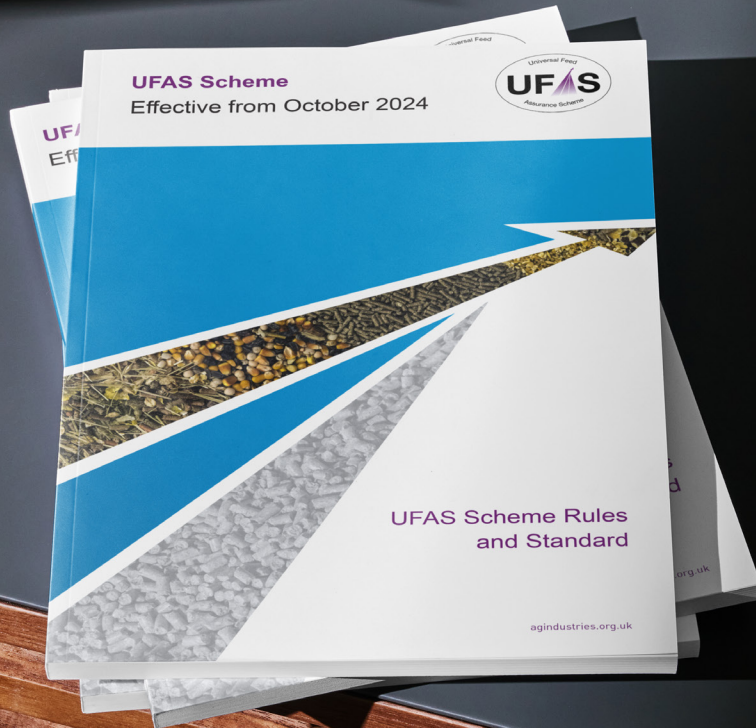


UFAS update

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSAL FEED ASSURANCE SCHEME



Welcome

Welcome to the summer 2024 UFAS Update newsletter. Some important news for Participants is that the implementation of the new UFAS 2024 Standard, in line with FEMAS and TASCC, has been delayed until 1 October 2024, meaning scheme Participants have extra time to prepare.



Simon Williams

Technical Manager for AIC Services

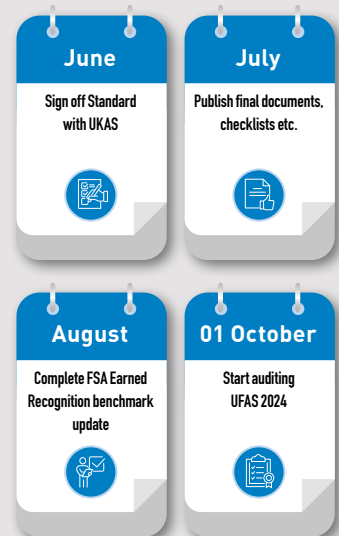
Changed UFAS 2024 Implementation date

AIC Services has decided to postpone the implementation date - originally set as 1 June 2024 - because approval of the updated Standards by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) has taken longer than expected.

There are also some outstanding actions to complete, and these need to be verified by UKAS before the new Standards can be implemented.

It is essential that the schemes have UKAS accreditation to maintain their valuable Earned Recognition with the Government and agencies, hence the decision to postpone the implementation.

Participants will be kept updated with any developments. For further queries, please contact Simon Williams (simon.williams@agindustries.org.uk)



Veterinary Medicines Regulations amendment implementation

At the end of April, the amendments to the Veterinary Medicines Regulations (VMR) were signed by the Minister, and came into force on 17 May 2024.

This timescale and plans for implementation and any transitional arrangements for these changes were not widely communicated by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD).

AIC will continue to review the changes and provide updates to Members and Participants as we gain clarity on the impacts on the feed industry.

In the meantime Participants are encouraged to visit the [VMD information hub](#), with the guidance page for [Manufacture and supply of medicated feeding stuffs](#) being of particular interest.

The amended VMR is also now available as a consolidated online resource on the [legislation.gov.uk website](#). Users should select "Latest available (Revised)" on the top left of the page.

The VMD Information Hub pages are currently changing very frequently, but it is now possible to sign up to receive email alerts when changes are made by clicking the "Get emails about this page" link.



Supplier approval

Feed suppliers

Some of the most significant changes in the UFAS 2024 Standard, which also featured highly in the discussions at AIC's Food/Feed Trade Assurance Scheme Seminars, are those relating to supplier approval.

It has been a requirement of UFAS for 20 years that all suppliers of feeds (including feed materials and feed additives) are certified Participants of a scheme recognised by AIC.

For a number of years there has been a concern that unexpected changes in suppliers' certification status could lead to non-assured suppliers continuing to supply potentially unsafe feed ingredients to UFAS Participants.

To help defend against this, the UFAS 2024 Standard requires that Participants have "a system in place to verify the current assurance status of the suppliers when entering and executing a contract or agreement" (UFAS 2024, Requirement C2.4).

There are a number of ways that this can be achieved, and Participants may need to use a variety of approaches depending on who their suppliers are and to which schemes they are certified. For example, if a supplier is also a Participant in an AIC scheme, it may be sufficient to make a check on the register checker when entering a new contract, and then ensuring

that relevant personnel involved in executing the contract receive the Assurance Alert emails so that they are aware of any changes. Some other schemes also provide an email alert system, but for some there may be no alternative to timely checks on their website.

Increasingly schemes offer an Application Programming Interface (API) that allows a Participant's IT systems to automatically query the scheme register.

Details on AIC's API can be found on [AIC's website](#).



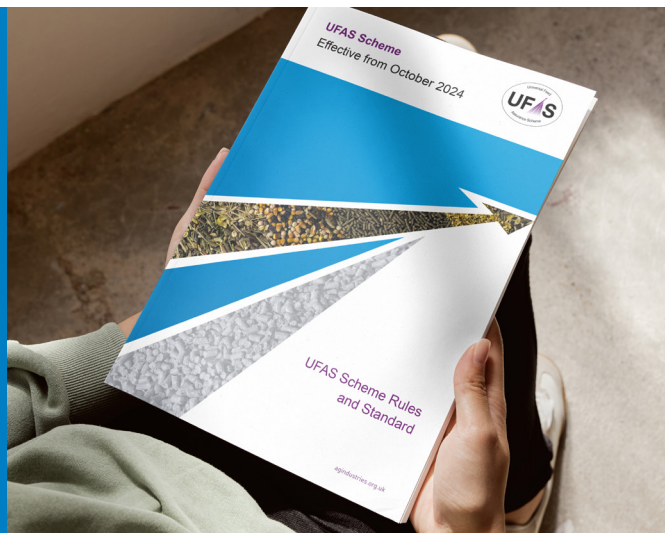
Service Suppliers

The requirements for use of contractors to supply services (including processing, storage, and bulk haulage) have also been updated, predominantly focussing on the importance of clear agreements to ensure all parties understand their roles and responsibilities around protecting feed safety.



Calibration

Calibration can be key for many UFAS Participants to ensure the feed they produce is safe and meets customer requirements. With this in mind the UFAS 2024 Standard contains updated requirements which focus more on identifying the equipment that needs to be operating properly, and demonstrating that it is, rather than the focus being on a folder of calibration certificates. There are also updated clauses on the steps required if a piece of equipment is found to be operating out of tolerance, separating out considerations of the safety/acceptability of feed already produced and management of the equipment and future production until the problem is rectified.



AIC Feed Safety Analysis Calculator

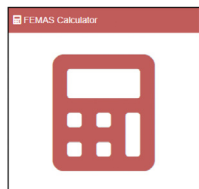
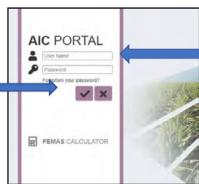
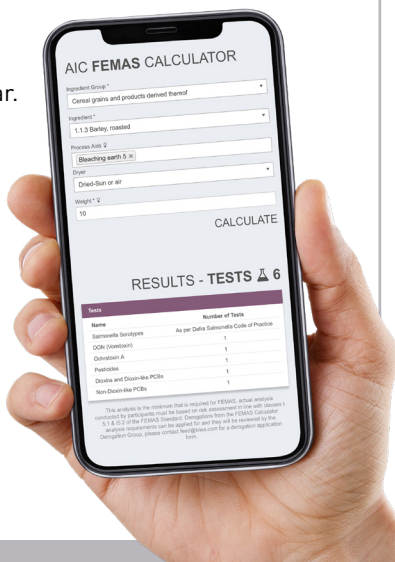
Over 10 years ago, AIC developed the FEMAS Calculator to assist FEMAS Participants in developing their risk-based analysis schedules.

Since then, the Calculator has been updated and new functionality added to allow its use with not only feed materials listed in the UK and EU Catalogues of Feed Materials, but also the Registers of Feed Materials and Feed Additives.

AIC also believes that the functionality of the Calculator can be of wider use to other scheme Participants. That is why, as of 1 June 2024, it was renamed as the "AIC Feed Safety Analysis Calculator", and access was automatically granted for all UFAS and TASCSC Participants when they log into the Kiwa/AIC portal.

Use of the Calculator remains compulsory for FEMAS Participants but entirely optional for UFAS Participants. Guidance on how to use the Calculator can be found in the [FEMAS Sector Note](#).

A short video explaining its functionality will be produced later in the year.



AIC Food and Feed scheme Seminars

AIC Services has been providing guidance and support to businesses participating in three UK trade assurance schemes which provide confidence on feed and food safety, with revised Standards due to be introduced later this year.

Through April, May, and June AIC's Services team toured the UK and Ireland to host a series of informative seminars to help FEMAS, TASCSC, and UFAS Participants prepare for the implementation of revised scheme Standards on 1 October 2024.

Technical Managers Gill Barrow, Simon Williams, and Sarah-Jane Godfrey met with Participants at seven events visiting Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Bristol, Peterborough, Chester, Wetherby, and Perth.

Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, and copies of the presentations have been published on AIC's website.

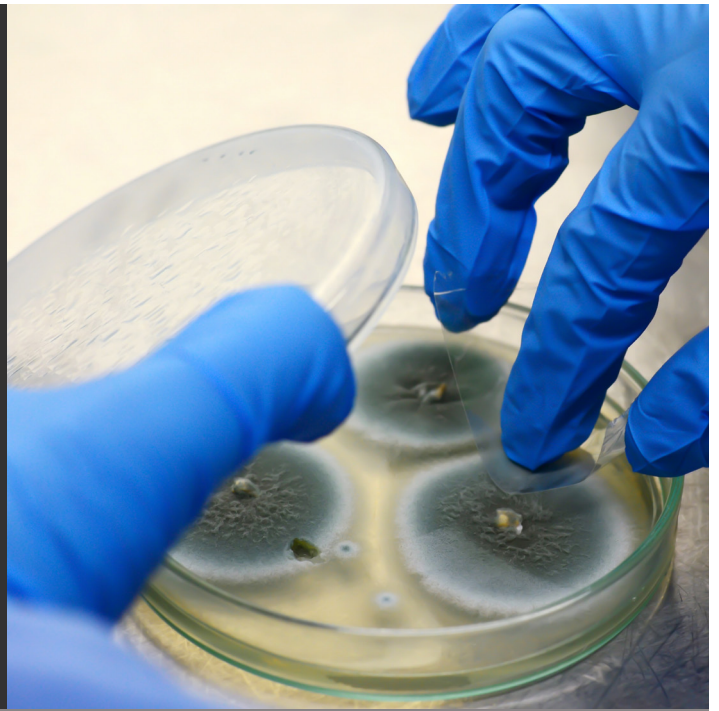


UFAS Mycotoxin and Dioxin sampling

After a pause in sampling and testing under the UFAS Dioxin and Mycotoxin sampling programme caused predominantly by the COVID pandemic, AIC is pleased to confirm that sampling requests started being sent to Participants in the autumn of 2023, and new results are now being received.

The project is being overseen by Sarah-Jane Godfrey, who joined AIC as Technical Manager at the beginning of 2024, and Participants are encouraged to submit any samples requested as soon as possible and make contact with Sarah-Jane (sarah-jane.godfrey@agindustries.org.uk) if they have any questions.

In the coming months AIC will also produce a summary of the results received as a result of the project to provide an overview of the historically very low levels of contamination in the UFAS supply chain.



Pest management in UFAS

The Pest Management section in UFAS has been updated in the 2024 Standard with the aim of clarifying the obligations of a Participant and those of any external pest control contractor and suppliers of pest control products where activities are managed in-house.

The most important element is for the Participant to clearly identify who within their business is responsible for ensuring that pest management is effective, and any required actions are taken in a timely manner.

More details can be found in section F6 of UFAS 2024.

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 a featured as a case study, please register your interest by emailing AIC Communications Manager Oli Hill (oli.hill@agindustries.org.uk).



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