	8,904	26,498	18,086	32,331	18,961	32,124	30,986
	38	12	12	11	6	22	11
	<b>8,942</b>	<b>26,510</b>	<b>18,099</b>	<b>32,341</b>	<b>18,967</b>	<b>32,145</b>	<b>30,997</b>
<b>Maize</b>	625,531	1,010,619	978,660	873,167	1,096,529	1,066,141	1,038,598
	789,103	1,170,571	1,397,389	1,952,298	927,251	940,919	634,998
	<b>1,414,635</b>	<b>2,181,190</b>	<b>2,376,048</b>	<b>2,825,465</b>	<b>2,023,781</b>	<b>2,007,059</b>	<b>1,673,596</b>
<b>Linseed</b>	5,048	12,521	17,449	12,226	12,032	11,279	9,622

	706	1,019	1,048	887	924	1,384	853
	<b>5,754</b>	<b>13,541</b>	<b>18,497</b>	<b>13,113</b>	<b>12,956</b>	<b>12,662</b>	<b>10,475</b>
<b>Soybean meal</b>	239,293	473,569	616,992	439,869	305,587	423,437	581,960
	816,302	1,607,391	1,611,635	1,575,884	1,565,366	1,622,760	1,661,312
	<b>1,055,595</b>	<b>2,080,960</b>	<b>2,228,626</b>	<b>2,015,753</b>	<b>1,870,953</b>	<b>2,046,196</b>	<b>2,243,272</b>
<b>Soybean</b>	13,008	20,796	31,705	26,402	15,014	13,899	16,961
	450,650	698,627	641,183	701,871	718,647	765,284	666,152
	<b>463,658</b>	<b>719,423</b>	<b>672,888</b>	<b>728,273</b>	<b>733,661</b>	<b>779,182</b>	<b>683,113</b>
<b>Rapeseed</b>	66,915	173,334	273,078	204,924	219,934	111,504	57,231
	253,377	48,558	121,190	15	10	121,549	24
	<b>320,292</b>	<b>221,892</b>	<b>394,268</b>	<b>204,939</b>	<b>219,944</b>	<b>233,054</b>	<b>57,255</b>

Source: AHDB

### Importing to the UK

Merchants who are importing grains or feed into the UK are obliged to comply with the General Food Law Regulation (EC178/2002)<sup>1</sup> which states that:

#### Article 14

- i. Food shall not be placed on the market if it is unsafe
- ii. Food shall be deemed unsafe if it is considered to be:
  - a. Injurious to health
  - b. Unfit for human consumption

#### Article 15

- i. Feed shall not be placed on the market or fed to any food-producing animal if it is unsafe
- ii. Feed shall be deemed unsafe for its intended use if it is considered to:
  - a. Have an adverse effect on human or animal health
  - b. Make food derived from food-producing animals unsafe for human consumption

Under mutual recognition agreements between the TASC scheme and equivalent European assurance schemes, grain and feed imported from an approved supplier by a TASC assured merchant is considered to comply with this regulation. The organisations with which TASC has mutual recognition agreements can be seen here: <https://www.agindustries.org.uk/sectors/trade-assurance-schemes/overseas.html>

### Gatekeeper Protocols

When a merchant needs to purchase grain or feed materials from outside a trade assured supply chain, gatekeeper protocols apply. The purchasing merchant, or 'gatekeeper' takes responsibility for the safety of the product(s) brought into the assured chain.

Gatekeeper protocols are included in the assurance schemes GMP+ and EFISC-GTP (global assurance schemes), one or both of which importing UK merchants are certified to, thus enabling imports into a TASC

<sup>1</sup> In England, [The Food Safety and Hygiene \(England\) Regulations 2013](#) provides for the enforcement of certain provisions of retained EU law Regulation (EC) 178/2002 and for the food hygiene legislation. [The General Food Regulations 2004](#) provide the enforcement of certain provisions of retained EU law Regulation (EC) 178/2002. It also amended the Food Safety Act 1990 to bring it in line with retained EU law Regulation (EC) 178/2002.

supply chain via mutual recognition. Specific requirements exist for different types of feed ingredients (e.g. additives, former feedstuffs); for the purposes of this document, only the requirements for unprocessed grains and oilseeds are included.

The gatekeeper protocol requires that the products are safe for use and comply with assurance requirements and relevant legislation. The gatekeeper must ensure a risk assessment based on HACCP principles is carried out, including all relevant operations and activities relating to the product from production up to delivery including any storage or transport. Supplier audits are also required to be carried out. Furthermore, the scheme owners must also be informed that a company is using the gatekeeper protocol. All information relating to the supplier should also be kept and supplied to the scheme owners via audit and, in the case of GMP+ via a database system.

For each consignment sampling and testing is carried out. Representative samples of goods carried by ship should be carried out by Gajta approved superintendents. These samples are then laboratory analysed for (where applicable):

- Pesticide residues
- Mycotoxins
  - Aflatoxin
  - Deoxynivalenol
  - Zearalenone
  - Ochratoxin A
- Heavy metals
  - Arsenic
  - Lead
  - Mercury
  - Cadmium
- Dioxins
- Sum of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs
- PAHs
- Hydrocyanic Acid
- Salmonella

Analysis results should determine that levels of the above contaminants are within legal and contractual requirements.

It is possible to transfer responsibility for the above sampling and testing to the supplier and this is clearly stated in the contract. The gatekeeper still maintains responsibility for the goods they purchase. Audits against the gatekeeper protocols form part of the independent audit to the assurance scheme (GMP+ or EFISC-GTP).

**More information can be found:**

GMP+ International: <https://www.gmpplus.org/en/>

Module: GMP+ BA10 – Minimum Requirements for Purchasing

GTP-EFISC: <http://www.efisc-gtp.eu/>

Module: Gatekeeping rules and specific requirements for by-products from the Oil & Fat Industry