SQC - ANNUAL STANDARDS SETTING REVIEW PROCESS

1. **Purpose of document**

To formalise SQC Standards setting review process in order to maximise the efficiency and integrity of the scheme, and increase engagement and transparency to members, stakeholders and the supply chain. This will include incorporating an annual review of the SQC Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Plan.

2. **Background**

Scottish Quality Crops (SQC) Limited owns the SQC Assurance Scheme for Scottish cereal producers which covers the production of crops. The Scheme has a set of documented Standards which are used as product certification standards.

Members of the Scheme are required to prove compliance to the Scheme Standards through a programme of regular surveillance assessments, which may also include additional unannounced spot checks. The assessments are delivered by a third-party Certification Body accredited to ISO 17065, which is licensed by SQC to use the Standards and provide certification.

3. **SQC Standards**

The SQC Standards are designed to increase consumer and trade confidence in both home and export markets by:

- Responding proactively to consumer concerns about crop production
- Improving food safety and meeting the requirements of the Food Safety Act (1990)
- Addressing the environmental responsibilities of crop production.

4. **SQC Standards Setting Committee (from 01 October 2024)**

The Committee was reviewed in July 2024 to ensure adequate internal and independent representation and will comprise of the following:

- Fiona Burnett – SQC Technical Director (representing SRUC)
- John Hutcheson – SQC Chairman
- Mark McCallum – SQC Vice Chair (representing NFUS)

- Teresa Dougall – SQC Managing Director

- Jane Johnson – FIA Quality Manager

- David McHarg – FIA Technical Manager

- Adam Christie – Scottish Agronomy Ltd (independent)

- Gary Catto – Scotgrain Agriculture (independent)

All members of the Committee – apart from the Certification Body (FIA) representatives are entitled to one vote (if and when required).

The Certification Body – FIA - representatives are members on an advisory capacity only.

The Committee will be supported in their review of the SQC Standards by the Scottish Crops Supply Chain Strategy Hub – and to provide wider sectoral engagement and consultation.

Current Scottish Crops Supply Chain Hub membership (as of 01 October 2024) can be found under **Annex 1** (at end of this document).

Note – with regards to substantive changes to the Standards e.g. addition of new Standards / removal of a Standard – these have to be approved by members of the SQC Co-op i.e. the SQC Board of Directors prior to implementation.

Annex 1 – Scottish Crop Supply Chain Hub membership

Organisation	Representative
Scottish Quality Crops	John Hutcheson (SQC Chair)
Scottish Quality Crops	Teresa Dougall (SQC Managing Director)
Food Integrity Assurance	Stephen Sanderson (FIA General Manager)
Food Integrity Assurance	Jane Johnson (FIA Quality Manager)
Scottish Organisation Agricultural Society - Cereal sector	Hamish Walls
Scotland Food & Drink	Amanda Brown
James Hutton Institute - Cereal Research Sector	George Lawrie (chairs the Barley Hub at JHI)
Scottish Agronomy - Cereal Research Sector	Adam Christie (Managing Director)
Head of Merchanting at Scotgrain Agriculture, part of Bairds Malt Ltd	Gary Catto
Pepsico - Cupar mill Quaker Oats – Retail / Processor	Nicky Bond
Scotch Whisky Association – Retail / Processor	Caroline De Rouffignac (Policy lead supply chain resilience)
Food Standards Scotland	Ian McWatt (FSS Deputy Chief Executive)
Farmer	Andrew Moir