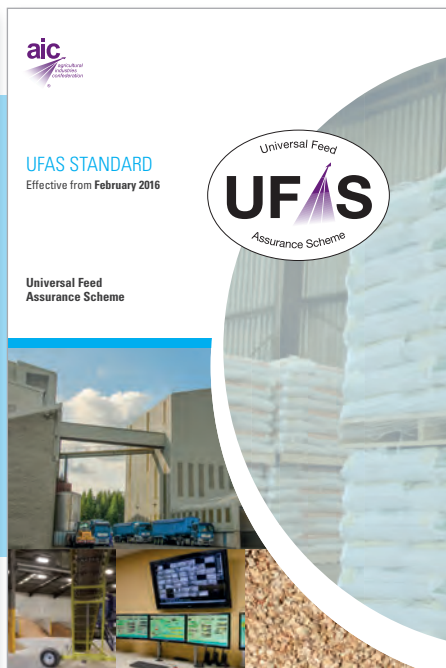
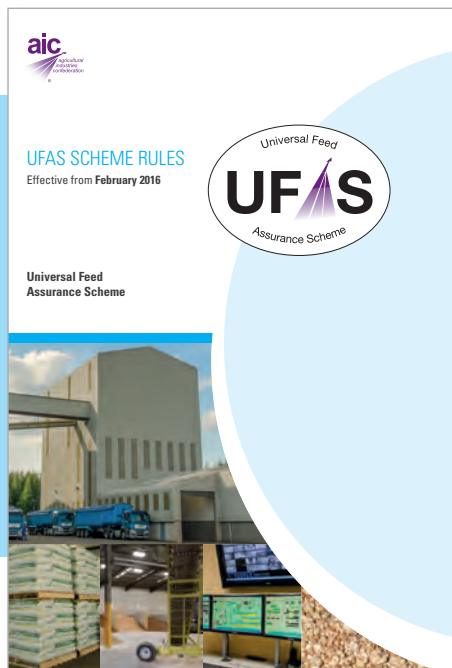


THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSAL FEED ASSURANCE SCHEME

UFAS 2016

– biggest revision in a decade



The 2016 UFAS Standard marks a new stage in the scheme's development following the most radical revision in over 10 years.

Since its introduction in 2004, the UFAS Merchants Code have comprised of two separate documents operating in parallel with some participants who had to comply with

both, and some not fitting into either. In the interests of simplification and to ensure the scheme suits the full range of feed businesses, the 2016 UFAS Standard contains – in a single Code – all the requirements for all participants ranging from Invoice-Only Merchants to manufacturers of medicated

Dates for your diary

During May and June, AIC is running regional seminars aimed at Feed and Food scheme participants. A more detailed agenda will be published in the coming weeks, but dates and locations are listed below:

- 11th May BRISTOL
- 12th May PETERBOROUGH
- 17th May WETHERBY
- 18th May CHESTER
- 25th May PERTH
- 1st June BELFAST
- 2nd June DUBLIN

All seminars will run from 9:30 to 1:30, and can be booked via the [AIC Trade Assurance website](#).

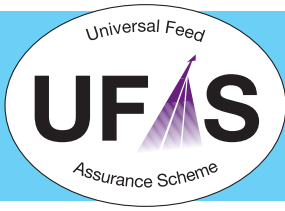
premixtures. Despite this change, the UFAS Standard is now shorter than either of its predecessors.

The new UFAS Standard is a modular document. Each section is marked with 'Activity Codes' indicating which types of businesses need to comply with the particular requirements. More detail can be found in the Standard, but the Activity Codes are summarised in the table to the left.

The Scheme Rules have also been heavily revised to better reflect the requirements of ISO 17065 accreditation. More definitions are now included as well as a section summarising the qualifications and confidentiality requirements for UFAS assessors.

The major changes to the UFAS requirements are detailed inside.

ACTIVITY CODE	ACTIVITY
A	All participants (including Invoice-only Merchants)
C	Production of Compound feeds
P	Packing of feeds by merchants
M	Production and/or sale of Controlled Products including Medicated Feed
K	Salmonella Kill Step
S1	Storage (exc. Combinable Crops)
S2	Storage (inc Combinable Crops)
T	Transport
F	Formulation of feed to be manufactured by a third party



One UFAS Standard for all!

Since the UFAS Merchants' Code was introduced, there have been parallel requirements for companies producing compound feeds and those selling feeds. Over the years this led to several problems:

- Could a UFAS Compounder sell feeds made by someone else without further certification?
- What was the correct code of practice for a company which designed feeds and sold under their own brand but contracted a UFAS compounder to produce the feeds?

There were administrative problems in terms of ensuring that the two codes were as consistent as possible, whilst also recognising the differences between Compounders and Merchants. For the 2016 version of the UFAS Scheme, the Review Group decided to attempt combining two existing codes to resolve these problems.

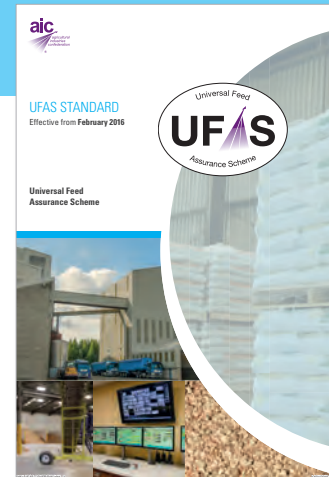
Obviously, combining two documents, aimed at different types of business, into one clear Standard which allowed participants to identify which parts applied to them created its own difficulties. This was resolved by the development of 'Activity Codes'. To help businesses identify the correct activity

codes for their operations, a tool has been developed where answering a number of simple 'yes' or 'no' questions will give a full list of the relevant codes.

Key changes

Participants will have received a summary of the changes with their copy of the updated Standard. The main revisions which may require a change in current practices are:

- **Insurance** – this requirement has been removed as there is no link to food/ feed safety.
- **Communication** – updated requirements and contact point for business changes.
- **Suppliers of haulage** – from February 2017 all bulk hauliers will need to be certified in their own right – no more 'Wholly Contracted'.
- **Suppliers of Storage** – By February 2017 bulk feed stores will need to be certified in their own right, with some exceptions for 'seasonal stores'.
- **Packaged goods** – reduced, risk-based requirements for approving hauliers/ stores of packaged feeds.



- **Contract processing** – where a suitable assurance scheme is not available, the participant is required to ensure the contractor's procedures do not endanger feed safety.
- **Pest control** – Anyone using biocides must have a relevant CRRU recognised qualification.
- **Big Bags** – must be new, and can only be re-used if they have not left the UFAS site.
- **Delivery/collection vehicles** – the Assurance ID number of all bulk vehicles delivering or collecting must be recorded (from February 2017 for non-AIC schemes).
- **Labelling** – Clarifying that each individual 'big bag' must carry the legally required label particulars.

New Guidance documents to be published

As part of the revision process, all the appendices in previous UFAS codes have been removed. Some have been integrated into the body of the Standard while others will become separate guidance documents published on AIC's website. The first documents will be revised HACCP guidance (taking account of current best practice such as using prerequisite programmes) and guidance on developing a relevant sampling and analysis plan.

The main advantage of separately publishing guidance documents is that it allows more regular updating, separately from revisions of the main standards.

Earned Recognition

– saving industry time and money

It is almost two years since AIC reached agreement with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) to implement 'Earned Recognition' for the UFAS, FEMAS and TASCSC schemes. The initial agreement covered implementation of the Feed Hygiene Regulation and UFAS, FEMAS & TASCSC in England and Wales, plus medicated feed legislation in England, Wales and Scotland for UFAS Compound Feeds.

Since that initial agreement, recognition of UFAS, FEMAS and TASCSC has been extended to cover Feed Hygiene enforcement with the FSA in Northern Ireland, and before long will be implemented with Food Standards Scotland (FSS). Discussions are ongoing with the VMD to extend its recognition to cover UFAS Merchants, and with The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) to implement Earned Recognition for medicated feeds in Northern Ireland.

What does it mean for a feed business?

The principle of Earned Recognition is that when enforcement authorities assess how frequently to inspect a company, account is taken of the business being certified to a recognised scheme. Therefore, while visits from enforcement authorities still take place, the frequency is reduced unless other factors (such as consumer

complaints or issues at previous visits) cause additional visits. Local Trading Standards Officers are still required to take animal feed samples, so visits will still occur.

What information does AIC provide to the authorities?

AIC does not provide reports or non-conformances for individual businesses, but does share detailed data every three months on number of assessments carried out, top non-conformances and average numbers of non-conformances per audit (similar to the information included in this newsletter). In addition KIWA PAI provides reports on time taken to close out action points, numbers of businesses suspended (with reasons) and lists of withdrawn companies. Local Trading Standards Officers are encouraged to sign up to AIC Assurance alert emails and to discuss UFAS audits with feed businesses.

Where next for Earned Recognition?

AIC continues to work with the relevant authorities to gain maximum benefit from Earned Recognition for scheme participants. We continue seeking and increasing contact with local authorities so that they are fully engaged and supportive of the process. If participants have any queries on ER (either their own, or from a local enforcement officer) then contact Simon Williams (see back page) and AIC will attempt to resolve them.

Retail Stores Code

A standalone Retail Stores Code was published during 2015 clarifying which UFAS requirements would be audited as part of the Retail Stores registration scheme. This will shortly be updated to reflect the latest requirements within the UFAS Standard, and audits will be carried out throughout the year.

One of the more contentious issues in the Retail Stores Code is approval of non-assured complementary feeds. Many companies who produce complementary feeds have gained relevant feed safety certification, but a significant number of producers have not. Where a retail store is selling non-assured complementary feeds, the company still has some legal obligations, notably under the Feed Hygiene Regulation to buy only from correctly approved/ registered suppliers and to satisfy themselves that the product is safe and legal. In addition the Marketing and Use of Feed Regulation requires a retailer of feed to act with 'due care' and to refrain from supplying feed which is not correctly labelled.

UFAS Checklist

For a number of years AIC has published the UFAS auditor checklists to help participants prepare for their annual assessment. The checklist could also be the basis for an annual internal audit. In the past, the checklist was a Word document, but this year a new checklist format has been introduced based on an Excel spreadsheet. This has the advantage that each section of the standard is on a separate tab (bottom of the screen) and within each tab it is possible to 'filter' questions so that only those relevant to a participant's scope are visible. A separate Word checklist for internal audits has also been produced.



Food and Veterinary Office visit GLW Feeds Shephed to learn about Earned Recognition

UFAS Working Group

The Working Group is the technical committee, chaired by Andy Hallington, that advises AIC and Kiwa PAI on managing the scheme. The group is drawn from representatives of different sectors of the feed industry and relevant industry stakeholders.

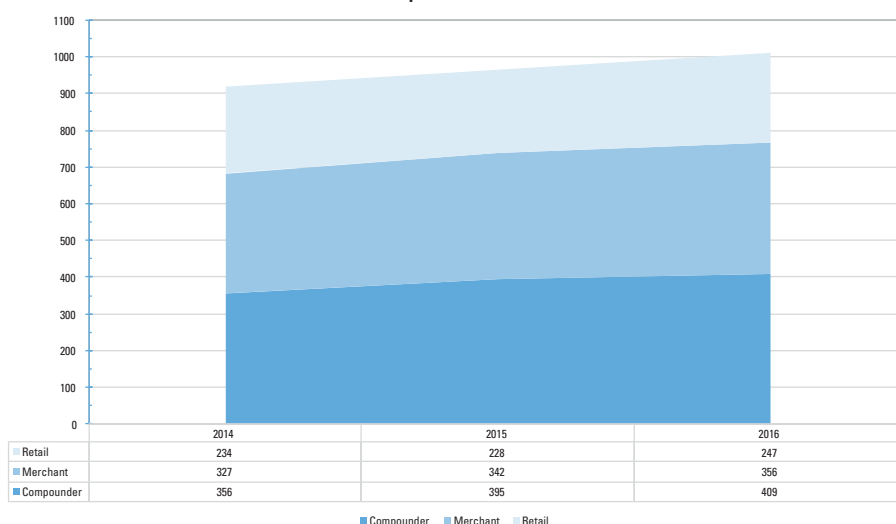
The committee includes representatives of large national compounders as well as smaller local feed suppliers; experts in liquid feeds and equine feeds also attend. Although EU legislation applies to all UFAS participants, interpretation of rules in devolved administrations and the Republic of Ireland, means that the group also includes representatives of feed businesses in Scotland and nominees from NIGTA (Northern Ireland Grain Trade Association) and IGFA (Irish Grain and Feed Association). Finally representatives of the other AIC Feed/ Food Schemes (TASCC and FEMAS) and Red Tractor Farm Assurance also contribute to the management of UFAS. A full list of UFAS WG members, as well as previous minutes are available on the AIC website.

UFAS in Numbers

Participants

The number of UFAS participants across all sectors (Compounders, Merchants and Retail Stores) continues to grow. The overall number has increased by over 10% since January 2014.

UFAS Participant Growth 2014–2016



Non-conformances

The top non-conformances for Compounds and Merchants are summarised in the tables below.

Compounds

C1.1a	Effective cleaning and maintenance
C1.1c	Premises clean, dry & tidy
D17.1	Labels must be correct and conform to legislation
B4.2.8	Vehicle cleaning and hygiene
C1.1b	Premises in a good state of repair

Merchants

A4	Annual Internal audit documented
C2.6	Treatment conducted by trained personnel
C2.5	Pesticides approved
A3.4.1	HACCP team defined
B3.1	Supplier approval

All the non-conformances listed above were classified as minor. Over the past 12 months a total of 13 major non-conformances were raised against seven businesses, with no critical non-conformances raised.



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