

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TRADE ASSURANCE SCHEME FOR COMBINABLE CROPS

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of *TASCCforce*. In this edition, we look at the major changes being proposed for the next revision of the TASCC Codes due to be issued in February 2014.

We also look at Health & Safety and Training. While these two issues can sometimes be treated as an afterthought, both subjects are critical to your business in the long term,

so please take time to read these articles.

We hope you find this issue of *TASCCforce* informative; if you have any queries or suggestions for topics to be covered in future editions, then please contact Garry Rudd at AIC Services (see back page for contact details).

Essential workwear to meet safety standards

With the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) focussing its attention on the agricultural industry, it is timely to remind TASCC participants to ensure that they have the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) for themselves and employees.

Site variance

As intake sites each have PPE rules that vary by location, hauliers must ensure that drivers have – and wear – the correct PPE to comply with site rules. It has been proven that hauliers who observe intake site rules often get preference for repeat business.



Cleaning vehicles on site

On-site sweeping out after delivering product has become an issue in recent months. The matter is becoming more difficult as some intakes' health and safety procedures deem it necessary to clean off site. However, a haulier sweeping out in a public layby is both dangerous and illegal.

AIC schemes insist that trailers must be clean before loading, therefore intakes must provide a place to clean. If you know of any sites that do not provide facilities or permit cleaning out, please inform Garry Rudd (contact details on the back page).

Similarly, we would appreciate knowing of sites that provide suitable facilities, so we can gather evidence that shows the industry is responding to drivers' needs.

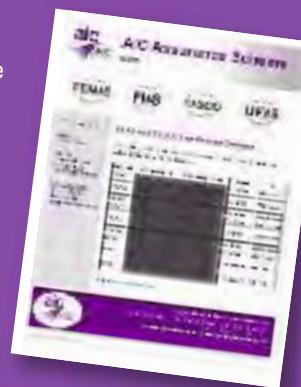


Inside

- TASCC code review
- Training
- Health and safety
- Assurance alerts
- Non conformances

Assurance alerts

AIC Service's is sending 'Assurance Alerts' to all registered assurance scheme participants. These emails give details of certification status changes. At most, there will be one a day sent around 4pm although there will be some days where an alert is not required.



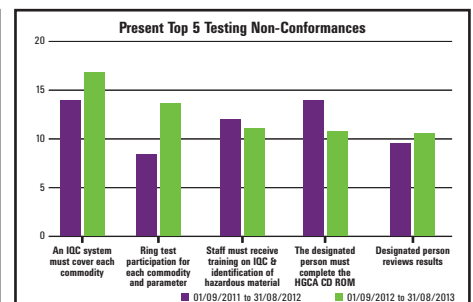
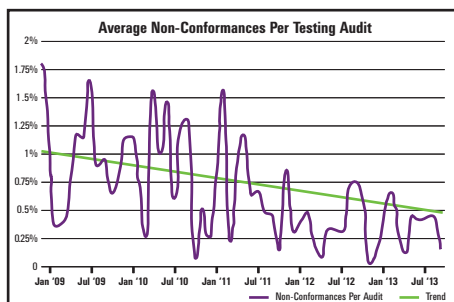
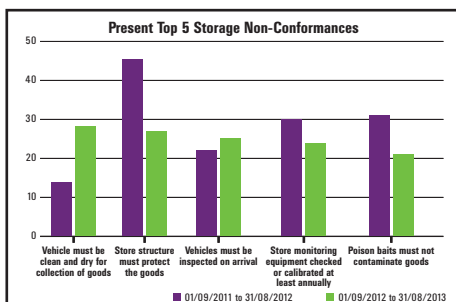
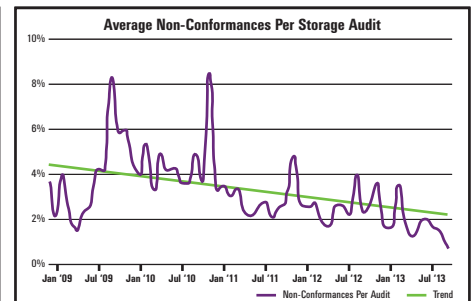
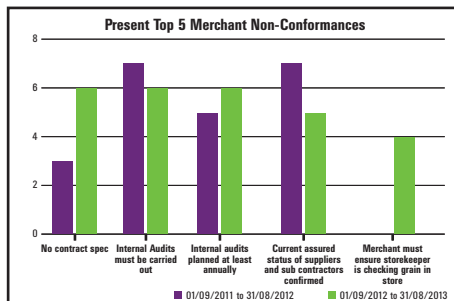
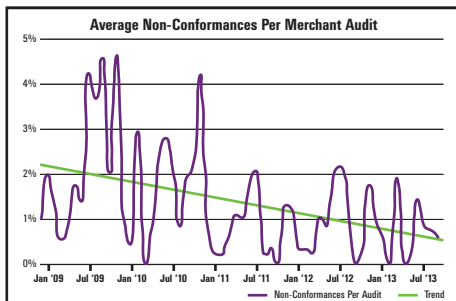
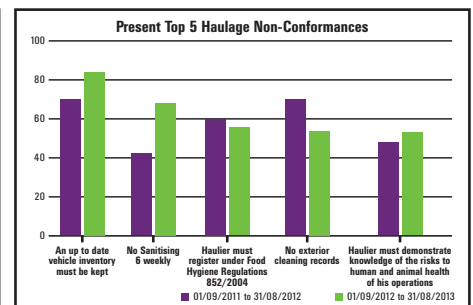
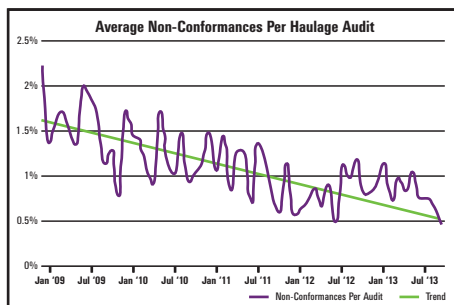
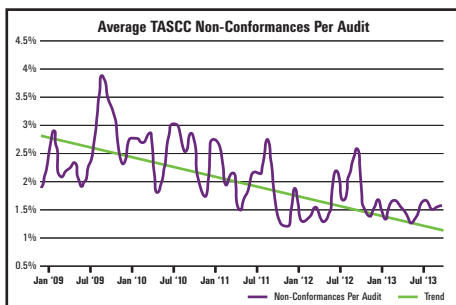
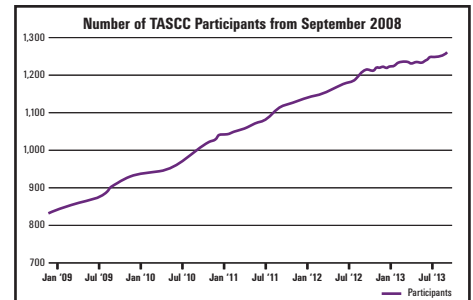
If you wish to receive these alerts, then please send an email to Garry Rudd on garry.rudd@agindustries.org.uk asking to be added to the distribution list.



TASCC participant numbers continue to rise and Non Conformances decline

Despite being in operation for ten years, the numbers of TASCC participants continues to grow (right). As the Scheme has become established, the overall numbers of non-compliances has reduced overall.

Against this background, TASCC auditors pay particular attention to areas which have not seen a reduction over the past two years. This include such matters as having an up to date trailer inventory as required in the Haulage code. Although it is pleasing to see this reduction of non conformances, it is important that we must not get complacent and ensure food and feed safety remains at the top of our agenda.



Feedback Prize Draw winner - Fox Feeds

The latest winner of the Feedback Form Prize Draw is UFAS/FEMAS participant Fox Feeds based in Buntingford, Hertfordshire. The company produces forage feeds for the equine industry and operates a forage dehydration plant.

The next draw takes place in early 2014. Simply send in a TASCC feedback form to qualify.

Frances Sheffield, Technical Director of Fox Feeds (pictured left) collects her prize from AIC's Simon Williams.





Code review for 2014 we want your views

After input from the TASC Working Group, we are undertaking an extensive consultation and would welcome your views.

The proposed revised Codes are currently subject to a six week consultation during September and October. They are being sent to stakeholders, but can also be viewed on the AIC website (www.aictradeassurance.org.uk/tascc/documents/consultation-for-the-tascc-codes-of-practice-effective-from).

We really want to hear from TASC participants to ensure the proposed Codes are practical and are easy to understand. Following the consultation period, the Codes will be finalised and will come into force in February 2014.

Following the launch we plan to host a series of TASC Seminars during February and March to explain the changes. More information will be available shortly.

Meet the TASC WORKING GROUP

Sarah Cox
Quality Assurance Manager
– Frontier Agriculture

I have worked for Frontier for 17 years dealing with growers, grain consumers, hauliers, storekeepers, laboratories and other grain merchants. This has given me a sound understanding of the complexity of the supply chain as well as the need for transparency and traceability. I have also gained an appreciation of the challenges that each link of the chain faces.

The TASC Working Group Committee meets to address changes to regulations and new industry requirements. Through this group, and the experience of members like me, TASC is able to assess the necessity and practicality of proposed new practices before their introduction.

The Committee ensures the rules of new codes are current, practicable and achievable across the supply chain. In particular, we provide guidance to smaller companies, enabling them to achieve and maintain TASC status.

The key Code changes at a glance

The highlights of the proposed changes are below.

Scheme Rules

- List of recognised schemes now on the TASC Web page
- Non-conformances now rated as Critical, Major and Minor

Haulage Code

- All trailers must bear labels with the trailer number (as before) and, in addition, with the participants TASC number on both sides and rear of trailer
- Tighter rules for Wholly Contracted Hauliers
- Updated Exclusion and Sensitive lists
- Opportunities for Trailer Hire Companies to join TASC

Storage Code

- Amendments to sampling rules
- All stores should provide an area for hauliers to clean out trailer
- Tighter training procedures

Merchant Code

- New requirement relating to the Renewable Energy Directive (RED)
- Tighter rules for Wholly Contracted Hauliers
- Detailed requirements for assured crops
- Tighter training procedures

Testing Code

- Amendments to sampling procedures
- Tighter training rules

If you have any comments or wish to propose further amendments, please contact Garry Rudd.



Interactive learning projects

AIC has been involved in two projects that provide on-line, interactive learning.

1 An online haulage module is being developed by PAI, the TASCC certification body. The module covers all aspects of the TASCC code including vehicle cleaning as well as the Sensitive and Exclusion lists. Specific modules will address the needs of transport managers and drivers. The module is designed to be monitored by transport managers and will be auditable by PAI inspectors.

Work has also begun on a TASCC Storage module. If these initial modules prove popular, then this style of training will be rolled out to other AIC schemes.

It is hoped that the haulage module will be available by the end of 2013.

2 HGCA, with AIC input, is updating its wheat and barley testing training modules and will make them available on the HGCA website www.hgca.com.

It is expected that the updated cereal modules, along with a new one for oilseed rape will be available in the first quarter of 2014.



Driver CPC closing date draws near

Hauliers are reminded that the first round of Driver CPC (Certificate of Professional Competence) periodic training has less than 1 year to go before the closing date of September 2014. To ensure drivers retain their entitlement to drive, 35 hours of periodic

training must be completed by this date. Failure to complete the required training will result in the suspension of driving entitlement.



Further information can be found on the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/driver-certificate-of-professional-competence-cpc/overview>

Helping to achieve safe deliveries to farms

AIC's Feed Sector Health and Safety Forum (in conjunction with the Farm Safety partnership which includes the NFU and HSE) is producing relevant information for delivery drivers and on safe delivery of animal feeds to farms. The information, due to be issued during quarter 4 of 2013, aims to ensure that

the industry shares good practice and knowledge, and adopts common standards.

Topics covered include poor access and lighting, unsafe and home-made storage bins, uneven or unstable ground, visitors and children in the yard, overhead cables and traditional buildings (which are simply

too small). To ensure comprehensive distribution of the messages, feed companies will receive a guidance booklet while a 4 page pamphlet will be sent to farms by AIC, NFU and other relevant trade bodies.



For further information contact:

Garry Rudd, Technical Manager

AIC Services Ltd

Confederation House, East of England Showground,
Peterborough PE2 6XE

T: 01733 385230 F: 01733 385270

E: enquiries@agindustries.org.uk

