

Earned Recognition - approved assurance schemes

Earned Recognition aims to reduce the burden for compliant businesses which allows enforcement activity to concentrate on less compliant businesses. Those who qualify for Earned Recognition will benefit by receiving less frequent visits by the enforcement authority.

We review how we approach assurance through the [Regulating Our Future](#) (ROF) programme which aims to formalise private assurance schemes operating in food safety.

Our guidance on approved assurance schemes cover the following points:

- criteria details
- process for scheme approval
- governance arrangements
- exchange of information with enforcement authorities

[FSA guidance on approved assurance schemes for animal feed at primary production](#)

Approved assurance schemes

Agricultural Industries Confederation ([AIC](#)) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that works on behalf of members in the agricultural supply sector. AIC represents a variety of sectors within the feed industry and manages several assurance schemes.

We approved the following assurance schemes:

- Feed Materials Assurance Scheme ([FEMAS](#))
- Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops ([TASCC](#))
- Universal Feed Assurance Scheme ([UFAS](#))

AIC operates to a Memorandum of Understanding with the FSA, Food Standards Scotland and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate ([VMD](#))

[View MOU for Earned Recognition Feed Hygiene and Medicated Feed as PDF](#) (673.62 KB)

Approved Assurance Schemes in feed and food sectors

Red Tractor Assurance ([RTA](#)) is a whole chain assurance scheme which covers food safety, traceability, animal welfare and environmental protection.

The RTA logo can be applied to food products to show that businesses in that supply chain have

met RTA standards and that products are fully traceable back to independently assessed farms.

RTA has [six schemes](#) that are approved by us:

- Beef & Lamb
- Crops & Sugar Beet
- Dairy
- Fresh produce
- Pigs
- Poultry

We operate to a Memorandum of Understanding with Red Tractor in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

[View MOU for Red Tractor Earned Recognition Nov 2017 as PDF](#) (435.28 KB)

Northern Ireland Beef & Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme ([NIBL FQAS](#)) operates to a Memorandum of Understanding with FSA Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland

[View MOU for Livestock & Meat Commission Earned Recognition Aug 2016 as PDF](#) (535.08 KB)

[Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers Ltd](#), operates to a Memorandum of Understanding with FSA Wales

Wales

[View MOU for Welsh Lamb and Beef for Earned Recognition Dec 2017 as PDF](#) (3.45 MB)

Enforcement Authority Verification

To ensure continued compliance and confidence after approval of an assurance scheme for earned recognition, we will continue to verify compliance with our criteria for earned recognition.

This includes a check carried out by enforcement authorities which is based on a percentage of assurance scheme members to verify business compliance. Positive verification will enable the FSA to have continued confidence in the assurance scheme and the ability to justify approved scheme status.

Enforcement Authority Exception Reporting

Feed sector only

When an enforcement authority becomes aware that a feed business will lose Earned Recognition, they are required to notify the FSA as soon as possible using the appropriate exception report form. This information is important in helping us carry out our verification role of approved assurance schemes.

England and Wales

Enforcement authorities will need to email the exception report, for England to exceptionreports@food.gov.uk and for Wales lasupportwales@food.gov.uk

England and Wales

[View FSA for Feed Earned Recognition exception report for enforcing authorities as Word](#) (58.5 KB)

Northern Ireland

Email the exception report in Annex 12 of the Feed Law Enforcement Guidance Document to executive.support@food.gov.uk

[Privacy notice - exception reports](#)