

FIAS Update

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FERTILISER INDUSTRY ASSURANCE SCHEME



Welcome

Welcome to the Winter 2024 edition of FIAS Update.

In this issue we share the news that the next review of the FIAS Standard will start in January 2025 and look at new tools and documents to support Participants.

As ever, if you have questions, suggestions, or topics you would like to see covered, please get in touch.

AIC welcomes your views and we look forward in particular to hearing your thoughts for the next FIAS Standard.



Roberta Reeve
Technical Manager
for AIC Services

FIAS Standard review begins

Almost four years since issue five of the FIAS Standard became effective in April 2021, the FIAS Working Group has agreed to begin the process of review with the aim of implementing a new Standard in late 2026/early 2027.

Regular reviews are essential to keep the Standard up to date and relevant for our Participants' operations.

The aim is to maintain the principles of the traceability, security, and safety of the fertiliser supply chain and ensure that certification to the Standard supports Participants in their compliance with these principles, legal compliance, and good practice within a changing business and regulatory environment.

The review process is lengthy and has several stages, such as gathering views before detailed discussion about the

current clauses and any proposed changes. Time is allocated for consultation with committees, stakeholders, and the public in 2025, as well as the accreditation of the scheme and update to certification scope by the UK Accreditation Service (UKAS), and preparation of new documents, training, and communication before launch in 2026.

Key inputs include non-conformances trends and feedback from the Certification Body and auditors as these could highlight areas where extra clarity is needed in the wording or where additional guidance is needed.

Most of all Participant feedback is vital as to how FIAS works for you – what is good and what could be improved. To this end, a short survey will be sent to all FIAS Participants by the end of the year.

Please use this opportunity to provide your thoughts on the scheme so they can be included in the review.

This work will start in January 2025 with regular progress updates.



Managing third party risks from ammonium nitrate fertiliser operations

AIC, in conjunction with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), has launched a tool to help businesses storing ammonium nitrate on site to comply with the requirements to carry out on-site risk assessments modelling the consequences in the event of an incident occurring that necessitates evacuation or an emergency response.

The Ammonium Nitrate Fertiliser Safety Radius Calculator (Fertiliser Safety tool) will model scenarios based on tonnages of ammonium nitrate stored on site and help you calculate the distances to properties at risk from your operations. It is a requirement under Section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work Act, to identify and manage those risks to a minimum.

The tool can also provide you with documentation to help support you in demonstrating compliance.

FIAS Participants storing any quantity of ammonium nitrate will find this a very useful asset in working out their hazard radius and affected zones for development of their risk assessments and emergency plans.

Understandably, access to this tool is restricted to those with relevant operations and is via application. You can apply for access via the QR code.

You will need to be registered with an active AIC account to apply.



Coming soon: FIAS i-learning courses have been updated

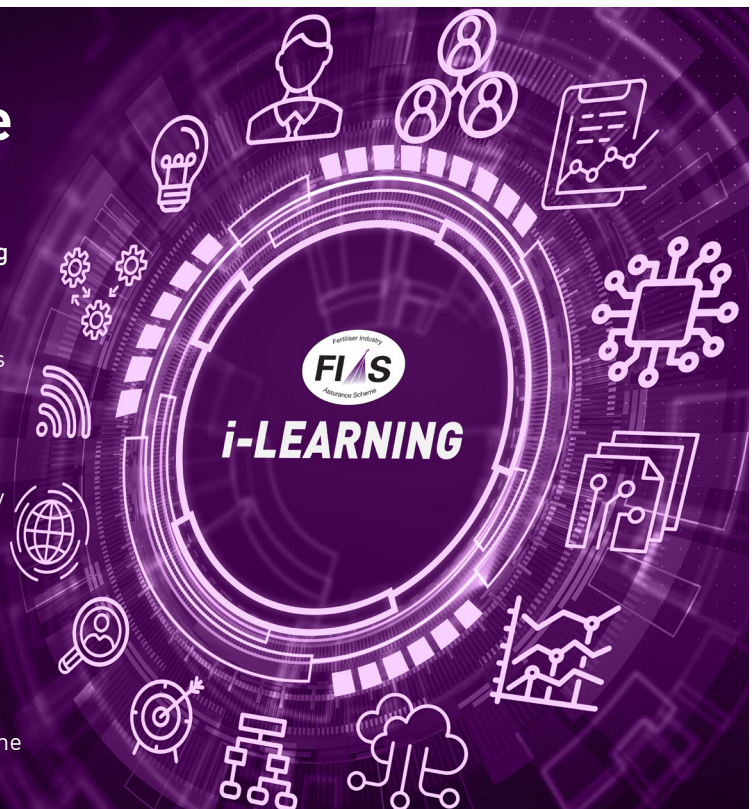
Updated online courses are in the final stages of testing and are expected to be released to Participants in early 2025.

Kiwa and AIC have developed a new look for the courses which are now more engaging and interactive than the current modules.

The FIAS Standard requires that one designated person has completed the i-learning. While it is not compulsory to complete the new version, it is recommended to so as a refresher. The courses are ideally suited to use for training a wider audience in your operations.

As an introduction to FIAS specific to business sectors, the courses are also ideal to use as part of induction courses for staff.

Look out for a briefing to all Participants on release of the new courses.



Reminder: Control of Explosive Precursors and Poisons Regulations (CEPPR)

These Regulations came into force in October 2023 and one of the requirements is to ensure that the customer information held by a seller of regulated substances is no more than 18 months and existing records must be reverified every 18 months. Compliance will therefore be due from 1 March 2025.

Many FIAS suppliers and distributors have chosen to do this on a rolling basis as customers place new orders.

One year on from implementation of the Regulations, we asked some FIAS businesses how they achieved compliance and how they found the process. Some comments from Participants are included below, with the full case studies set to be added to the FIAS pages of AIC’s website soon.

What is the business approach to the requirement to reverify customer information every 18 months?

“As we are a desktop merchant our customer base is known to be fairly small scale, therefore this requirement is viewed as unnecessary. However, we have procedures in place for customer details to be reviewed annually.”

“The business is using the customer accounting software to store and verify the information stored. There is a computer automated prompt which highlights when the information needs to be re-validated.”

How easy was it to comply with the CEPPR?

Response 1: “An initial advice letter was distributed to our customers ahead of 1/10/23, but we found very few responding with the required information before this. Most were placing orders and then we were requesting photo ID before the order could be completed.”

Response 2: “Despite an extensive marketing campaign, we encountered challenges around what the customer perception of the rules and legislation were vs the reality.

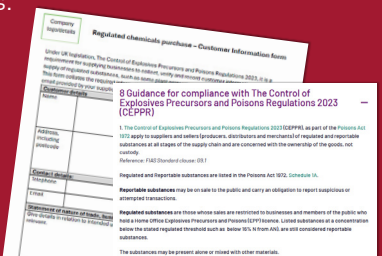
“This took some time to overcome as we had to educate our customers on the legislation, to remain legally compliant to trade.

“Point of Sale controls were relatively easy to implement with our modern software platform and staff awareness and training mirrored the government guidance.”

Following on from the last issue of FIAS Update, new documents have been added to the FIAS webpages to support Participants’ compliance with The Control of Explosives Precursors and Poisons Regulations 2023 (CEPPR).

These are:

- An additional Appendix to the FIAS 2021 Standard. Appendix 8 provides guidance on how CEPPR relates to clauses within the FIAS 2021 Standard.
- A template document to aid the collection of the CEPPR verification information for regulated chemicals including some fertiliser and crop protection materials. Participants can use this to ensure that all the data required by the Regulations is collected from customers for regulated substances. It also assists customers who are supplying the same information to several suppliers.



FIAS Earned Recognition update

Earned Recognition is an agreement between the Department for Transport (DfT) and AIC Services for FIAS Participants involved in the Carriage of Dangerous Goods (CDG) and ADR.

FIAS certification demonstrates compliance with those regulations and means those certified hauliers have a lower risk rating – a key benefit.

AIC Services submits data regularly to DfT to ensure that standards are maintained to meet the requirements of the agreement.

Verification of regular operation of FIAS is aided by attendance of the DfT Compliance team at a FIAS audit. Completed in September, this demonstrated the high standard to which audits are conducted and gave confidence in FIAS procedures and processes.

Department for Transport survey

FIAS businesses involved in the consigning and transport of dangerous goods must have a Dangerous Goods Safety Adviser (DGSA) to safely and correctly move those goods to comply with the law.

DfT are currently running a survey for DGSAs to find out more details of challenges encountered and what could be improved in the system and support available.

Their survey can be accessed here and is open until 17 January 2025.



Become a trade assurance scheme case study

AIC Services is inviting Participants of its trade assurance schemes to contribute to a series of case studies, promoting the value of assurance in feed, food, and fertiliser safety.

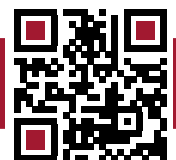
If your business is a Participant of any of AIC's Trade Assurance Schemes and you would like to find out more about being featured as a case study, please register your interest by emailing AIC's Head of Communications Oli Hill (oli.hill@agindustries.org.uk).



DELIVERING
ADDED VALUE SERVICES
TO THE AGRI-SUPPLY SECTOR

Useful information

FIAS webpages: Scroll and search to find the Trade Assurance Checker, FIAS documents and templates, videos and help on the FIAS scheme, Kiwa audits, and access to the Participant portal.



Trade Assurance Consultant Register (TACR)

Find out details of registered consultants who can support you on FIAS certification and compliance, by visiting our [consultants register](#) page.



Training

FIAS i-learning - Login details are available from Kiwa on: ukfias@kiwa.com or call 01423 878873
Videos - including "How to access the Portal" and "What to expect at your audit"

ACT | ACTION COUNTERS TERRORISM
Awareness



Protect UK

Information about security issues, general counter terrorism guidance, ACT Awareness e-learning. Protect UK can be downloaded from: Google Play or Apple's App Store.



Agricultural Industries Confederation Limited
First Floor, Unit 4 The Forum,
Minerva Business Park, Lynch Wood,
Peterborough, PE2 6FT.
Tel: 01733 385230
Email: enquiries@agindustries.org.uk



Kiwa Agri Food is the Certification Body for FIAS
Kiwa Agri Food
The Inspire, Hornbeam Square West,
Harrogate, HG2 8PA
Tel: 01423 878873
Email: uk.fias@kiwa.com



Design & Development by RDP