



IAF and FAMI-QS Asbl Memorandum of Understanding

1. Introduction

1.1 FAMI-QS The Quality and Safety System of Specialty Feed Ingredients, from now on referred to as FAMI-QS Asbl, is the scheme owner of the worldwide operated FAMI-QS Certification Scheme. FAMI-QS Asbl has sought and received endorsement of their schemes listed in Schedule 1 of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) (hereinafter referred to as "the Schemes") as IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) sub-scopes in accordance with IAF PL3 and this MoU.

1.2 FAMI-QS Asbl requires Certification Bodies (CBs) operating in its Scheme(s) to be accredited by an Accreditation Body (AB) that is a signatory to the IAF MLA with a main scope of management system certification and a sub-scope of the relevant scheme(s) included in Schedule 1 to this MoU (IAF MLA signatories).

1.3 The scheme(s) sets voluntary standards for the certification of the field of specialty feed ingredients. A specialty feed ingredient is defined as any intentionally added ingredient not normally consumed as feed by itself, whether or not it has nutritional value, which affects the characteristics of feed or animals/animal products and animal performance. There are more than 1,900 FAMI-QS certificates worldwide.

1.4 FAMI-QS Asbl contracts at the time of this Agreement with 26 CBs worldwide under the Scheme(s), the supervision of which is carried out by the ABs that are IAF MLA signatories.

1.5 The Scheme's certification process is performed by more than 300 auditors. Requirements for the professional competence of personnel auditors are defined in § 7 of the Rules for Certification Bodies Version 9.

1.6 FAMI-QS Asbl delegates the responsibility of supervision of the CBs it contracts with to the corresponding IAF Accreditation Bodies, noting that harmonization of criteria applied by the different ABs is increasingly important to ensure consistency of that supervision.

1.7 The Scheme(s) provides the standard and framework for independent, recognized 3rd party certification of production and trade based on ISO/IEC 17021-1 and ISO 22003-1.

1.8 The **International Accreditation Forum (IAF)** is the world association of conformity assessment Accreditation Bodies in the fields of management systems, products, services, process, persons and other similar programs of conformity assessment.

1.9 IAF is responsible for the harmonization and continuous improvement of the accreditation practices of its members with the ultimate goal to ensure sound technical competence of accredited CBs/VBs (Verification Bodies) and to support its IAF MLA.

1.10 The IAF MLA is established and maintained on the basis of the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 through regular peer evaluations and is the tool by which IAF contributes to the elimination of technical barriers to trade and to promoting the free circulation of certificates issued by accredited CBs.

2. Administration and Cooperation

2.1 Both IAF and FAMI-QS Asbl, by means of this formal Agreement, have decided to develop and maintain a close cooperation between the two organizations to ensure harmonization in the accreditation practices performed by IAF members in the Scheme(s) and to cooperate in the continuous improvement of the certification scheme with the final goal of assuring the highest level of competence in the Scheme's accredited CBs.

2.2 IAF and FAMI-QS Asbl shall comply with the respective requirements of IAF PL3 *Policies and Procedures on the IAF MLA Structure and for Expansion of the Scope of the IAF MLA*, operating and administrating in an open, non-discriminatory and transparent manner, avoiding conflicts of interest or limitation on the acceptance of CBs or ABs other than relevant technical considerations.

2.3 Both IAF and FAMI-QS Asbl shall appoint a liaison person of each organization to act as contact persons.

2.4 The Scheme(s) will be open to all CBs that are accredited by IAF MLA signatories. The Accreditation Bodies will be signatory members of the IAF MLA for Management System Certification (ISO/IEC 17201-1 and ISO 22003-1) and have agreed to implement the Memorandum of Understanding between FAMI-QS Asbl and IAF (MoU). A list of IAF ABs that have agreed to implement the MoU shall be maintained on the FAMI-QS Asbl Website.

2.5 The Scheme(s) will only work with IAF MLA signatories who have agreed to implement the MoU. FAMI-QS Asbl will stop working with an AB that is no longer a signatory to the IAF MLA or has not implemented and maintained the MoU.

3. Information Exchange

In order to achieve such goals both organizations have agreed upon the following:

3.1 FAMI-QS Asbl shall inform the IAF of the following:

- (a) Changes to any scheme(s) listed in Schedule 1, that may have an impact on compliance of the Scheme(s) with IAF PL3;
- (b) Any revision/extension of the standards/documents of the Scheme(s);
- (c) Outcomes from any AB workshop held by FAMI-QS Asbl; and
- (d) Any findings FAMI-QS Asbl may have regarding IAF MLA signatory ABs.

3.2 IAF shall inform FAMI-QS Asbl of the following:

- (a) Whenever an IAF MLA signatory has their scope extended to include the Scheme(s);
- (b) Whenever an IAF MLA signatory with a sub-scope of the Scheme(s) has been suspended or had their IAF MLA signatory status withdrawn;

- (c) Any general or technical questions regarding the interpretation of the FAMI-QS standards/documents; and
- (d) Changes in policy, procedure or documentation that may have an impact on the IAF MLA and the Scheme(s) sub-scope.

4. Mandatory Interpretations on FAMI-QS Documents

4.1 The documents and modules of the Scheme(s) shall be prepared using the P-MS-001 Development of the FAMI-QS Scheme Procedure for the setting and revision of FAMI-QS Standards.

This shall include a public review phase comprising two rounds of comment submissions by interested parties, each lasting 60 days. The second round of comment may generally be conducted following completion of two trial audits in the field with feedback being provided to organizations that made the comments. A summary of comments shall be available on the FAMI-QS Asbl website.

4.2 The IAF will be considered as a stakeholder and invited to comment during any public consultation period of the standard revision process.

4.3 The review period for the normative documents of the Scheme(s) shall be 3 years. The normative documents of the Scheme(s) shall be available free of charge on the FAMI-QS Asbl website: www.fami-qs.org.

4.4 FAMI-QS Asbl will provide new draft version document(s) with a gap analysis and proposed transition plan for implementation of the new version documents to IAF in order to make sure that the scheme continues to comply with the requirements of IAF PL3.

4.5 The need for the development of specific IAF application documents for inclusion of publicly owned standards/normative documents in the IAF MLA shall be proposed by the IAF Technical Committee and the need for additional preparation of peer evaluation by the IAF MLA Committee as specified in IAF PL3.

5. Implementation

5.1 IAF and FAMI-QS Asbl shall each bear their own costs.

5.2 The revision of the implementation of this Agreement is in the scope of the MLA Peer evaluation to the IAF Management System MLA signatories working in the certification scheme that have agreed to implement the MoU.

6. Confidentiality



6.1 IAF shall hold all Confidential Information in strictest confidence and shall only use it for the purpose for which it was provided and shall not disclose or make available any Confidential Information to any third party without the prior written consent of FAMI-QS Asbl.

7. Term

This Agreement shall commence from the Date of Signing and, unless terminated earlier according to clause 8, continues indefinitely.

8. Cancellation

This Agreement between FAMI-QS Asbl and IAF can be cancelled by either party in writing with a period of notice of three months.

International Accreditation Forum, Inc.	FAMI-QS Asbl The Quality and Safety System for Specialty Feed Ingredients
 Emanuele Riva Chairman of IAF	 Kylie Sheehan Secretary General

Date of Agreement: 08 July 2025

SCHEDULE 1

FAMI-QS Asbl scheme(s) endorsed for inclusion as sub-scopes to the IAF MLA:

1. **FAMI-QS certification scheme**

Level 4 –

- ISO 22003-1:2022
- FAMI-QS Rules for Certification Bodies V9
- FAMI-QS Rules for Operators V9

Level 5 –

- FAMI-QS Code of Practice V6
- FAMI-QS Feed Fraud Prevention and Defence module V1