



**SCOTTISH  
QUALITY CROPS**

# NEWS UPDATES

May 2024

## SQC Member – Food Integrity Assurance Update

At last, some welcome dry weather has allowed winter cereal work to proceed and Spring sowing to progress at pace. Long overdue and a relief to the whole industry.

### Grain Passports for 2024

Under the new product certification model, membership approval to the SQC Scheme is maintained on an ongoing basis provided that members have an annual assessment between 1 October and 30 September which is certified – either through no non-compliances being raised during the assessment, or where non-compliances are raised, they are resolved within the certification timeframe.

The status of memberships is updated daily on the **SQC Member Checker**. The Checker is hosted in a secure environment on the SQC website – access is restricted to buyers of grain and used by the industry to validate that the grain they are buying is SQC-assured. Please note as per above, the Member status will show as approved on the Checker unless: the member is suspended as a result of a certification decision; they have withdrawn from the Scheme either voluntarily or have failed to renew their membership.

As a result of this move all existing\* SQC members will begin to receive their personalised (for use when selling their own grain) passports from the week of 20th May. Passports are only valid if your membership status shows as approved on the Member Checker.

The passports will be printed and sent by post in the normal manner. Please store these important documents safely until required for grain movements. FIA will charge a reprinting fee if members request additional passports as a result of loss or damage.

We would like to remind members that if they choose to withdraw from the SQC Scheme they will no longer be approved and any grain in store cannot be marketed as assured, and any remaining unused passports will need to be destroyed safely or returned to FIA.

With over 134,000 paper passports being printed and issued each year, the impact on the environment and associated costs remains under acute focus. SQC will be investigating options to reduce these impacts in time for the 2025 harvest.

### Assessment progress

To date FIA has conducted over 1500 SQC assessments which is ~48% of the membership, so thank you for all those who have supported our hard-working assessors with early appointments. As a reminder, the new Product Certification Model allows for the delivery of assessments to be spread over 12 months providing the opportunity to have your SQC assessment at a different time of the year whilst continuing to align with other schemes to provide joint assessments where feasible.

This means if you have not had your annual assessment, your FIA assessor will make contact to arrange your next SQC assessment shortly. Whilst we appreciate the current pressures of spring, we would welcome your support to allow more assessments to be conducted during the spring and early summer months to take pressure off the pre-harvest period.

Thank you all again for your continued support for the SQC Scheme and if the FIA Team can be of any assistance, please contact us on **0131 609 0558** or via email [info@foodassurance.co.uk](mailto:info@foodassurance.co.uk)

\* New applicants will show as approved, once they have had their assessment and been notified that they have achieved approval status.



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## FIA Contact Details

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