

## **Terms of Reference for the formation of the Technical Working Group on Certification and Accreditation Requirements for the ASC feed standard regarding Due Diligence.**

### **1. Background**

#### **The ASC**

The Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) is an independent not for profit organisation founded in 2010 by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Dutch Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH). It aims to be the world's leading certification and labelling programme for responsibly farmed seafood.

For more information please visit <https://www.asc-aqua.org/about-us/about-the-asc/>

### **2. ASC CAR for Feed and ASC feed Standard**

In conjunction with a supplier code of conduct, due diligence provides a pathway to understand the origins and potential impacts of the ingredients in aquaculture feed.

As a first step, feed manufacturers must strive for continuous improvement in achieving greater visibility on the origins of their raw materials. In the standard, a UoC must publish its primary raw material and their respective countries of origin. Then, within three years, the UoC must identify the region within the country of origin for its plant raw materials. Greater visibility allows feed manufacturers to conduct more meaningful diligence on the potential negative impacts that these materials have created prior to reaching the feed manufacturer.

Note that manufacturing ingredient & raw material approval is a stepped process and prior to entering the mill, all ingredient manufacturers should comply with a number of legal, environmental and social related indicators as defined in the Feed Standard, as a next step incoming material shall undergo a Due Diligence process via a number of different pathways (options) and must be deemed low risk to enter the mill. The purpose of this is to ensure the worst raw material ingredients do not enter the mill. Due Diligence provides a pathway to understand the origins and potential impacts of the ingredients in aquaculture feed. For example, with plant based ingredients, it means sourcing from areas with low risk for illegal deforestation, but over time, not sourcing from any deforested area.

This new standard will need certification requirements to operationalise the certification process covering evaluation of a feed mills Due Diligence programme as described in the ASC Feed Standard.

### **3. Technical Working Group for ASC Feed standard Mass Balance**

Principle 2 of the ASC Feed Standard has indicators related to the implementation of a Supplier Code of Conduct, together with this, the UoC must have a robust Due Diligence program to understand the potential socio-environmental risks of the ingredients that go into aquaculture feed.

This approach is new for the ASC scope of products and needs requirements for CABs and certificate holders on how to prepare and validate the information properly in order to have consistent and trustworthy assessment.

The development of such requirements will require the input from a technical working group (TWG) formed with members from the ASC Program Assurance Team (PAT) and Standard and Science team (SaS) together with external professionals with expertise in feed industry and application of certification schemes which use due diligence or risk assessment.

### **4. TWG members**

The TWG needs to collect expertise among their members to provide practical, realistic and auditable requirements which bring robustness to the certification program.

The technical working group should be formed by 4 to 6 members having together the following expertise

- 4 years in Feed industry implementing quality management systems
- 4 years implementing certification schemes which include modules on Due Diligence or Risk Assessment.
- 1 SaS member
- 1 TAG member

## 5. TWG plan

The following table describes the expected timelines for the TWG and deliverables

Activity	September		October		November	
Invitation to TWG potential members		x				
Background paper and Draft requirements structure		x				
TWG first (virtual) meeting				X (wk 3)		
Requirements first draft					x	
TWG second (virtual) meeting					X (wk 2/3)	
Final draft						x

## 6. Meetings:

- Preparation for meetings will require the review of background documents.
- Approx. 2 meetings will be conducted. Both will be via teleconference (GoToMeeting). Duration approx. 2 hours.
- Meeting schedules will be consulted with the TWG members in advance.
- Meetings will be conducted with at least ¾ of members. Members not able to attend can provide input on tables per subject.

## 7. Conditions

The participation in the technical working group is voluntary. Your names will be published on our website unless instructed otherwise by you.

## 8. Contact information

The project lead on this is Jennifer Glancy, please get in touch should you have any queries.

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