

FIAS Certification



The Fertiliser Industry Assurance Scheme (FIAS) has been developed in a joint exercise between the UK Government and the UK fertiliser industry in order to:

- Give regulators confidence in the product stewardship exercised by the fertiliser industry
- Ensure the supply of fertiliser is managed such that products can only be used for legitimate agricultural purposes
- Avoid the need for expensive and time-consuming Government operated licensing scheme for the industry

FIAS is an independently audited certification scheme that has been devised to ensure that fertiliser is managed throughout the UK supply chain with regard to the environment, public safety and security. Kiwa Agri Food assisted in the scheme development throughout and is the sole appointed Certification Body for the Scheme.

FIAS covers the assurance of all fertilisers intended for agriculture, horticulture, forestry, amenity and any other such commercial use. It does not apply to fertilisers packaged for home garden use. The issues and the risks vary according to the type of fertiliser and it is for this reason that the entire scheme has adopted a "Risk assessment" approach to achieving the necessary level of assurance. The scheme covers the entire supply chain of fertiliser and assures compliance of each stage process to the following principles:

- Legislation
- Specific product and environmental legal compliance.
- Security
- Prevention of unauthorised access and/or removal of the product.
- Traceability
- Identification of batches of raw materials to origin and the identification of batches of finished product to customer.
- Safety
- Product complies with the legislative safety requirements.
- Good Practice

Feed Team
Kiwa Agri Food
uk.feed@kiwa.com
+44 (0)1423 878873



Effective management controls to ensure that fertiliser is only sold to legitimate agricultural businesses and that the requirements of this standard, environmental measures and relevant industry Codes of Practice are implemented.

The scheme is broken down into separate standards for:

- Manufacture
- Merchanting
- Transport
- Storage

Applicants are assessed to the requirements of all standards that apply to their business, for the activities that fall within the scope of the scheme. Each module requires an applicant to undertake a formal and structured risk assessment study and implement the controls that are determined necessary by the study. Therefore the extent and robustness of the controls exercised by a company will be directly related to the safety and security risks associated with the fertiliser under their control.

Independent assessments are carried out to determine whether companies involved in the supply of fertiliser comply with the scheme requirements and have introduced adequate measures to deal with the risks associated with the products.

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