

UFAS update

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSAL FEED ASSURANCE SCHEME



Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn 2022 edition of UFAS Update. Since the last issue it feels like so much has changed, unfortunately not all for the better. The war in Ukraine is an ongoing human tragedy that has also had a huge impact on the feed industry, energy prices are putting pressure on everyone and as autumn starts we already have one of the worst avian influenza outbreaks in history.

On a positive note, although Covid-19 is still circulating and causing problems, it seems likely that restrictions are a thing of the past, and I hope that participants are feeling the benefits of having on-site UFAS audits once more.



Simon Williams

Technical Manager for AIC Services

Watch our informative feed and food schemes video

AIC Services has produced an animation explaining the role of the feed and food assurance schemes (FEMAS, TASCC, and UFAS) which is available to view on the [AIC YouTube channel](#). The video gives

a basic introduction into AIC schemes and their role in ensuring food and feed safety in the UK and Ireland. Further videos will be produced in the future to explain the role of each scheme in more detail.



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Earned recognition reminder

In 2014, UFAS was initially granted Earned Recognition by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and AIC schemes remain the only non-farm-based schemes to retain their approval since then. Earned recognition means that businesses who can demonstrate consistent compliance with legislation are subsequently visited less frequently by the authorities. The best way to demonstrate compliance is by being certified by a scheme that is recognised by those authorities.

The earned recognition Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is currently undergoing a detailed review to demonstrate that UFAS still meets the required standards, but also to align the contents with the farm assurance schemes that qualify as well. The revised MoU should provide a better flow of information between AIC and the authorities. In turn, this will ultimately assist participants in achieving compliance and build on the strong working relationship that has formed over the past eight years.



Certification Body transition

From 1 March 2022, all UFAS audits have been carried out by auditors working for Kiwa Agrifood, although most of the team will be familiar as they previously audited under LRQA. The transition has progressed smoothly, which is a testament to the hard work and professionalism of the teams at both Kiwa and LRQA. Kiwa continues to strengthen its UFAS team and has been working to ensure that all participant data is correct and up to date.



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza widespread in UK

In common with the rest of Europe, the UK is seeing a significant number of cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in commercial and domestic poultry flocks. For the latest information on cases participants should sign up to receive email updates from the [Animal and Plant Health Agency \(APHA\)](#) and regularly review the information on the government websites:

[England](#), [Scotland](#), [Wales](#) or [Northern Ireland](#).

AIC is in frequent contact with APHA and will provide updates on guidance and best practice as they become available.

Meet Gemma Butcher, KIWA's Technical Reviewer

The Kiwa UFAS team has been further strengthened with the addition of Gemma Butcher as Technical Reviewer. Gemma will become the main point of contact for UFAS participants in resolving action points after audits.

Gemma has previously worked in technical roles within the food industry and has direct experience with the auditing process. She will bring that first-hand understanding to her new role.

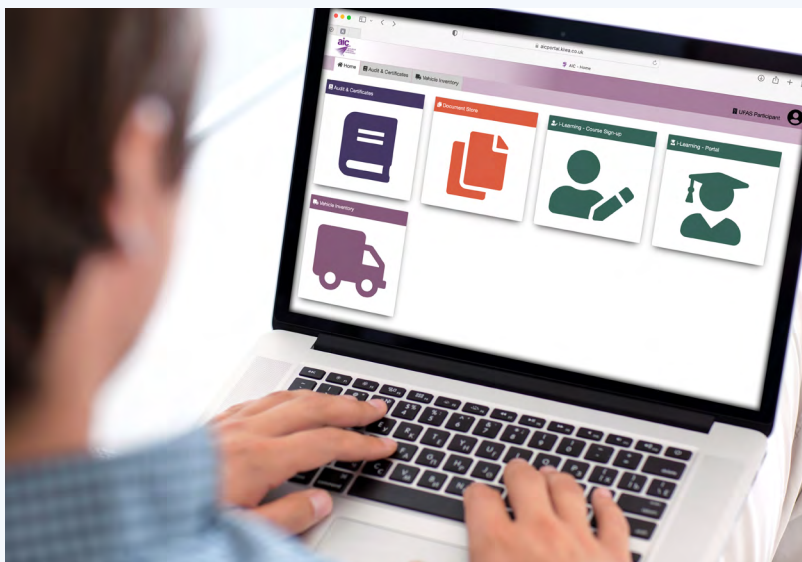


Optional pre-submission of audit documents via UFAS portal – what you need to know

Kiwa has updated the UFAS participant portal to facilitate the uploading of documents for review prior to your audit via the 'Audit & Certificates' button. This is optional and must be agreed with your auditor in advance; it will not replace the requirement to have an on-site visit. The audit will not start until the opening meeting and the auditor will still need to ask questions about the documents uploaded. Pre-submission helps the auditor to be better prepared.

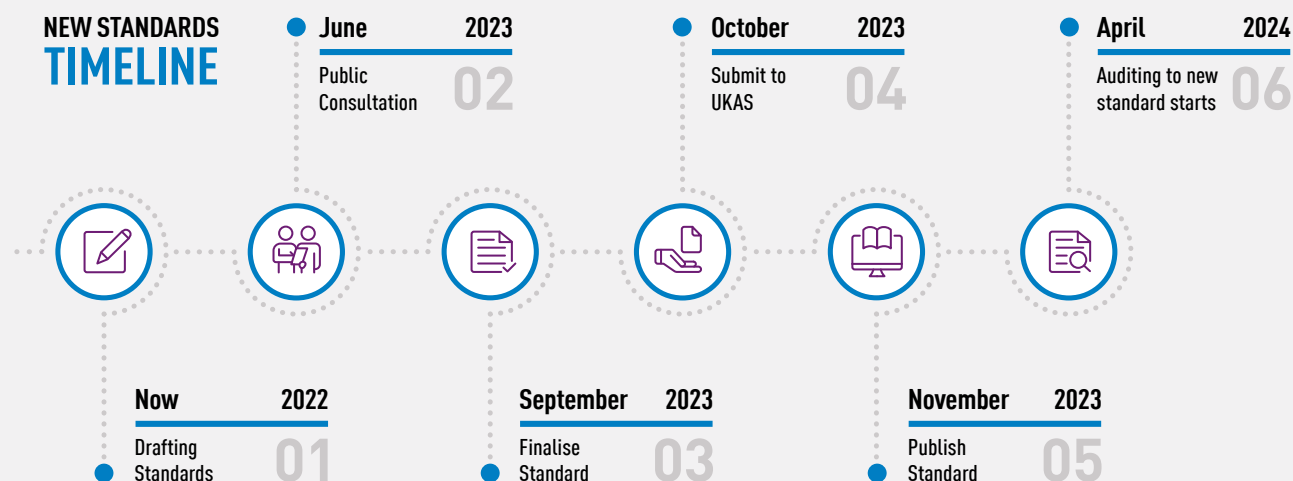
Unlike the remote audits during lockdown, there is no need to upload documents in all categories. However, it would be helpful to agree with your auditor which ones you intend to provide in advance. It is also important to upload the documents to the correct 'Audit Documents' tab in the portal to allow the auditor time-limited access. This should not be confused with the 'Non-Conformances' tab, intended for uploading of any corrective actions.

Participants may find benefit from pre-submitting documents as it will allow the auditor to focus more quickly on the details of the documents during the audit.



UFAS development timeline revised

In previous newsletters, AIC has informed participants about the project to align the requirements and wording of UFAS, FEMAS, and TASCSC more closely. This project is progressing well, but it has now been agreed that the implementation date for the next versions of the schemes will be in the first half of 2024, not 2023 as previously indicated. This is to allow sufficient time for drafting the new common clauses and a full public consultation process prior to the finalised schemes being submitted for approval by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). We will keep you up to date on progress.



Top Non-Conformances

As we return to on-site auditing for the first time in almost two years, it is useful to look at the non-conformances raised in the first few months since the transition. As may be expected, there is some evidence of an increase in the average number of non-conformances, but it is not yet clear if this is significant. We will continue to monitor this closely over the coming months.

The most common non-conformances predominantly fall under similar themes:

Buildings, Maintenance and Hygiene – F1.1 (layout and design of site) remains the top non-conformance, with F1.14 (effective cleaning) close behind in joint third spot and F4.1 (waste) and G6.1 (pest control) in joint fifth.

Training and Competence – in second place is F2.5, the requirement to evaluate competence of personnel after training and every 12 months, and in joint fifth place is F2.3, which requires all personnel to have received training in feed safety relevant to their role.

Incidents and Recall procedures – In joint third place is I 2.2, which requires an up-to-date feed safety incident management procedure. In joint fifth is I 3.5, which requires a recall test every 12 months.

Rounding out the top 10 non-conformances, we also see both E 3.1 (labelling) and G 2.2 (checking of previous three loads and vehicle cleaning at intake) in joint fifth place.

All these non-conformances were raised as minors, indicating that the systems were there but not being followed in all cases.



Submission of Corrective Actions post-audit

By far the best method of submitting corrective actions to any non-conformances raised during your audit is via the participant portal on the 'Non-Conformances' tab in the 'Audits and Certificates' button. It is important that sufficient evidence is included with your corrective actions (e.g. photographs, updated documents, records) to allow the reviewer to close off non-conformances. Failure to upload enough evidence or uploading in the wrong place could delay the completion of the audit follow-up and ultimately affect your certification.

If you or a colleague require access to the participant portal – or you need further guidance – please contact uk.training@kiwa.com or call 01423 878875. For queries regarding audit arrangements, please contact uk.feed@kiwa.com or call 01423 878873.



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