

TASCC force

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TRADE ASSURANCE SCHEME FOR COMBINABLE CROPS



Welcome

Change is in the air. At the time of writing, life is – at last – starting to return to some state of normality.

As an industry, we can be proud of the resilience, adaptability and hard work we've shown facing an unprecedented challenge. We intend to maintain this momentum and ensure TASCC delivers effective and efficient assurance for the UK agri-supply industry.



Gill Barrow
Technical Manager

New TASCC Scheme

On 1st April, the new TASCC Codes of Practice for Haulage, Merchants, Storage and Testing Facilities came into effect. A panel of industry experts took part in the review process to ensure the codes are practical, in line with the latest regulations, reflective of current working practices, and meet the needs of feed and food safety customers.

All new and updated clauses are highlighted in the codes for ease of reference – please be sure to take a moment and see what has changed. Some previous clauses have been broken up into smaller

individual clauses for ease of compliance and auditing. Appendices, checklists and templates have been updated to conform with the 2021 scheme. All of these are available now on the AIC website.



i-learning – new TASCC modules

New i-learning modules are now available via the Kiwa training portal, in line with TASCC Codes update. i-learning is available for the whole scheme and top-up modules have been created specifically for the 2021 update. These new modules can only be completed after obtaining a certificate for finishing the full 2018 i-learning course.



Physical audits set to return

We are delighted to announce that physical auditing is expected to resume in the late spring. This is, of course, dependent on the continued loosening of restrictions and all visits will adhere to the necessary government guidelines and site-specific protocols.

A year has now passed since the introduction of remote auditing. In that time, the auditing process has evolved at a quick pace, especially thanks to the uploading of documents via the Kiwa Portal. We are likely to retain some aspects of remote auditing going forward to maintain that higher efficiency.



Hauliers: have your voice heard at the Transport Working Group

Are you a haulier with experience of carrying materials under TASCC certification? Are you available to attend 3 meetings a year? If so, we would like to hear from you. Our Transport Working Group is an opportunity to share important information, meet fellow Members in the industry, determine future projects, and make sure that everybody is aligned to the same goals. All meetings are currently held virtually but we hope to meet in person at least once a year. Your input would be very welcome. To join, please email gill.barrow@agindustries.org.uk

Safe cleaning out of vehicles

Trailer hygiene is a vital aspect of feed and food safety assurance. As stated by the TASCC Code of Practice for Road Haulage, trailers must be cleaned/swept out after each delivery and the residue disposed of according to the delivery site's instruction.

The Transport Working Group have engaged with a number of industry bodies to ensure this practice is permitted and carried out safely as per site protocols and haulier procedures. If you attend a site without an area for safe cleaning of your vehicle, be sure to notify us at gill.barrow@agindustries.org.uk



Vehicle washing directory

Are you a TASCC certified haulier with on-site washing facilities? Make sure you are listed on the AIC Transport Washing Sites/Companies Directory. Please contact gill.barrow@agindustries.org.uk with your site postal address, TASCC reference number and a list of the food grade cleaning chemicals used.





AHDB Analyst Training

Please can all permanent and temporary staff who test samples complete the relevant grain analyst training modules provided by AHDB as soon as possible. The TASCC Testing Facilities Code of Practice requires all personnel involved with testing to do so.

The Quality Assurance module provides information on meeting the requirements of Internal Quality Control (IQC), including the new and updated clauses of T12 Internal Quality Control:

- preparation of IQC samples
- using maximum tolerances for checks on performance of balances, dispenser and measuring cylinders
- taking action when IQC results show offset and/or drift

In-house checks must be prepared following AHDB guidance. Samples may still be obtained from third parties but the value must be established following instructions in the AHDB Quality Assurance module.

All modules have been written by industry experts and cover the testing of wheat, barley, rapeseed, peas and beans. Additional modules for oats and rye will be added soon.

To access the modules, please visit the AHDB website and register. All courses can be viewed prior to registration at ahdb.talentlms.com/catalog



New representatives sought for Testing Working Group

Are you a TASCC member with a testing facility? Do you have staff experienced at carrying out grain testing under the requirements of the Testing Code? We would like to hear from you.

The Testing Working Group are looking for new members to ensure representation from all types of testing facilities. The meetings give you a chance to meet and communicate with other industry professionals, shape the direction of projects, and stay updated on all the latest information. Representatives would need to attend up to 3 meetings a year. Currently, these are held virtually but we intend to hold at least one physical meeting each year. To sign up or find out more, email gill.barrow@agindustries.org.uk



Update for short notice audits

Short notice audit rules have been updated for 2021. Merchants, storage and testing participants will face one short notice audit over a three-year period.

The participant will be given one working day's notice. In addition, haulage participants will be subject to spot audits carried out at intake and outloading sites of mills, maltings and ports. Full on-site inspections have continued throughout the pandemic thanks to the full cooperation of participants.

Alert: New rules for hired & leased vehicles

Please be aware that all rigid vehicles and trailers hired or leased will need to be from a TASCC certified company from April 2022. For leased/leasing vehicles, this is in reference to short-term hire rather than financially leasing a vehicle into your fleet. Please email gill.barrow@agindustries.org.uk for information on how to become certified.



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