



**Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI)
and
FAMI-QS Asbl**

Endorsed Scheme Agreement

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 Agreement (hereinafter referred to as “the Schemes”) as Global ACI Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) sub-scopes in accordance with Global ACI MRA-003 and this Agreement.

1.2 FAMI-QS Asbl requires Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) operating in its scheme(s) to be accredited by an Accreditation Body (AB) that is a signatory to the Global ACI MRA with a main scope of management system certification and a sub-scope of the relevant scheme(s) included in Schedule 1 to this Agreement (Global ACI MRA 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 25 CABs worldwide under the Scheme(s), the supervision of which is carried out by the ABs that are signatories to the Global ACI MRA.

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.

1.6 FAMI-QS Asbl requires CABs to be accredited by ABs that are signatories to the Global ACI MRA, noting that harmonisation 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, recognised 3rd party certification of production and trade based on ISO/IEC 17021-1 and ISO 22003-1.

1.8 **Global ACI** is the world association of conformity assessment Accreditation Bodies in the fields of management systems, products, services, process, persons, validation and verification, testing (including medical testing/examination), calibration, provision of proficiency testing, production of reference materials, and biobanking; inspection activities and other similar programs of conformity assessment.

1.9 Global ACI is responsible for the harmonisation and continuous improvement of the accreditation practices of its members with the ultimate goal to ensure sound technical competence of accredited CABs/ Verification and Validation Bodies (V&VBs), laboratories, and inspection bodies, and to support its Global ACI MRA.

1.10 The Global ACI MRA is established and maintained on the basis of the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 through regular peer evaluations and is the tool by which Global ACI contributes to the elimination of technical barriers to trade and to promoting the free circulation of conformity assessment attestations issued by accredited CABs.

2. Administration and Cooperation

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

2.2 The Global ACI and FAMI-QS Asbl shall comply with the respective requirements of Global ACI MRA-003 *Policies and Procedures for the Management and Expansion of the Scope of the Global ACI Arrangement*, operating and administrating in an open, non-discriminatory and transparent manner, avoiding conflicts of interest or limitation on the acceptance of CABs or ABs other than relevant technical considerations.

2.3 The Scheme(s) will be open to all CABs that are accredited by signatories to the Global ACI MRA. The ABs will be signatory members of the Global ACI MRA for Management System Certification (ISO/IEC 17201-1 and ISO 22003-1) and have agreed to implement this Scheme Endorsement Agreement between FAMI-QS Asbl and the Global ACI. A list of Global ACI ABs that have agreed to implement the Agreement shall be maintained on the FAMI-QS Asbl Website.

2.4 The Scheme(s) will only work with Global ACI MRA signatories who have agreed to implement this Agreement. FAMI-QS Asbl will stop working with an AB that is no longer a signatory to the Global ACI MRA or has not implemented and maintained this Agreement.

2.5 Both Global ACI and FAMI-QS Asbl shall appoint a liaison person of each organisation to act as contact persons.

3. Information Exchange

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

3.1 FAMI-QS Asbl shall inform the Global ACI 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 Global ACI-MRA-003;
- (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 Global ACI MRA signatory ABs.

3.2 Global ACI shall inform FAMI-QS Asbl of the following:

- (a) Whenever a Global ACI MRA signatory has their scope extended to include the Scheme(s);
- (b) Whenever a Global ACI MRA signatory with a sub-scope of the Scheme(s) has been suspended or had their Global ACI MRA 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 Global ACI MRA 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. A summary of comments shall be available on the FAMI-QS Asbl website.

4.2 The Global ACI 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 Global ACI in order to make sure that the scheme(s) continues to comply with the requirements of Global ACI MRA-003.

4.5 The need for the development of specific Global ACI application documents for inclusion of privately owned standards/normative documents in the Global ACI MRA shall be proposed by the Global ACI applicable Technical Committee and the need for additional preparation of peer evaluation by the Global ACI MRA Committee as specified in Global ACI MRA-003.

5. Implementation

5.1 Global ACI 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 MRA peer evaluation to the Global ACI MRA signatories working in the certification scheme that have agreed to implement this agreement.

6. Confidentiality



6.1 Global ACI 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 the Global ACI can be cancelled by either party in writing with a period of notice of three months.

GLOBAL ACCREDITATION COOPERATION INCORPORATED (Global ACI)	FAMI-QS Asbl The Quality and Safety System for Specialty Feed Ingredients
 Brahim Houla Chair	 Kylie Sheehan Secretary General

Date of Agreement: 14 April 2026

SCHEDULE 1

FAMI-QS Asbl scheme(s) endorsed for inclusion as sub-scopes to the GLOBAL ACCREDITATION COOPERATION INCORPORATED MRA:

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