

Terms of Reference for the formation of the Technical Working Group on Certification and Accreditation Requirements for the ASC feed standard Mass Balance Model.

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

The ASC Feed Steering Committee appreciates that by the time the Feed standard is released, it is most unlikely that there are sufficient volumes of sustainably certified raw materials to produce ASC certified feed with a constant supply of compliant raw materials. Until then and as the first step, feed mills can use one or both of the accepted compliance models. ASC feed may come in two forms:

- the ASC mass balance model (containing both eligible and non-eligible ingredients) or
- the ASC segregation model (containing only eligible ingredients).

To produce feed under the mass balance model, feed mills are required to have a calculation system in place to ensure volumes of incoming eligible ingredients cover claims on volumes of outgoing feed produced under the mass balance model. The advantage of the Mass Balance model for feed mills is that they can apply this model when eligible raw material is not available all year around & provide a constant supply of ASC feed to their customer.

To be able to produce feed under the segregation model, feed mills are required to identify and segregate eligible ingredients from non-eligible ingredients throughout all steps within the feed mill.

The ASC Feed standard will need requirements for the CABs and applicant feed mills to operationalise the certification process, covering evaluation of feed mills operating to the Mass Balance & Segregation model.

3. Technical Working Group for ASC Feed standard Mass Balance

Principle 3 of the ASC Feed Standard has indicators related to the option for feed mills to produce ASC certified feed using a mass balance approach, this means that the inputs of eligible marine and plant ingredients can be mixed with non-eligible ingredients and a proportion of the

final product (equivalent to the proportion of eligible inputs) can be labelled as ASC certified feed.

Note that manufacturing ingredient & raw material approval is a stepped process and prior to entering the mill, all incoming material must first 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 of the worst' does not enter the mill. Due Diligence provides a pathway to understand the origins and potential impacts of the ingredients in aquaculture feed.

Once confirmed as low risk, the material is then assessed to determine if the ingredients are considered 'eligible' ingredients as not all ingredients which can be sourced by the UoC also count towards the mass balance eligible volume.

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 a trustworthy calculation of certified product volumes.

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) team and Standard and Science (SaS) together with external professionals with expertise in feed industry and application of certification schemes which use mass balance models.

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 managing Chain of Custody models including mass balance.
- 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 (wk 4)

6. Meetings:

- Preparation for meetings will require the review of background documents.
- 2 meetings will be conducted. Both will be via teleconference (GoToMeeting). Duration 2 hours.
- Meeting schedules will be consulted with the TWG members in advance.
- Meetings will be conducted with at least $\frac{3}{4}$ 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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