



TASCC Scheme Guidelines 2004-2005

1. Introduction

The Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops (TASCC) was initiated in response to the increasing consumer concern regarding food safety. There is also a demand from end users for assurance that their raw material supplies have been treated responsibly during production, transport and storage. Many require their suppliers to be TASCC-approved.

TASCC aims to protect the integrity of farm assurance between the farm gate and delivery to the first processor. By so doing it provides an independent verification that the trade is meeting its legal obligations under the Food Safety Act and associated regulations and codes of practice. It also anticipates moves in both the UK and EU to regulate food safety more closely. Both farmers and end users were consulted during the development of the TASCC protocols.

TASCC requires an independent verification that the company concerned fully complies with the Codes of Practice for Road Haulage, Storage of Combinable Crops and Animal Feed Materials and Testing Facilities of Combinable Crops and (from 1st July 2005) the Code of Practice for the Merchanting of Bulk Combinable Crops.

2. Membership

TASCC membership is open to any company trading, merchanting, storing, hauling and operating testing facilities of combinable crops, subject to paying the registration fee and complying with the scheme rules. The haulage of animal feed materials and compound animal feed is also covered. Full membership will be dependent on providing evidence of compliance (where appropriate) with the Codes of Practice for Road Haulage, Storage, Testing Facilities and Merchanting from a TASCC Verifier.

A Register of full and provisional members will be maintained. The Register of Fully Approved TASCC companies is published on the AIC Website at <http://www.agindustries.org.uk/assurance/tascc>

3. Scheme Rules

- (a)** The TASCC year runs from 1 July to 30 June each year.
- (b)** Registering members will be awarded provisional membership. Full membership will be maintained on an annual basis by compliance with the Codes of Practice within each subsequent scheme year. PAI (the Certification Body) will issue annual certificates showing the codes of practice to which the full member is accredited.
- (c)** Verifications must be carried out by an eligible TASCC verifier.
- (d) New Member Procedures**

New members should:

 - i) Apply by completing a TASCC registration form and enclosing their registration fee of £150 plus VAT (£176.25 in total) for Members of AIC and £200 plus VAT (£235.00 in total) for non members of AIC. Registration entitles a company to provisional membership.
 - ii) Arrange verification with an AIC approved verifier within six months of registration.
 - iii) Provide PAI with a verifier's evidence of compliance with the appropriate Codes of Practice within one year registration.

Full membership will be awarded when a certificate of compliance is provided by PAI.

Provisional members will lose their provisional membership if they fail to reach full membership within one calendar year of registration. Such a company will be required to re-register after a suitable interval.

4. Scheme Operation

- (a) Verifiers will audit a member's compliance with the Codes of Practice on an annual basis. Verifiers have the right to inspect a random sample of third parties subcontracted to perform work covered by the codes of practice.
- (b) Verifiers will avoid carrying out audits during the harvest period, except with the agreement of the company concerned.
- (c) The TASCC rules, codes of practice, and verification arrangements will be reviewed from time to time and changes made to suit conditions and to ensure a consistent application across industry.
- (d) Disputes over matters of fact should be resolved between the member and verifier. However, AIC's Board will have the final decision where arbitration is necessary.

5. Documentation

The TASCC Scheme consists of the following documentation

- (a) Scheme Manual – The scheme manual represents the rules and regulations of the TASCC scheme
- (b) Codes of Practice - The Codes of Practice represent the standards of the scheme and reflect current legislative, industry and customer requirements and consist of :
 - GAFTA/AIC Code of Practice for the Storage of Combinable Crops and Animal Feeds
 - AIC Road Haulage Code of Practice
 - AIC Merchanting Code of Practice – application from July 2005
 - AIC Testing Facilities Code of Practice
- (c) Scheme Guidelines and Guidance Notes – The scheme guidelines and guidance notes provide guidance on the application of the TASCC Scheme and Codes of Practice to meet industry and legislative requirements.

Amended June 2004