

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TRADE ASSURANCE SCHEME FOR COMBINABLE CROPS

The Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU)

and the TASCC Storage code

Products containing second-generation anticoagulants (SGARs) are an effective and practical way to deal with rodent infestations in many urban and rural settings. They bring substantial benefits in food hygiene, public health and animal husbandry. However, they can be hazardous to non-target animals and persistent in the environment. Often, such properties lead to products being removed from the market, but, in this instance there is no alternative that is equally effective and safer; thus the SGARs continue to be essential. This makes the implementation of risk mitigation measures and the application of best practice a must for all users.

To that end, the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) has produced a code of practice which is intended to provide assurance to the Health and Safety Executive, (the UK government body responsible for the regulation of rodenticides) that anticoagulants can continue to be used and their risks brought down to an

acceptable level. In time, the code will be used for training and certification of all who carry out rodent control as a part of their professional duties and must be applied by all professionals who use anticoagulants.

AIC schemes TASCC (in G3 of the Storage code) and UFAS have been approved by CRUU which means that membership of either scheme will allow the purchase and use of professional rodenticides until the end of December 2017.



Further information on the CRRU UK Code of Best Practice can be found on the Think Wildlife website www.thinkwildlife.org/about-crru/

INSIDE

NEW TASCC codes

AIC's TASCC Working Group released the latest versions on 1 March 2016

Further details on page 3



AIC Feed Seminars

During 2016, AIC is organising seminars which cover the food/feed schemes FEMAS, TASCC and UFAS. AIC would like to invite you to attend at the venues listed below. The aim is for AIC to provide you with an update to changes in the schemes along with an opportunity to ask any specific questions.

Locations and dates for the seminars, which run from 9.30am to 1pm, are as follows:

These seminars also provide an opportunity for you to meet some of the AIC team that manage the scheme as well as opportunities to network with other participants. With the continued pace of change in Feed and Food Hygiene legislation, as well as other changes in industry and customer requirements, you are strongly urged to attend to ensure that your business is fully aware of how well it complies with the various schemes.

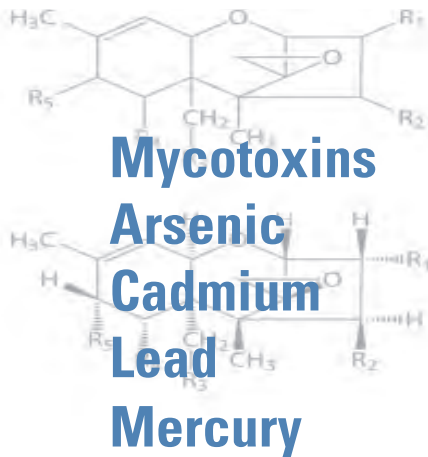


Bristol	Wednesday 11th May
Peterborough	Thursday 12th May
Wetherby	Tuesday 17th May
Chester	Wednesday 18th May
Perth	Wednesday 25th May
Belfast	Thursday 2nd June
Dublin	Friday 3rd June

To attend any event, you can book on-line at www.agindustries.org.uk. You will need a secure sign on to do this which can be obtained from AIC via Nick Palik on 01733 385250 or nick.palik@agindustries.org.uk or Carolyn Palasiuk on 01733 385241 or carolynn.palasiuk@agindustries.org.uk. Further information can be found on the AIC website www.aictradeassurance.org.uk/news-and-events/aic-services-seminars-2016/



Undesirable substances



New sections in the Storage and Merchants codes now relate to 'Undesirable substances'. End users may list these in their terms and conditions and it is important that participants are aware of them.

Undesirable substances in feed, or contaminants in food, are defined as 'any substance or product, with the exception of pathogenic agents, which is present in and/or on the product intended for food for human consumption or animal feed and which presents a potential danger to animal or human health, the environment or livestock production'.

Some contaminants are formed naturally, carried over to food from water, air or soil, or created as a by-product of the food production process itself.

Examples of these substances are:

- Mycotoxins (aflatoxin, Deoxynivalenol (DON), Zearalenone (ZON) and Ochratoxin) which are produced by fungi and can be found in cereals.

- Arsenic
- Cadmium
- Lead
- Mercury
- Organochlorine Pesticides
- Dioxins and Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) (in oils)
- Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) (in oils)

Since many contaminants are naturally occurring, it would be impossible to impose a total ban on these substances. Instead, the best course of action to protect public health is to ensure that these substances are kept at levels which are as low as possible and determined on the basis of sound scientific evidence.

Information on the various permitted levels in animal feed and foodstuffs can be found in the legislation and on the AIC website.

Check your feed bins regularly

UK livestock farmers have been warned by AIC to check their bulk feed bins regularly for structural defects or corrosion. The warning comes in the wake of a two incidents in the Netherlands where feed bins collapsed. One was a 'near miss' but the other resulted in the death of a farmer.

Feed bins are familiar objects on livestock farms but can be holding tonnes of feed up in the air. Over time, these static pieces of equipment are just taken for granted and corrosion or accidental damage can make them unsafe.

AIC's Feed Sector Health and Safety Forum was set up to provide a platform for discussion regarding Health and Safety issues for the animal feed sector. The forum has produced the Safe Delivery to Farms documents which are designed to ensure that the industry works together to minimise the risks associated with on farm deliveries and feed bins are included in this. There are two documents – a 12 page supplier guidance booklet and a four page pamphlet which goes to farmer customers to highlight any particular health and safety issues which both parties can rectify.

If you require any further information, then please contact Garry Rudd at AIC.



New TASCC Chair and Vice Chair

Mark Hanger of Glencore Grain was appointed chairman of the TASCC Working Group in September last year. Mark is now leading the team that looks to provide robust and effective feed assurance for the agri-supply trade.

Also newly appointed is Vice chair Sarah Cox of Frontier.

Mark succeeds Richard Whitlock who chaired the Group for over ten years, during which period TASCC grew in both numbers and stature along with other AIC feed assurance schemes. The culmination of the progress of the schemes has been the achievement of earned recognition from the Food Standards Agency and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate.



Mark Hanger and Richard Whitlock

NEW TASCC Codes continuing to ensure feed and food safety



The latest TASCC codes of practice came into force on 1 March 2016 and will remain in force for two years. The early season launch will allow TASCC participants plenty of time to implement the codes before this year's harvest period.

The codes are all on the website along with a 'summary of changes' document and several template documents for hauliers, storekeepers and trailer hire companies.

Key changes in the new codes are:-

- **Short notice assessment** – Section 6.6 of the Scheme Rules now details short notice assessments which will be performed on 5% of all TASCC participants. These visits will not be charged for, but participants will be informed the day before.
- **Management Commitment** (A3 in Haulage, Merchant and Storage) – Has been included to ensure that management is committed to food/feed safety.
- **Understanding customers' terms and conditions** – Greater emphasis has been placed in all codes for participants to ensure that they receive their customers' terms and conditions.
- **International Database For Transport Of Feed And Food (IDTF)** – TASCC has now adopted the EU-wide version of the Exclusion and Sensitive Lists for transport assurance certification. This was detailed in TASCCforce 18 and the IDTF website is

www.icrt-idtf.com/en/index.php and further information can be found in all TASCC codes. TASCC participants will need to read this in conjunction with the Exclusion and Sensitive List as all of the cleaning regimes of these products (such as glass) will remain the same in the UK. Participants still need to put the product name as the previous load and not the IDTF number.

- **Wholly Contracted Hauliers** – Section F in the Haulage code states that these will not be allowed to be used as from 1st February 2017.
- **HACCP review** – Storage (section L), Merchant (section M) and Haulage (section J) participants will need to conduct an annual HACCP review.
- **Training** – This has been changed so that it is the same for all codes.
- **Undesirable substances** – Now in Storage and Merchants (B6 and B7 in both) and should be read in conjunction with customer terms and conditions.
Undesirable Substances include:
 - Mycotoxins (aflatoxin, Deoxynivalenol (DON), Zearalenone (ZON) and Ochratoxin) which are produced by fungi and can be found in cereals
 - Arsenic
 - Cadmium
 - Lead
 - Mercury
 - Organochlorine Pesticides
 - Dioxins and Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) (in oils)

– Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) (in oils)

- **Temporary Holding** – Storage E1.1 and Merchants E4.3.1 must notify the TASCC certification body if they wish to use temporary holding spaces during harvest. Further guidance of these will be found on the TASCC web pages.
 - **Storage and Testing** – Any stores which carry out the testing of grain, pulses and oilseeds on which contractual decisions are made (including charges for drying), must ensure they are participants of the Testing Facilities code of practice. Being in the Testing code may ensure that contracts are fulfilled and payments made on time.
 - **Product recall** – New for both Storage (section M) and Merchants (section J).
 - **Complaints** – New for Storage (section N), Haulage (section I) and Merchants (section N).
 - **Rodenticides** – Section G of the Storage code has been updated to encompass the CRRU guidelines. Further information is found in this edition of TASCCforce.
 - **Hazardous Impurities** – A new section in Storage E1.3 and following on from the sampling of goods, if hazards are found, E1.3 gives information on three potential options – Rejection, Further Processing or Downgrading.
- This is a brief outline and TASCC participants are strongly advised to read the new TASCC codes in full to ensure compliance prior to their next audit.

Crushers seeing high erucic acid levels in double zero oilseed rape

Crushers are concerned by increasing incidents of OSR deliveries containing high erucic acid levels – in some instances as high as 30%. This means the resulting oil cannot be used in food and needs to be diverted to the non-food market – a costly and burdensome solution. To prevent this the supply chain must ensure that at all points, from cultivation through storage and delivery, the necessary steps are taken to ensure all but technically unavoidable mixing occurs.

UK and EU legislation requires that oils and fats for food use can contain no more than 5% erucic acid expressed on a fat basis; to sell oil in excess of this would be a criminal offence. This is why there is a contractual maximum of 2% erucic acid in double zero oilseed rape in the FOSFA 26A contract with the right to reject above that max. The definition of double zero is that the seed is low in erucic acid as well as low in glucosinolates. In reality improvements in plant breeding now mean true double zero rapeseed normally has erucic acid levels below 0.5%.

Crushers can only conclude that very high erucic acid levels at up to 30% must be caused by the mixing of high erucic acid rapeseed (HEAR) with food crops. HEAR seed contains between 50% and 55% erucic acid. This may be happening in ignorance of the consequences hence this information exercise to remind the chain that the impact is serious.

However, the problem is the same for any incidences above the 2% max as crushers will lose their food market for the oil. Possible causes for erucic levels above 2% but below the high spike levels could be volunteers from HEAR grown the previous year or farm saved seed reverting to type.

Crushers are developing a test for erucic acid levels at intake. In order to avoid costly rejections, we urge all links in the chain to take robust steps to mitigate against high erucic acid levels in the food

crop from good agricultural practice in growing the seed through cleaning of all equipment used in the harvest, handling, drying, storage and haulage and effective physical segregation of seed types during storage.

Further information: Angela Bowden,
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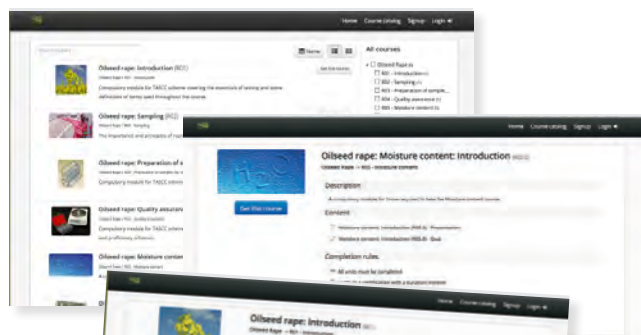
Oilseed rape online training modules for grain analysts

Accurate testing of grain is extremely important to both seller and buyer. AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds, along with AIC, has developed training modules to help grain analysts understand the relevant tests, work to high standards and to support the standardisation of training across the UK cereals industry.

A new Oilseed Rape on-line module is now available on the AHDB website. Similar on-line modules for Wheat and Barley are also in production but participants can still use the CD-Roms.

The training modules include photos, videos and quizzes for all common laboratory tests.

To access the online modules, click [here](http://cereals.ahdb.org.uk/crop-management/grain-storage-and-sampling.aspx) cereals.ahdb.org.uk/crop-management/grain-storage-and-sampling.aspx. If your company has a number of staff who would benefit from this training, please contact us at cereals.webmaster@ahdb.org.uk to set up a free corporate account.



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