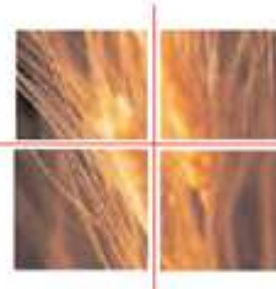




PRESS RELEASE



October 2007

Supply Chain Consultation Keeps AUKM Ahead of the Competition

An extensive cross-industry consultation has confirmed the status of the newly updated and extended Assured UK Malt (AUKM) scheme as a world-leader in guaranteeing traceability and quality in malt.

Assurance schemes maintain their value by being regularly updated to meet the latest requirements of legislation, customers and best practice. The latest version of the standard benefited from significant technical input from maltsters, independent experts and customers.

It was also recognised that input from stakeholders prior to publication would be vital to ensure the effectiveness and status of the scheme, and a formal consultation process was subsequently embarked upon. The consultation, which involved all parts of the supply chain, has resulted in a refined version of the Technical Standard, ensuring that it remains relevant to the needs of the industry and can respond readily to any changes within it.

One of the organisations to take part in the consultation process was the British Beer & Pub Association (BBPA). Dr David Long, Director, Brewing at the BBPA said: "The revamped AUKM Technical Standard ensures that first class malting barley remains at the heart of British ales and lagers. In representing end users, the BBPA welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the consultation process."

The Scotch Whisky Association also took part in the consultation. Peter Clark, Operational & Technical Affairs Manager, said: “As the body responsible for Scotch whisky producers, who use a considerable amount of malt from AUKM, we were pleased to be involved in the consultation and given the opportunity to make comment on the Technical Standard.”

The National Farmers’ Union, National Farmers’ Union Scotland, and Agricultural Industries Confederation were also given the opportunity for input into the updated version of the Technical Standard

Colin West, Director for AUKM said: “The AUKM Technical Standard has to be a constantly evolving document which responds to changes in the industry. This process of consultation will enable us to further refine what is already a very comprehensive document, ensuring that the unrivalled level of traceability and quality offered by AUKM is maintained.”

Three key areas have been enhanced as a result of the consultation. Firstly, additions have been made to section 1.6 on Personnel and training to extend the level of assurance that personnel on a maltings site are fully trained and conscious of their responsibility for food safety. In section 2.6.2 on Barley Storage, extra provisions have been made for insect trapping. Refinements have also been made to section 2.7 on Transport, in order to tighten up the link in the chain from the malting process to the customer.

Representatives from AUKM will be at the International Brewing Convention in Manchester on 2nd and 3rd October on stand J07.

- Ends -

Notes for Editor

Members of the AUKM scheme are Bairds Malt Limited, Coors Brewers Ltd, Crisp Malting Group Ltd, Greencore Malt, Muntons plc, and Simpsons Malt Limited.

More information on the scheme can be found at www.assuredmalt.com or by calling The Maltsters' Association of Great Britain on 01636 700781.

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