

Scheme rules Version 9 published

The draft of the Rules for Certification Bodies and Rules for Operators were distributed for consultation in October/November. The comment period closed on 4 November with 93 comments received from interested stakeholders.

Both documents have been published this week, accompanied by a transition policy for a 12 month transition period ending 10 January 2026. Translations of the documents will follow within a month, and training materials will be updated for courses this year. Two versions of the documents have been published, one being a marked up version to ensure that readers understand where the changes have been made in the documents.

Any queries should be directed to the Scheme Management Director, Kylie Sheehan, by [email](#).

UNIDO Vienna dialogue on benchmarking vTPA schemes

FAMI-QS Secretary General, Emmanouil Geneiatakis attended a meeting of interested stakeholders in Vienna, Austria, on 27-28 June 2024 to discuss a potential framework for the benchmarking of voluntary third-party assurance (vTPA) schemes/certification programmes. A summary report from that meeting is available on request. Following on from this meeting, three working groups have been established:

1. Benchmarking requirements working group
2. Terminology working group
3. Benchmarking process working group.

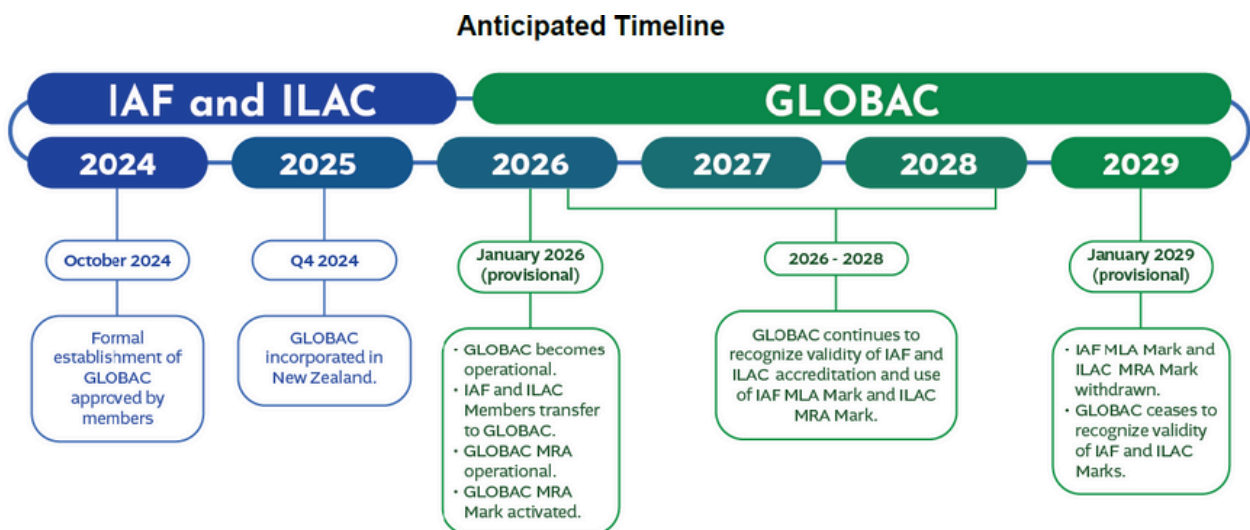
FAMI-QS will continue to be involved in each of these working groups, represented by Kylie Sheehan, Scheme Management Director. We will update stakeholders as we progress through the workplan.



IAF and ILAC merger - GLOBAC

At the Decision was made in At the IAF/ILAC meetings in Berlin on 1-10 October, the two organisations took a further step to merging with the first General Assembly of the new organisation, the Global Accreditation Cooperation (GLOBAC), taking place. This was a necessary first step to incorporating the new body in New Zealand.

IAF and ILAC have developed a joint communique regarding the timeline for the merger and what it means to those that rely on the multilateral mutual recognition arrangements that are maintained under each organisation. The full communique can be downloaded [here](#). FAMI-QS has been an association member of IAF for the past ten years, and continues to promote the value of accredited certification. Find out more about the IAF at iaf.nu.



FAMI-QS hosts EU Feed Scheme round table meeting

The annual EU Feed Scheme round table meeting was hosted by FAMI-QS in Brussels on 6 November 2024. A huge thank you to OVOCOM for providing the meeting venue.

Discussions at the meeting centred on papers that had been prepared regarding a recognition framework for feed schemes. The criteria being developed will provide for a basis for comparison and recognition of schemes and their equivalence. Also being developed is the process for determining equivalence. Work on these documents will continue in the coming months.

Other discussion items included integrity measures, requirements for witnessing of auditors, proposals for crises tests, sustainability initiatives and updates from each of the scheme owners.

The next meeting of the round table will be hosted by AMA Marketing in November 2025 in Vienna.

IFIF publishes Biosecurity Guidance for Feed Mills

The International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF) has recently published a new document - [Biosecurity Guidance for Feed Mills](#). The document provides guidance to feed mills on how to control biosecurity risks, including microorganisms of public health significance, pathogenic agents, and microorganisms and pests that may impact international trade.

The guidance looks at how these types of risks can be introduced into the mill processes, and then how these risks may be managed or eliminated. Post-manufacturing processes are also considered for potential sources of contamination. The guidance covers regulatory compliance, and how feed safety programs, such as FAMI-QS, can be used to address feed safety risks. For more information, or to access the document, click on the link above.



Denver call for action

The Denver Call for Action: Second International Summit on the Societal role of Meat and livestock held in Denver October 2024

During the *International Summit on the Societal Role of Meat* held in Dublin in 2022 a declaration known as The Dublin Declaration was signed by 1,200 scientists from around the globe”:

“Livestock systems must progress on the basis of the highest scientific standards. They are too precious to society to become the victim of simplification, reductionism or zealotry. These systems must continue to be embedded in and have broad approval of society. For that, scientists are asked to provide reliable evidence of their nutrition and health benefits, environmental sustainability, socio-cultural and economic values, as well as for solutions for the many improvements that are needed. This declaration aims to give voice to the many scientists around the world who research diligently, honestly and successfully in the various disciplines in order to achieve a balanced view of the future of animal agriculture.”

Two years on there is a renewed move for action in relation to develop livestock systems based on the ‘highest scientific standards’. The Denver Call for Action calls for policymakers worldwide to “commit themselves to plurality and rigor in evidence-based decision-making”. Read more about the Denver Call for Action in the link following:

<https://www.dublin-declaration.org/the-denver-call-for-action>

Stakeholder meetings - where we've been

IFIF - attended by Giacomo Sisinni, Scheme Manager.

FAMI-QS was pleased to attend the 23rd annual meeting of the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

FAMI-QS is a feed related organization Member of The International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF) which is representing over 80% of the feed production worldwide.

The event provided a valuable opportunity to further advance and strengthen collaboration between IFIF and FAO on critical key matters in order to ensure safe, nutritious and sustainable feed and food production. Interesting topics for a sustainable livestock sector transformation were discussed, including:

- Regulatory and scientific studies on foresight and emerging issues in food safety, and international standards to assure feed safety and quality

- The role of nutritional innovation and feed practices in promoting the responsible use of antimicrobials and improving animal health
- The international cooperation for the Convergence of Technical Requirements for the Assessment of Feed Ingredients (ICCF)
- The opportunities and challenges of the Feed Sector in Africa
- The Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP)
- The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL)
- The Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model (GLEAM)
- Discussions on cell-based food and precision fermentation.



IANAB annual meeting with Scheme owners - attended by Kylie Sheehan, Scheme Management Director.

The meeting was held on 22 November in Arlington. The FAMI-QS representative, Kylie Sheehan, attended remotely. The meeting agenda explored some of the issues that scheme owners were experiencing in implementation of their schemes, and provided an opportunity for scheme owners to share their experiences, and for speakers to share information regarding initiatives including:

- UNIDO project on developing criteria and process for benchmarking of conformity assessment schemes
- How AI may have an impact on conformity assessment, and scheme management, opportunities and challenges
- Potential for the creation of a scheme owner forum, how this could benefit collaboration and knowledge sharing of scheme owners

Reminders

FAMI-QS training cancellation policy

We would like to remind you of our training cancellation policy. We allow cancellation of registrations up to 7 days before the training is set to start. After this point, it is not possible to cancel the registration and the full price of the registration will be invoiced. That is because FAMI-QS trainings have a limited number of spaces available and registered participants who do not attend prevent others from attending.

Please ensure that you are available for on the dates of the trainings before registering. If you can't make it, due to unforeseen circumstances, you are able to send a colleague instead, just let us know any time before the start of the training.

