

Excellence and Trust in Specialty Feed Ingredients

FAMI-QS Project: Revamping the audit process

Although extraordinary events have been happening and will likely continue to happen, the current COVID-19 pandemic created a major disruption in the global economy, including third-party certification. The current infrastructure/provision as outlined in the international accreditation standards had not foreseen this situation. During this period, we have seen various informative documents and guidelines and interpretations of international standards. This creates confusion in the market with regard to the outcome and the level of confidence it can have in certificates issued during an extraordinary event.

One of the main issues we identified is that remote audits introduced as a “temporary” solution in order for the various supply chains and stakeholders to minimize the disruption relating to the traditional physical audits is a rather permanent issue or an issue whose impact will affect the way audits are performed for the coming years.

Looking at the feed chain risk challenges, unfortunately, viruses have come to stay; Bird flu, Type A Influenza, HPAI, LPAI, H5N8, ASF, Ebola are still around and, despite the fact that they do not make the headlines of the news, they should not be underestimated. We all had to move from one day to another from the traditional auditing approach to the use of remote audits, without really having a solid understanding and experience on the “remote audit” and the role of this type of audit in the audit process.

In turbulent times, accredited third-party certification has an important role to play in maintaining the trust in the feed value chain. However, approaching the “new normal” with old concepts will not work. Taking a lesson from the current situation, we proactively respond to the emerging challenges and we are moving forward to prepare and adapt the provision of the FAMI-QS Certification Services in an operational environment where risks can emerge at any time¹. The current situation will reshape and define a new reality for the future of auditing.

¹ As per The Global Risks Report 2020, http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Global_Risk_Report_2020.pdf

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Recognised Stakeholder:



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What FAMI-QS expects for the future... the new norm

- Travel will be limited and expensive
- FAMI-QS Certified Organizations will reinforce further their existing robust hygiene measures, which will lead to less time being spent on-site by an auditor
- Non-harmonised quarantine measures worldwide will continue to exist
- Accredited Third-Party Certification will have a vital role to play in securing the feed supply chain
- Reduced supplier audits (2nd party)
- More global risk could lead to new extraordinary events

The objectives of the project

To design and develop an audit process compliant with the provision of ISO/IEC 17021-1 and ISO/TS 22003, which will ensure a continuity in the provision of accredited FAMI-QS Certification Services and limit the disruptions in the feed supply chain. Our aim is for the feed chain to continue to have confidence in the accredited third-party certification. FAMI-QS is the only feed safety management system part of IAF MLA² facilitating the global trade of Specialty Feed ingredients and their Mixtures.

The new audit process will require the **combination** of the following three steps in order for a Certification Body to be able to make a certification decision (grant, maintain, suspend, withdraw) for FAMI-QS; desk review, remote, on-site. The risk-based approach introduced by the Management Systems is a good basis for supporting this approach.

This approach will take into consideration the even stricter hygiene measures applied by a FAMI-QS Certified Feed Business which will limit the number of and time spent by “visitors” in the facility. The health status of employees is also a requirement under the FAMI-QS Code Version 6.0 (§7.10.3. Health status, Good Manufacture Practices³).

² The 2019 IAF MLA Report: [https://www.iaf.nu/upFiles/MLA%20Report%202019%20V07%20interactive%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.iaf.nu/upFiles/MLA%20Report%202019%20V07%20interactive%20(1).pdf) / IAF MLA https://www.iaf.nu/articles/IAF_MLA/14

³ §7.10.3. Health status: The FAMI-QS Feed Business Operator must have a written procedure regarding medical care. Where permitted by law, staff must inform the operator of any condition, disease or illness that may be transmissible through feed. FAMI-QS is the only feed scheme introducing the Health Status as a GMP requirement in the sector of specialty feed ingredients.

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The new audit process will not compromise on any accreditation requirements or the duration of the audit.

Project Partners:

Accreditation Bodies:

ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB), Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ), National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB)

Certification Bodies:

Bureau Veritas Certification China, Bureau Veritas Certification France, DNV-GL, DQS-CFS, HSL Certification, Eurofins, Kiwa Agri Food, TÜV Nord Cert

Certified Organizations:

Adisseo, Alltech, Charoen Pokphand Indonesia (CP), BASF, DSM, Evonik Operations, Lallemand, Pancosma

Users of FAMI-QS Certification:

AB Agri, Trouw Nutrition

Strategic Partner Organizations:

American Feed Industry Association (AFIA), Feed Ingredient and Additives Association of Australia (FIAAA), SINDIRAÇÕES (Brazil)

Service Providers:

ViaSyst, Verweij Feed Consultancy B.V.

On behalf of FAMI-QS, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the organizations participating in this project with a view to jointly define the future of the auditing under the new normal.

The new approach is expected to be fully implemented by June 2021 while the first pilots are expected to start in November 2020.

The FAMI-QS Secretariat will keep all the stakeholders informed on the progress of the project at frequent intervals. All the relevant documents will be submitted for public consultation.

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About FAMI-QS:

FAMI-QS is a preeminent quality and feed safety management system for the sector of specialty feed ingredients and their mixtures. We are the worldwide leading accredited scheme for the feed industry contributing to safe food. We facilitate the worldwide trade of specialty feed ingredients and their mixtures, with more than 1.400 certified feed businesses worldwide, driven by uncompromised focus on risk management, safety and quality. With our collective experience, knowledge, and expertise, we proactively respond to the emerging challenges for our sector.

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