

TASCCforce

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TRADE ASSURANCE SCHEME FOR COMBINABLE CROPS



Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of TASCCforce. In this issue, we will cover the impact of the continued disruption due to driver shortages, plans for the reintroduction of physical onsite audits, opportunities to get involved in scheme working groups, and major non-conformances by sector.

Please note that AIC has moved its offices to a new location. Please update your records with our new address, shown at the bottom of the last page of this newsletter.



Gill Barrow
Technical Manager

Driver Shortages

The well-publicised shortage of HGV drivers is challenging many parts of the agricultural supply sector, in multiple ways. This is a culmination of several issues that have arisen over the past 18 months, including Covid-19, post-Brexit trade friction, overseas drivers leaving the UK, an ageing (and retiring) workforce, and thousands of cancelled HGV tests.

The agri-supply sector relies on trained drivers to ensure that food hygiene, feed safety, and animal health requirements can be met, as well as dealing with seasonal variation related to harvest and the annual sugar beet campaign. Add to this the ongoing issues with fuel deliveries, and it is inevitable that several businesses have been unable to make collections from or deliveries to farms.

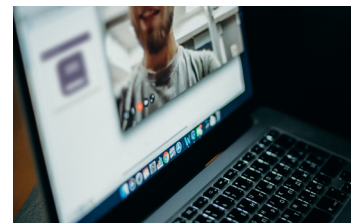
AIC is lobbying Government to take further steps in supporting the agri-supply sector. As things stand, it is very unlikely that current difficulties will improve as we head into winter and 2022.

The TASCC Transport Working Group continues to share industry experiences with relevant AIC Sector Heads and Government departments. Please contact Gill Barrow at AIC regarding any driver shortage issues you are experiencing via gill.barrow@agindustries.org.uk

Remote audit update

TASCC participants have adapted well to virtual working, with remote audits ensuring that feed and food safety has been maintained. The embracing of technology, and cooperation of both participants and auditors is highly valued, which has ensured that feed and food safety has been maintained.

We are phasing in physical audits during autumn. AIC will continue to update participants via Member Briefings regarding the remote auditing process and when a physical onsite audit becomes the default.



New AHDB training modules for analysts

Grain analysts can take advantage of new modules for oats and rye testing, from AHDB. The new modules are available alongside other topics including mycotoxins, barley screenings, peas and beans, and more, all written by industry experts. [Visit the AHDB website and register](#) to view and access all courses.



Vehicle washing site directory

In the previous issue, we invited TASCC certified hauliers with on-site washing facilities to be added to the AIC Transport Washing Sites Directory who supply a third-party washing facility/service. This is a reminder to contact gill.barrow@agindustries.org.uk with your site postal address, TASCC reference number and a list of food grade cleaning chemicals used.



Join the TASCC and Transport Working Groups

We are looking for TASCC Participants in the ROI and NI to join the TASCC Working Group and TASCC Transport Working Group. Each group meets three times a year and meetings can be attended virtually.

To get involved, please email gill.barrow@agindustries.org.uk



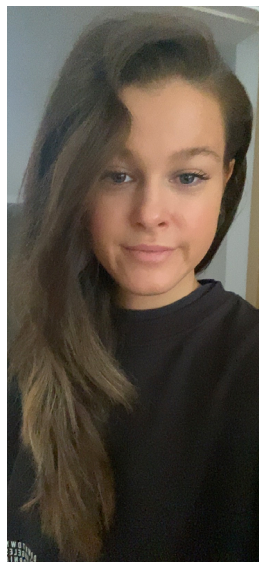
Join the Testing Working Group

If you are a TASCC member with a testing facility and staff experienced at carrying out grain testing under Testing Code requirements, your voice would be welcome in the Testing Working Group. We are looking for new members to ensure that we maintain representation from all types of testing facilities. Working Group members need to attend up to three meetings a year. Currently, these are all virtual, but we plan to hold one in-person meeting every year.

To get involved, please email gill.barrow@agindustries.org.uk

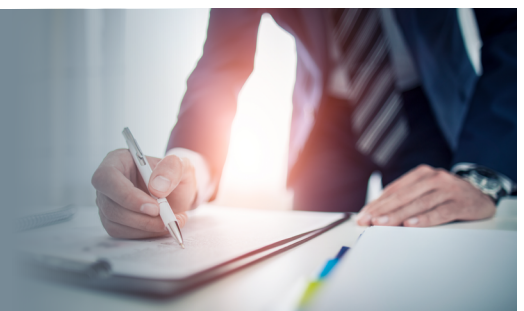
Meet the reviewer

Hattie Lord joined Kiwa as a coordinator for the farm department, but soon took an interest in the feed sector where she eventually started as a technical reviewer four years ago. Many of you will have spoken with Hattie following your TASCC audit. Her role involves reviewing submitted audit reports and assessing the corrective actions and supplied supporting documentation. Whilst Hattie is a technical reviewer, she still carries out assessments herself as a qualified auditor. Her background in farming and agriculture is ideal experience for conducting TASCC audits, as is her continued involvement with various TASCC Working Group Committee Meetings and the development of TASCC templates and forms.



Scheme Development Project

The committee has made progress since December, jointly developing a common set of requirements and wording for the FEMAS, TASCC and UFAS Schemes. The output from this group is now being reviewed by the various Scheme Review Groups. The three new Schemes are scheduled to launch in 2023.



Reviewing major non-conformances by sector

General

Clause No.	Clause wording	Times raised out of 13 major action points	%
G18.1.Ma	There must be a formal food/feed safety HACCP risk assessment	5	38.46
G19.1b.Ma	The system of documentation and records must ensure that food/feed is traceable and can be made available when requested	2	15.38
G10.1.Ma	Participants must have access and comply to the Defra Code of Practice for the Control of Salmonella	1	7.69
G15.1.Ma	Records of registration under feed must be kept to show that applications have been made and/or responses received from the local council or competent authority	1	7.69
G19.1a.Ma	Merchants, Storekeepers and Hauliers must keep traceability records	1	7.69
G21.1.Ma	Internal Audit must be carried out ensuring all relevant activities are covered	1	7.69
G6.3a.Ma	Training records must be maintained for all relevant personnel	1	7.69
G6.3b.Ma	Personnel must be retrained to the new TASCC Scheme within 3 months of its release	1	7.69

Haulage

Clause No.	Clause wording	Times raised out of 6 major action points	%
H3.1b.Ma	If a Haulier has any doubts over an unfamiliar product before loading, they must obtain a Product Specification sheet and contact AIC or the CB	2	33.33
H11.1a.Ma	At collection/delivery points, drivers must be able to show records of the current load and three previous loads carried	1	16.66
H11.1c.Ma	Generic terms must not be used and descriptions must be as detailed as is necessary to accurately identify the goods	1	16.66
H2.4a.Ma	All vehicles, their load carrying areas and equipment, must be cleaned routinely, and sanitised at least every six weeks	1	16.66
H3.1.Ma	Vehicles that have carried material on the AIC Haulage Exclusion list (Appendix 1) or those in the list of differences as shown as Forbidden in the IDTF	1	16.66



Merchant - No major non-conformances within reporting period.

Storage

Clause No.	Clause wording	Times raised out of 20 major action points	%
S10.1f.Ma	Vehicles with incorrect/incomplete identification must be rejected unless written confirmation of approval is received	1	20
S13.1.Ma	Weekly checks must be made and recorded for each store/silo/bay of goods unless shown otherwise through risk assessment and agreed	1	20
S3.2c.Ma	Contamination of Combinable Crops/Feed is prevented from other materials and minimised between different goods stored in the same store/airspace	1	20
S3.2d.Ma	Floor and wall seals which come into contact with the stored product must not contain bitumen	1	20
S3.9b.Ma	Vehicles used for shunting which operate on the public highway must be TASCC Road Haulage Code of Practice assured or equivalent	1	20

Testing - No major non-conformances within reporting period.

Forbidden/Exclusion List Materials

Scheme participants are reminded that any TASCC certified trailer found to be carrying forbidden/exclusion list materials will be removed from the TASCC scheme. As such, it's important to ensure your knowledge in this area is current and correct, and ask for clarification if you are unsure.

Some product names still cause confusion. Fibrophos (produced using fly ash from animal incinerators) may be carried in TASCC certified trailers. However, **Fibrophos from the Thetford plant** remains on the exclusion list and **must not be carried**. **P-Grow**, **Kalfos** and **Tigerfert** (all fly and bottom ash mixtures) products also remain on the forbidden/exclusion list and **must not be carried** in TASCC trailers.

If you are in any doubt about whether a material can be carried please contact AIC or Kiwa for clarification, ideally with a Product Specification Sheet detailing the product details, its content and source.

Sensitive list

Forbidden material

