

# FIAS update

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FERTILISER INDUSTRY ASSURANCE SCHEME



## Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the FIAS Update.

In this issue we examine the impact of recent challenges to the fertiliser sector, including the ongoing disruption caused by rising global gas prices to fertiliser production and pricing, and shortages of labour and lorry drivers. Read about our plan to return to site audits in 2022, the first six months of FIAS 2021 Standard and the most common non-conformances, as well as an introduction to our new FIAS animation video, pictured here.

Thank you for your continued support of FIAS. Please contact me with any comments or suggestions.



**Roberta Reeve**  
Technical Manager  
for AIC Services

## Supply chain disruption

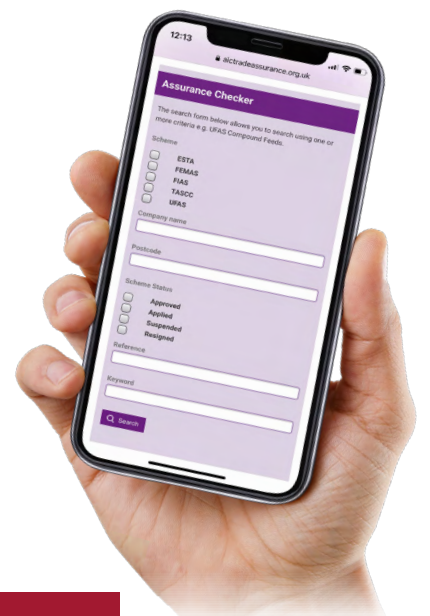
Increasing global gas prices have affected the production of nitrogen fertilisers and pushed prices to new highs, with many farmers now facing difficult decisions about crop feeding plans through winter and next spring. Unfortunately, this disruption to the fertiliser supply chain could continue well into next spring.

Fertiliser shortages and rising prices are also increasing the risk of theft from farms. Fertiliser stock has recently been seen advertised for sale on social media and in local auctions with pictures and storage locations. This is concerning; publicity like this can create security risks and attract unwanted attention.

FIAS participants are asked to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to police (by calling 101). It is also a good time to remind customers of safe and secure storage rules and that it is illegal to sell ammonium nitrate without the correct documentation. Fertiliser suppliers should be FIAS approved, and this can be confirmed via the [AIC Trade Assurance checker](#).

The sector is also facing labour shortages, particularly for trained HGV and ADR drivers. AIC is working with other FIAS stakeholders to lobby Government for further support for the agri-supply sector.

If you have experienced difficulties due to labour shortages, please let us know. Details of practical experiences often lend weight to conversations with government departments.



## FIAS 2021: Most common non - conformances from the first six months



Overall, the new FIAS Standard has been implemented smoothly with no major issues raised. The new single standard format and the template documents have been well received.

The most frequent non-conformances across all sectors of the scheme are listed below, with some information about why the requirement is there and how to meet it.

### Major non-conformances

Clause	Requirement	Times raised out of 5 majors	Reason for requirement and advice on compliance
<b>T7.1</b>	<b>Vehicles</b> Vehicles, whether hired, leased or owned shall be equipped with the necessary safety equipment, identification and documentation for the fertiliser carried, where required by law.	<b>2</b>	Laws regarding Carriage of Dangerous Goods and ADR are in place to protect driver safety and public safety and FIAS requires compliance with legislation.
<b>G1.3</b>	<b>Participant responsibility</b> FIAS participants must ensure that they adhere to the Scheme Rules, General section and the relevant section(s) for the scope of their declared business activities. The owner of the goods at each and every stage of the supply chain, is the responsible party for ensuring compliance with the FIAS standard.	<b>1</b>	A condition of remaining part of FIAS is that participants recognise their responsibility to meet the requirements of the scheme. Failure to do this can result in suspension and ultimately withdrawal.
<b>S6.3 &amp; T6.2</b>	<b>Storage Material receipt and intake Transport – safety and security</b> For materials or products classified as dangerous goods, the relevant transport regulations must be met. ADR requires the appointment of a qualified Dangerous Goods Safety Adviser (DGSA). The Company must hold a copy of the DGSA's current certificate and annual report.	<b>2 total (1 storage, 1 transport)</b>	For both storage and transport, this non-conformance can be easily avoided. Make sure that your DGSA provides you with their current certificate and their annual report for your site. This report should be included in your risk assessment and available for the auditor to see.

### Most common minor non-conformances

Clause	Requirement	Times raised out of 198 minors	Reason for requirement and advice on compliance
<b>G6.2</b>	<b>Personnel and training</b> As a minimum, a designated person must complete the relevant AIC i-learning module or equivalent training package	<b>60 (30%)</b>	This is a new requirement in FIAS 2021. The i-learning modules provide an easy way to introduce FIAS principles. To access these contact Kiwa Training on <b>01423 878875</b> . If an in-house or alternative training is used, the auditor will need to see the content to ensure it covers all relevant FIAS requirements.

<b>G6.1</b>	<p><b>Personnel and training</b></p> <p>The Company shall ensure that all personnel, full-time, part-time and temporary employees and agency staff, are trained and competent to carry out their roles and responsibilities related to FIAS.</p> <p>Records of training and competence shall be kept.</p> <p>Training records shall show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• date</li> <li>• signature and printed name of trainee</li> <li>• trainer information and / or content details</li> </ul>	<b>36 (18%)</b>	When training is completed, it is important to have evidence of it. Make sure a record is kept as detailed in the clause and retain any certificates of completion or qualification.
<b>G18.1</b>	<p><b>Internal audits</b></p> <p>The Company shall plan and conduct internal audits as a means of determining compliance with safety, security, legal, FIAS and Company requirements.</p>	<b>15 (7.6%)</b>	Internal audits tell you how your systems are working – why wait until your FIAS audit? A FIAS internal audit checklist can be downloaded from the FIAS webpage to ensure all areas are covered.
<b>G3.1</b>	<p><b>Management Review</b></p> <p>Senior management shall carry out an annual review of systems and procedures.</p> <p>Record of the annual management review must be documented</p>	<b>12 (6%)</b>	It is important that the senior management or owner/operator of a FIAS approved business reviews the FIAS scheme formally once a year. This shows how well you are complying with the standard and is an opportunity to find any gaps that need attention or resource. Keep a record of your meeting and the outcomes – a template is available on the AIC FIAS webpage.
<b>G20.2</b>	<p><b>Management of incidents and emergencies</b></p> <p>The Company shall have a documented procedure that outlines the actions to be taken in the event of any suspicious or unusual activity.</p>	<b>11 (5.6%)</b>	FIAS participants may handle fertiliser products that could be used to cause harm. For some materials it is mandatory under law to report suspicious activity to the authorities – see the guidance in the standard for more details. Having a documented procedure with clear steps to follow is important to help the reporting process.
<b>T6.2 &amp; S6.3</b>	<p><b>Transport - Safety and security</b></p> <p><b>Storage material receipt and intake</b></p> <p>For materials or products classified as dangerous goods, the relevant transport regulations must be met. ADR requires the appointment of a qualified Dangerous Goods Safety Adviser (DGSA). The Company must hold a copy of the DGSA's current certificate and annual report.</p>	<p><b>Total 11 (5.6%)</b></p> <p><b>[Transport 7 (3.5%) + Storage 4 (2%)</b></p>	This non-conformance can be easily avoided. Make sure that your DGSA provides you with their current certificate and their annual report for your site. This report should be included in your risk assessment and available for the auditor to see.
<b>M3.1</b>	<p><b>Product advice</b></p> <p>The Company shall ensure that all fertiliser related agronomic or usage advice to the customer is provided by a current FACTS Qualified Adviser.</p> <p>The Company must be able to demonstrate that all its FACTS Qualified Advisers are up-to-date in their knowledge with current Membership of the BASIS Professional Register.</p>	<b>5 (2.5%)</b>	A simple way to check status is by asking for the annual ID card issued to FACTS Qualified Advisers - this is dated and provides confirmation of their qualified status. Another way is to contact BASIS on <b>01335 340858</b> or <a href="mailto:help@basis-reg.co.uk">help@basis-reg.co.uk</a>

If you have any queries about FIAS Standard 2021 and how it should be applied, contact Jaclyn Redman, FIAS Scheme manager at Kiwa Agri Food [Jaclyn.redman@kiwa.com](mailto:Jaclyn.redman@kiwa.com) 01423 878873 or Roberta Reeve at AIC Services [roberta.reeve@agindustries.org.uk](mailto:roberta.reeve@agindustries.org.uk) 01733 385244.

## A Phased Return to Physical Audits

Thanks to all FIAS participants and auditors for adapting to different technologies and remote audits while under coronavirus restrictions.

A return to physical site audits is now underway, but we remain mindful of the changing restrictions and will prioritise a safe approach for all.

By 1st April 2022 we plan to return to full site audits as a default for all participants, unless agreed in advance with Kiwa Agri Food.

From 1st January, a phased approach will operate. Manufacturing and storage sites will have either a physical site or hybrid audit; merchant and transport audits may be either a hybrid or remote audit.

Details of changes are issued by AICS via briefings and the website. The latest issue is available here [www.agindustries.org.uk](http://www.agindustries.org.uk)



## Auditor Training

Kiwa held the annual training of FIAS auditors in October. This forum allows discussion around issues arising from audits, the audit process, and keeps auditors up to date with interpretations and changes in legislation. This time, the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) gave a presentation about its role and how FIAS supports the unit in countering terrorism.

## FIAS and Red Tractor

Red Tractor Farm Assurance has issued new standards from 1st November 2021. The Fresh Produce, Crops and Sugar Beet Standards both contain a new clause which references FIAS and provides a link to the website for further information:

**EC.9.5 Documentary evidence must be kept which demonstrates that manufactured fertiliser is responsibly sourced and traceable, e.g., from a Fertiliser Industry Assurance Scheme (FIAS) approved supplier.**

The suggested records are invoice or delivery documents, so merchants may find they are asked for evidence of their FIAS status. This can be included on paperwork or through reference to the Trade Assurance checker.

## FIAS Animation

AIC and AIC Services are developing a series of animated videos to explain and highlight the work of each sector and the trade assurance schemes.

The FIAS video explains the role of the scheme in assuring the safe, secure, and traceable supply of fertiliser within the UK, showing the supply chain, stakeholders involved, and audit process.

Please use the animation to promote understanding of FIAS on your websites, social media, with customers, new staff, or as part of in-house training programs.



## AIC Fertiliser Safety leaflet

The AIC Fertiliser sector has issued a new Fertiliser Safety leaflet, which you can use with customers, on your websites, on social media, and for training:

[“Think Safe, Be Safe”](#)

Other useful documents:

[NaCTSO secure Your Fertiliser 5 point plan](#)

[AIC Ammonium Nitrate Fertiliser Safety Checklist](#)

[AIC Fertiliser Health & Safety guidance](#)



## FIAS Driver CPC training

Following the success of the TASCC Driver CPC course, Kiwa has registered a FIAS version with JAUP and is currently working on the content. Further information will be circulated as soon as possible, with the launch planned for early 2022.