



# SCOTTISH QUALITY CROPS

## Addendum to SQC Harvest 2021 Scheme Standard

This addendum modifies and supplements the publication of the SQC Harvest 2021 Standard issued on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020.

Part I page 9, paragraph 3 Critical non compliance. Change to the description for Critical non compliance. *Serious non-conformance(s) meaning for the purpose of this Scheme a non-conformance to the Standards which is critical, or a breach of the Scheme Rules or legislation which presents a serious risk to food safety, or environmental protection and that jeopardises the integrity or reputation of the Scheme. The assessor shall contact the SQC office immediately upon raising a critical non-compliance This may result in withdrawal from the scheme.*

Part I page 10, paragraph 1 removal of 'The additional assessment will include those growers who have previously found to be partially compliant with the Renewable Energy Directive'.

Page 5 paragraph 2 *New scheme applicants must disclose on registration whether they are a current or previous participant of another voluntary scheme and if so they must make available to the Assessor all relevant information, including the mass balance data and auditing reports. In addition they must disclose whether they have had a different legal form or name in the past 12 months*

Page 5 paragraph 4 *if the Assessor finds that the applicant was previously found to be in non-conformity with any of the requirements of the recast RED/Directive (EU) 2018/2001 this information will be brought to the attention of the SQC scheme.*

Page 7 Production and Harvesting paragraph 2 *recast RED/Directive (EU) 2018/2001*

Page 7 Production and Harvesting paragraph 2 *after 'temporary grass' or wetlands*

Page 7 paragraph 3 *The Assessor will check that any evidence of verification of wetland status reflects seasonal changes within a year.*

Page 10 Sourcing and traceability of crops paragraph 5 *recast RED/Directive (EU) 2018/2001*

Page 10 The Union Database paragraph title *recast RED/Directive (EU) 2018/2001*

Page 10 The Union Database *recast RED/Directive (EU) 2018/2001*

Part II (page 21)

3.0 Standards for the Production, Harvesting of Crops and Biodiversity Land (HACCP 1&6)

3.1 *recast RED/Directive (EU) 2018/2001. Final paragraph deleted, replaced with 'If this evidence is not available for all of the land in their business at 1 January 2008, that land will be assumed as non-compliant to the recast RED/Directive (EU) 2018/2001'*

3.2 *recast RED/Directive (EU) 2018/2001*

3.3 *recast RED/Directive (EU) 2018/2001*

3.3 *add the following text :*

Auditors will check the set up of the mass balance system during the initial audit

If requested, all growers shall make available to auditors/CB all mass balance data in advance of the planned audit

3.0 Standard for the Production, Harvesting of Crops and Biodiversity Land  
 Find Help (page 23)  
 Revised Table

Scope and definitions	<p>'Biomass' means the biodegradable fraction of products, wastes and residues from biological origin from agriculture, including vegetal and animal substances from forestry and related industries, including fisheries and aquaculture as well as the biodegradable fraction of waste including industrial and municipal waste of biological origin.</p> <p>'Agricultural biomass' means biomass produced from agriculture.</p> <p>'Bioliquids' means liquid fuels for transport produced from agriculture</p> <p>'Biofuels' mean liquid fuel for transport produced from biomass.</p>
High biodiversity value land	<p><b>High biodiversity value land: High biodiversity land is defined as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary forest and other wooded land, namely forest and other wooded land of native species, where there is no clearly visible indication of human activity and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed;</li> <li>• Highly biodiverse forest and other wooded land which is species-rich and not degraded, or has been identified as being highly biodiverse by the relevant competent authority, unless evidence is produced that the production of the crops did not interfere with those nature protection purposes;</li> <li>• Areas designated:       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. by law or by the relevant competent authority for nature protection purposes or</li> <li>II. for the protection of rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems or species recognised by international agreements or included in lists drawn up by intergovernmental organisations or the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, subject to their recognition in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 30(4). unless evidence is provided that the production of that raw material did not interfere with those nature protection purposes;</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Highly biodiverse grassland spanning more than one hectare that is:       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) natural, namely grassland that would remain grassland in the absence of human intervention and that maintains the natural species composition and ecological characteristics and processes: or</li> <li>(ii) (ii) non-natural, namely grassland that would cease to be grassland in the absence of human intervention and that is species-rich and not degraded and has been identified as being highly biodiverse by the relevant competent authority, unless evidence is provided that the harvesting of the raw material is necessary to preserve its status as highly biodiverse grassland.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>Note: The following definitions shall be applied</p> <p>'Degraded' means characterised by long-term loss of biodiversity due to for instance over-grazing, mechanical damage to the vegetation, soil erosion or loss of soil quality.</p> <p>'Species- rich' means it is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) A habitat of significant importance to critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable species as</li> </ol>

	<p>classified by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species or other lists with a similar purpose for species or habitats laid down in national legislation or recognised by a competent national authority in the country of origin of the raw material or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(ii) A habitat of significant importance to endemic or restricted-range species; or</li> <li>(iii) A habitat of significant importance to intra-species genetic diversity; or</li> <li>(iv) A habitat of significant importance to globally significant concentrations of migratory species or congregatory species; or</li> <li>(v) A regionally or nationally significant or highly threatened or unique ecosystem.</li> </ul> <p><b>High carbon stock land is defined as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land that had one of the following statuses in January 2008 and no longer has that status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Wetlands: namely land that is covered with or saturated by water permanently for a significant part of the year.</li> <li>ii) Continuously forested areas: namely land spanning more than one hectare with trees higher than 5m and a canopy cover of more than 30%, or trees able to reach those thresholds in situ.</li> <li>iii) Land spanning more than one hectare with trees higher than 5m and canopy cover of between 10% and 30%, or trees able to reach those thresholds in situ, unless evidence is provided that the carbon stock of the area before and after conversion is such that, when the methodology laid down in Part C of Annex 5 of the Directive is applied, the conditions laid down in Article 29 (10) would be fulfilled.</li> </ul> <p>These provisions shall not apply if, at the time the raw material was obtained, the land had the same status as it had in January 2008</p> </li> </ul> <p><b>Peatland:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels must not be made from raw material obtained from land that was peatland in January 2008, unless evidence is provided that the cultivation and harvesting of that raw material does not involve drainage of previously undrained soil).</li> </ul>
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**Explanatory notes**

*The SQC Board and Technical Committee continually monitors changes to any relevant legal regulations and amendments to Codes of Practice /Guidance documents/ and new or developing technical guidance etc providing regular updates to the CB on these changes which may impact and underpin the scheme standards or the assessment/certification process. The Scheme standards and supporting documentation are reviewed on an annual basis by the Technical Committee which also considers findings from the scheme's internal monitoring process.*