

AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme (ASCS)

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ASCS is a new voluntary scheme developed, owned and implemented by the Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)

Background

The ASCS will launch in Q1, 2025 and has been designed with industry input in response to market demands throughout the supply chain. Once certified the Participant will be able to verify or make claims about their supply chains to their customers and stakeholders as well as aligning with legal requirements in this area.

Certification to the ASCS, should help the Participant meet the requirements of sustainability criteria set in this area in a cost effective and pragmatic manner.

The Scheme will offer a series of modules against which Participants in the Scheme will be independently certified to confirm that the sourcing of raw materials and products from geographical areas meets key sustainability goals.

The first modules to be released by the ASCS certify that where raw materials and products are sourced from geographies where forests are at risk, this activity does not result in deforestation, the conversion to agricultural use of land with ecological value, or both. AIC is currently developing two modules within the Scheme to address these concerns:

1

A standard designed for Participants to demonstrate alignment with the EU Regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EUDR).

2

A standard designed for Participants to demonstrate alignment with the UK Forest Risk Commodities Regulation (UKFRC).

Working in support of modern sustainable commercial agriculture

Certification Body and Register of Scheme Participants

The AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme is a Product Certification Scheme delivered by a Certification Body approved by AIC. A list of certified Participants, the products which are within their scope and the modules against which they have been certified will be made publicly available via [AIC's website](#)



AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme rules

AIC's Sustainable Commodities Scheme is a product certification programme. Claims of certification may only be made in relation to those products included within the scope of AIC's Sustainable Commodities Scheme Certificate of Conformity.

The Certification Body will assess a Participant's conformance with each module. The Certification Body shall be given access to all relevant information needed to confirm conformance with the Scheme and the right to inspect third parties subcontracted to perform work covered by the relevant modules, at the Participant's cost.

The Scheme sets out rules relating to the classification of non-conformances, the required responses to non-conformances and rules relating to Scheme suspension, withdrawal and reinstatement.

Compliance certificates will be valid for three years, and certification is maintained subject to the payment of all relevant fees to the Certification Body and ongoing compliance with Scheme requirements, including annual audits.



Compliance with AIC feed safety schemes

It is a prerequisite of ASCS that all raw materials/feeds are also certified under a feed safety Scheme that is either managed by AIC, or recognised as equivalent by AIC.

This requirement will greatly simplify auditing as certain requirements under sections of the Sustainable Commodities Scheme listed below are also common to feed safety schemes recognised by AIC:

- Raw material supply
- Merchenting of sustainable products
- Suppliers of contracted services
- Management of bulk rail or water transport
- Transmission of relevant information
- Labelling and identification
- Operations – Intake, Storage, Processing and Despatch



Rules specific to the EU Deforestation Regulation Aligned Module

The EUDR Aligned Module sets out to demonstrate that Participants handling products within the scope of EUDR have systems in place which are aligned with the requirements of EUDR.

The EUDR Aligned Module cannot confirm that Participants are compliant with the requirements of EUDR, as compliance can only be assessed by the appointed competent authorities. However, being a certified Participant will help meet the regulatory requirements, as appropriate documented procedures and processes will be in place.

The definitions used in the module for forest and deforestation are common to those set out in the Regulation. The module requires that no legal or illegal deforestation has taken place since 31st December 2020.

The EUDR Aligned Module contains sections requiring Participants to demonstrate alignment with the major EUDR Articles:

- Article 4 – Obligations of operators
- Article 8 – Due diligence
- Article 9 – Information requirements
- Article 10 – Risk assessment
- Article 11 – Risk mitigation



AIC EU Deforestation Regulation Aligned Module and supply chain partners

Some supply chain partners have confirmed the requirement to demonstrate that commodities in-scope of EUDR and used in feed, are compliant with the requirements of the Regulation. This is to help ensure the maintenance of market access to the EU for other in-scope commodities such as UK beef supplied from beef and dairy producers.

Other supply chain partners, including the UK Soya Manifesto signatories, have indicated their intention to require their livestock farming suppliers to use 'EUDR compliant' soya in feed as a stepping stone towards the Manifesto commitment of using verified deforestation and conversion free soya in their supply chains by the end of 2025.

AIC's EUDR Aligned Module will be used by these supply chain partners as evidence to verify that the in-scope commodities in feed, supplied by certified Participants in the ASCS, are considered aligned with EUDR requirements.

More information can be found on AIC's website, which will be updated as new information becomes available.

