

# TASCCforce

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TRADE ASSURANCE SCHEME FOR COMBINABLE CROPS



## TASCC and COVID-19: Introduction of remote auditing

Life in all areas has changed since COVID-19 restrictions were applied, with the situation often changing daily. The first step taken by the AIC Trade Assurance Schemes was to suspend auditing. The certification bodies and AIC then worked to develop a new approach to enable certification to continue for participants.

Kiwa Agri food began carrying out remote audits across the TASCC scheme on the 14th April. Feedback from participants has been extremely positive. We wish to thank everyone who has taken part.

As with current processes, an auditor contacts you to explain how the audit will be conducted and arrange a convenient method of communication. Options include the AIC Portal to upload certain documents prior to your audit or video conferencing. We are ensuring flexibility for you as participants during this difficult time. The TASCC haulage scheme requires a trailer on site for inspection. This will be conducted via live video link during the audit.

Businesses whose certification covers production, bulk storage and testing will also need to undergo an additional site audit after travel restrictions have been lifted.

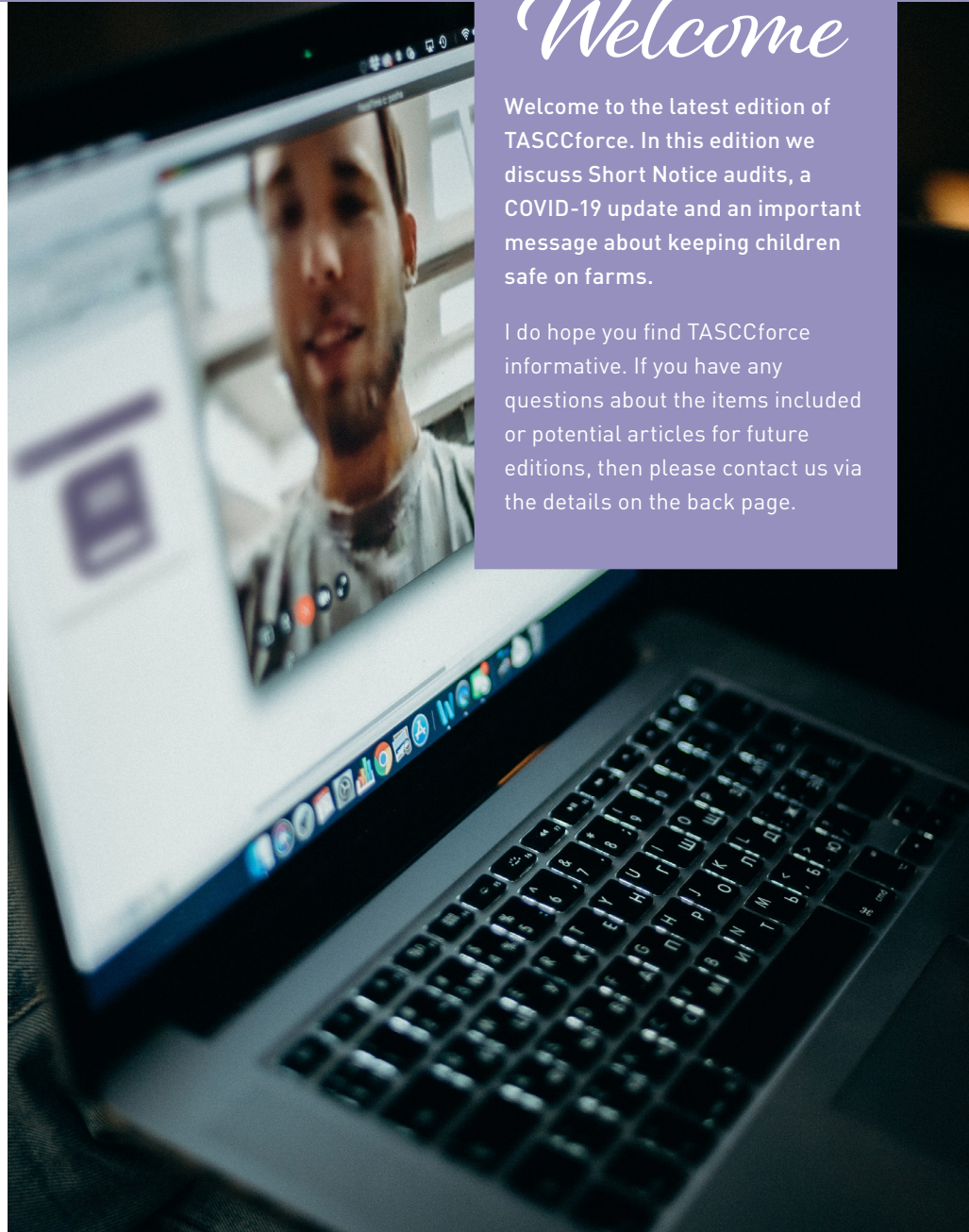
Once the audit is booked, a confirmation email will be sent with links to useful documents to assist you in the audit and usage of the AIC Portal. If you have any questions or need access to the AIC portal, please contact [UK.feed@kiwa.com](mailto:UK.feed@kiwa.com) or ring **01423 878878**.

For more detailed information, please visit our Coronavirus Update webpage: [www.agindustries.org.uk/coronavirus/assurance/](http://www.agindustries.org.uk/coronavirus/assurance/)

## Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of TASCCforce. In this edition we discuss Short Notice audits, a COVID-19 update and an important message about keeping children safe on farms.

I do hope you find TASCCforce informative. If you have any questions about the items included or potential articles for future editions, then please contact us via the details on the back page.





# Short Notice Audits for TASCC

The AIC feed/food schemes (TASCC, UFAS and FEMAS) will be implementing Short Notice Audits from the Spring of 2020. These audits are in response to market demands from customers and stakeholders, who are keen to ensure that the schemes remain robust and future-proofed. A Kiwa assessor will be in touch with you to discuss your audit as you get near to your audit due date.

TASCC storekeepers and hauliers have been subject to short notice audits in the past. These have been in the form of hygiene on-site audits for storekeepers and intake checks for hauliers. The new system will increase the number of audits from 5% to 10% and will include stores, haulage, merchants and testing.

Further information on the different types of audit:

	<p><b>Short Notice Surveillance Audit for Storage, Testing and Merchant participants</b></p> <p>Over a three-year period, one audit will be a Short Notice Surveillance Audit. The Certification Body (CB) will give a maximum of 24 hours' notice. The Short Notice Surveillance Audit will cover all areas of the code of practice/s displayed on the participant's certificate. The other two audits in the cycle will be Surveillance Audits.</p>		<p><b>Spot Audits for Haulage participants</b></p> <p>Haulage Spot Audits at intake/outloading sites will increase from 5% to 10%. Haulage participants will be subject to paperwork and vehicle hygiene checks at various intake sites. These will include feed and flour mills, maltings and ports.</p>
<p><b>Short Notice Hygiene Audit for Storage participants</b></p> <p>Short Notice Hygiene Audits are already in place for Storage participants and these will increase from 5% to 10%. The Certification Body (CB) will give a maximum of 24 hours' notice.</p>		<p><b>Short Notice Traceability Audit for Merchant participants</b></p> <p>There will be similar Short Notice Traceability Audits for Merchants with a target of 10%. This will cover a desktop traceability exercise. The CB will send an email requesting basic information (e.g. sales records for a specific date range) and the merchant will have a set time to respond. The CB chooses products for traceability exercise based on supplied information. The merchant will then have 24 hours to supply this information as per the records section of the TASCC code of practice.</p>	
<p><b>Cost to participants</b></p> <p>Cost will be spread across all storage, merchant and haulage participants.</p>			

## Categorisation of audits:



01

### Surveillance Audit

Annual audit for certified participants.



02

### Short Notice Surveillance Audit

Over a three-year period, one of the surveillance audits will be a Short Notice Surveillance Audit. The Certification Body (CB) will give a maximum of 24 hours' notice. The short notice surveillance audit will cover all areas of the code of practice/s displayed on the participant's certificate. The other two audits in the cycle will be Surveillance Audits



03

### Short Notice Hygiene/ Traceability Audit

Short Notice Hygiene/Traceability Audits will be randomly carried out on 10% of the scheme participants. The Certification Body (CB) will give a maximum of 24 hours' notice. The visits will focus on hygiene



04

### Spot Audit

These will be carried out on 10% of hauliers at intake sites and will include checks on the cleanliness of the trailer and paperwork

## Coronavirus update

Since the coronavirus outbreak AIC has been working hard with Government Ministers, officials and rural stakeholders to represent the key concerns of industry to Government.

In this fast-moving situation, the information and issues we are dealing with change constantly. AIC remains in close contact with Members across all sectors (Animal Feed, Arable Marketing, Crop Protection, Fertiliser and Seed) right across the country. At the current time reports are that supply chains are working hard and holding up as business adapts to the rapidly changing economy. Our top priority is to comply with Government rules to delay the spread of disease, while at the same time ensuring that feed and food supplies continue uninterrupted.

We will continue to stand up on behalf of our Members at this difficult time. For regular updates and further information, visit: [www.agindustries.org.uk/coronavirus/](http://www.agindustries.org.uk/coronavirus/)

### COVID-19 – Keeping children safe at home on the farm

With the closure of many schools across the country children are likely to be at home for some time. HSE is asking all Farm Safety Partnerships in England, Scotland and Wales to circulate the following agreed messages within the industry as widely as possible in order to keep children safe.

- 01 Children should not be allowed in the farm workplace (young children can enjoy outdoor space in a secure fenced area)
- 02 Any access to the work area by children under 16 – for education, knowledge, or experience – should be planned and fully supervised by an adult not engaged in any work activity
- 03 Children under the age of 13 years are specifically prohibited from driving or riding on any agricultural machine



Further guidance can be found on HSE's website: [www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/children.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/children.htm)

## Attendees for the working groups

A call has gone out for attendees to join the working groups – TASCC, Transport and Testing. Generally, three meetings are held per year at AIC Peterborough. Please contact us if interested.



## TASCC review – February 2021

The review of the TASCC Code of Practice has already started, with all three groups meeting at the end of January. United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) have informed AIC that they need a period of six months to go through any new editions of the code before issue. This will impact the total review timetable. As a result, the TASCC Review Group has suggested that the review be extended to February 2021 (instead of February 2020). This would give time for UKAS to look through the revised code and it would also be in line with other AIC schemes.

Again, if you have any comments on how the codes could be potentially improved, then please contact us using the details below.

## VIN numbers

A vehicle identification number (VIN) is a unique code, including a serial number, used by the automotive industry to identify individual motor vehicles. VINs will need to be added to the Vehicle Inventory Database.

Ever wondered what the 17 digits in a VIN means? See the breakdown below for the meaning behind each segment of the VIN:

