



SCOTTISH QUALITY CROPS

SQC NEWS UPDATES – 04 OCTOBER 2022

SQC welcomes FIA as their new Certification Body

Further to earlier SQC news updates, we are delighted to welcome FIA onboard as our new Certification Body – with their contract commencing on 01 October 2022.

FIA General Manager, Stephen Sanderson, commented on this move stating:

“We are looking forward to working closely with SQC and the wider industry to ensure requirements for the SQC Assurance Scheme are met and underpin the integrity of the Scottish Quality Crops Brand, whilst introducing assessment efficiencies through the adoption of new technologies and joint assessment capabilities with other assurance schemes we operate in Scotland.”

The start date of their contract ties in with the start of our new scheme year and financial year. This means that FIA will undertake all audits for this scheme year – 01 October 2022 to 30 September 2023 – and their aim is to commence these as soon as possible.

From now, if you have any queries in relation to Scheme Standards, membership, scheme documentation, passports etc, please contact:

Food Integrity Assurance Ltd (FIA), The Rural Centre, West Mains, Ingliston, Newbridge, EH28 8NZ

Telephone: 0131 609 0558

Email: info@foodassurance.co.uk

Website: <https://www.sqcrops.co.uk/> (where you will find the enquiry form) or <https://foodintegrityassurance.co.uk/>

SQC Standards and Manual – Issue October 2022

We are currently in the process of finalising this document – adding all necessary document links to the digital edition that will allow you to easily access them.

On completion, the Standards Manual will be circulated by email and be available via the SQC website.

There are no substantive changes to the Scheme Standards (issue October 2022).

However, please note that the following will take effect within this new Scheme year:

2.17 – The NSTS requirements:

SQC growers must note that with effect from Scheme Year 2022/2023, all trailed, mounted and self-propelled sprayers with a boom of over 3m, air blast sprayers and aerial sprayers, will need to be tested under NSTS annually.

Any queries on the standards, please contact FIA.

SQC Renewal Notices

We anticipate renewal notices for the new scheme year being circulated week commencing Monday 24 October.

SQC Website – new look

We have been working with 1st Class Media to enhance the SQC website – making it more user friendly, modern looking and pleasing on the eye! Through this process, the member checker has remained 'live'. And, we anticipate the new website being fully functional by the end of this week.

We have worked to remove any duplication from across the site, reviewed the documentation on the site and made it easier to navigate.

In addition to this though, we will continue to work towards the following:

- A full review of all documents on the site
- A 'one stop shop' for all things SQC – we will work to promote the website to all and ensure that all members are aware of it and its uses
- Improving navigation on it – this is the first step in looking at its content and the website will hopefully become part of a wider communications plan and strategy to strengthen our messaging

So, please do familiarise yourself with it and if you have any suggestions on improvements, we would love to hear from you.

To view the new look website, click [here](#).

Your SQC Board

Your SQC Board is scheduled to meet on Friday 28 October where they will have an opportunity to meet – and hear from – our new Certification Body, FIA. In addition, we will be discussing the SQC 5 Year Strategy – which is currently being developed, further to a review which took place in May.

Part of this work will be to ensure the following:

- SQC Assurance helping growers gain market access and premiums for their crops
- Participation in the scheme has improved farm practices
- SQC is recognised as leaders in sustainability by everyone in our sector
- To have wider engagement with end users
- To grow our membership, scale and market share of the crops assured under the scheme

And, other news.....

- **Digital Grain Passports**

This month, all of the industry will be given the chance to provide their views on whether to move away from the current grain passports to a digital system. AHDB are holding a series of webinars, open to everyone involved in grain supply chains, to hear about how the digital grain passport will work. They will also provide a demonstration of the proposed system and you will have the opportunity to give feedback and ask questions.

SQC have been attending stakeholder workshops on this and have held meetings with AHDB and Audacia (who will undertake the system build) to look at IT requirements and to ensure that the proposed system would 'fit' with the current Scottish Passport. In addition, SQC are a member of the AHDB Cereal Liaison Group (CLG) who have been meeting regularly to discuss the proposals.

We would encourage your attendance at one of the workshops.

Click [here](#) to register your place on one of the following dates:

Thursday 6 October – 12 noon to 1.30pm

Tuesday 11 October – 3pm to 4.30pm

Wednesday 19 October – 6.30pm to 8pm

Thursday 27 October – 2pm to 3.30pm

- **Scottish Agriculture Stakeholder meetings**

We also want SQC growers to be aware that we are working hard behind the scenes to ensure that we increase our engagement and communications across the industry. As part of this, we attended the first of the above meetings held at Stirling Mart in September and will be attending another next week. The purpose of these is to share information and issues across the agri sector – and to ensure that all voices are heard.

In addition, we are regularly meeting with individual stakeholders to discuss areas of concern – especially in relation to SQC and its assurance scheme.

Kind regards

Teresa Dougall, SQC Managing Director