

FEMAS update

THE NEWSLETTER OF AIC'S FEED MATERIALS ASSURANCE SCHEME



FEMAS 2024
Effective from October 2024



Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn FEMAS newsletter. As a relatively new face at AIC, I would like to say what a pleasure it was to meet so many Participants at the Feed and Food Scheme Seminars held in the UK and Ireland earlier this year. Many questions were asked during these events, so this newsletter includes some extra guidance on the main topics raised. This will help prepare you for 1 October 2024, when auditing to the FEMAS 2024 Standard commences.

If you have other subjects that you would like to see covered in future FEMAS newsletters or discussed at our Working Group meetings, please do get in touch.



Sarah-Jane Godfrey
Technical Manager
AIC Services

FEMAS Standard 2024

The final FEMAS 2024 Standard is now published on the website, along with the key changes document. Updated FEMAS Sector Notes will be uploaded very soon.

To make sure you receive email notifications for these publications, as well as AIC news and relevant Scheme Briefings, please log into the website to check your profile details, interests, contact preferences, and opt-ins.

For further queries, please email sarah-jane.godfrey@agindustries.org.uk.

Supplier approval

Assured feed suppliers

Many questions were raised at AIC’s food and feed scheme seminars related to assured feed supplier approval and the new and updated Clauses C 1.6 and D 3.3, covering the need to have systems in place “to verify the current assurance status of the suppliers when entering and executing a contract or agreement”.

This update was included as there has been concern that unexpected changes in a suppliers’ certification status could unknowingly lead to the continued use of non-assured suppliers, consequently putting feed safety at risk.

Checking assured supplier status

Participants may need to use a variety of approaches to check the continued assurance status of their assured suppliers, and to which schemes they are certified.

For example, if a supplier is also a Participant in an AIC scheme, it may be sufficient to check on the register checker when entering a new contract, and then ensure that relevant personnel involved in executing the contract receive the Assurance Alert emails so that they would be aware of any changes.

Some other schemes also provide an email alert system, but for some, there may be no alternative to timely checks on their website.

Service suppliers

The requirements for use of contractors to supply services (including processing, storage, and bulk haulage) have also been updated, predominantly focussing on the importance of clear agreements to ensure all parties understand their roles and responsibilities so that feed safety is protected.

Visit AIC’s website to find out about other Feed/Food Supplier schemes - including haulage and storage schemes - recognised by AIC:






<https://www.agindustries.org.uk/resource/service-supplier-schemes.html>

Application Programming Interface (API)

Increasingly, schemes offer an API that allows a Participant’s IT systems to automatically query the scheme register.

Details on AIC’s API can be found on AIC’s website: <https://www.agindustries.org.uk/resource/trade-assurance-checker-api.html>.

The following schemes are part of AIC API:

	Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops
	Universal Feed Assurance Scheme
	Feed Materials Assurance Scheme
	Fertiliser Industry Assurance Scheme
	European Seed Treatment Assurance scheme

Calibration

Calibration of equipment is key to ensure any feed produced is safe and meets customer requirements.

With this in mind, the FEMAS 2024 Standard contains updated requirements which focus more on identifying the equipment that needs to be operating properly, and demonstrating that it is, rather than focusing on a folder of calibration certificates.

There are also updated clauses on the steps required if a piece of equipment is found to be operating out of tolerance.

It separates out considerations of the safety/acceptability of feed already produced and the management of the equipment and future production until the problem is rectified.



Pest Management in FEMAS

The Pest Management section in the FEMAS 2024 Standard has been updated with the aim of clarifying the obligations of a Participant and those of any external pest control contractor, and suppliers of pest control products where activities are managed in-house.

The most important element is for the Participant to clearly identify who within their business is responsible for ensuring that pest management is effective, and any required actions are taken in a timely manner.

More details can be found in section G 6 of the FEMAS 2024 Standard.



FEMAS definitions

The FEMAS 2024 Standard now includes the terms “recall” and “withdrawal”. The terms have slightly different meanings, but ultimately, the process of carrying out a feed or food product recall or withdrawal as part of an effective traceability system is how Participants protect the feed and food chain from non-conforming products.

Definitions

- **Recall:** Unsafe food/feed is removed from the supply chain and consumers/animal keepers are advised to take appropriate action, for example to return or dispose of the unsafe food/feed (adapted from Food Standards Agency definitions)
- **Withdrawal:** Unsafe food/feed is removed from the supply chain before it has reached consumers/animal keepers (adapted from Food Standards Agency definitions)

Don't forget, a recall/withdrawal test must be carried out at a frequency determined by your risk assessment, and at least every 12 months.

AIC Feed Safety Analysis Calculator

During the Standards review, it was decided to rename the FEMAS Calculator to the AIC Feed Safety Analysis Calculator to better reflect its functionality.

The Calculator can be used not only with feed materials listed in the UK and EU Catalogues of Feed Materials, but also the Registers of Feed Materials and Feed Additives by Participants when developing feed risk-based analysis schedules.

Use of the Calculator is compulsory for FEMAS Participants, but all UFAS and TASCC Participants have the option to use the Calculator via their Kiwa/AIC portal. Guidance on how to use the Calculator can be found in the FEMAS Sector Note:

<https://www.agindustries.org.uk/resource/femas-sector-note-18-calculator-pdf.html>.

If a Participant's risk assessment indicates that the number of tests or type of tests required by the AIC Feed Safety Analysis Calculator are not justified for their specific feed, an application may be made for a derogation.

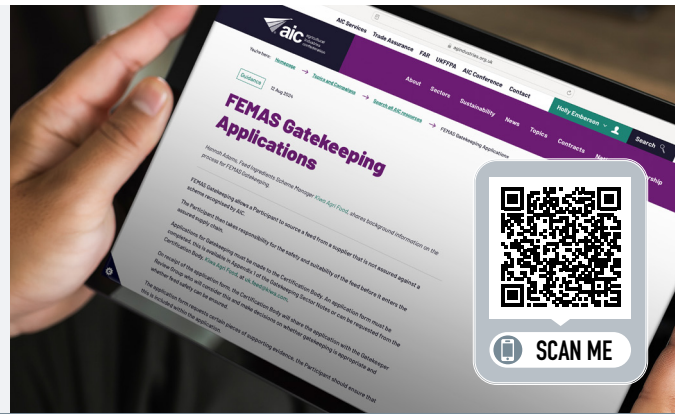
Scan the QR code to find out more about applying for a derogation.



FEMAS Gatekeeping applications

FEMAS Gatekeeping allows a Participant to source a feed from a supplier that is not assured against a scheme recognised by AIC. The Participant then takes responsibility for the safety and suitability of the feed before it enters the assured supply chain.

Scan the QR code to find more out about the process.



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 Communications Manager Oli Hill (oli.hill@agindustries.org.uk).



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Trade Assurance Scheme training - dates for Kiwa Agri Food courses

New dates for training courses which support [AIC's Services Trade Assurance Schemes](#) have been announced for the remainder of 2024.

For more information visit AIC's website by scanning the QR code. Alternatively, to register or discuss further, please contact Kiwa Training UK on 01423 878875 or by emailing uk.training@kiwa.com.



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