



**SCOTTISH
QUALITY CROPS**

NEWS UPDATES

November 2024

You will recently have received a SQC Scheme Update from FIA – covering some of the key work areas we have been jointly undertaking. This includes temporary storage derogation, a reminder on the change to a Product Certification Model and commencement of assessments for the new scheme year which started on 01 October 2024, and the move to an Integrity Check Programme. All of this work focuses on improving our service to you whilst continuing to increase the integrity of the SQC Scheme.

With the close of one scheme year and the opening of a new one, it has been a busy time within SQC. We have also been working closely with main key partners and stakeholders to increase visibility of SQC within the supply chain sector, including a visit to one of the UK's main bio ethanol plants at Vivergo and meeting with other assurance bodies in Krakow to better understand and secure the future of the RED market for Scottish growers.

Will you be at AgriScot? For the first time, AHDB is hosting a seminar in collaboration with Boortmalt and SQC at the farm business event at Ingliston next week. Come along to Seminar Room 2 at 12.15 to hear the latest market outlook for key Scottish combinable crops from AHDB analysts as well as Boortmalt's perspective on whether there is potential for 'green premiums' in future for malting barley. SQC will be providing an overview of the assurance landscape in this area and the importance of growers, supply chains, processors and assurance bodies working together to ensure that assurance standards work for all. It's all taking place at AgriScot on Wednesday 13th November in Seminar Room 2, from 12.15-1.15pm, and it would be great to see you there.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact FIA whose details are below. Or email me at teresa.dougall@scottishqualitycrops.co.uk



**Teresa Dougall,
SQC Managing Director**



Out and about with a visit to Vivergo bio ethanol plant (left) and an recent meeting with other assurance bodies in Krakow (right)

SQC RENEWAL NOTICE ISSUED

All members should have now received their renewal notice for the new scheme year 01 October 2024 to 30 September 2025. If you have not yet received this, please contact FIA on 0131 609 0558 or email: info@foodassurance.co.uk

Remember, with the move to the Product Certification Model, members maintain their certification approval subject to the following: renewing their membership and having an assessment which meets certification requirements within the scheme year.

Please note if you chose not to renew your SQC membership, any grain you have in store cannot be sold as SQC assured.

SQC Temporary Storage Derogation

SQC has approved a derogation to allow storage of grain in temporary store to continue until the end of November 2024.

Any member requiring an extension to their temporary storage must contact FIA to request this, providing details of store location, tonnage stored and date when store is expected to be emptied.

Link

<https://www.sqccrops.co.uk/documents/scheme-documents/>

NEW SQC VIDEO LAUNCHED

You may have already come across the new SQC video online and on X. With input from our Chair, FIA and the supply chain, we created this to try and better explain who we are, what we do and why we do it. We focus on the fact that SQC is a co-op with input from across the supply chain but led by farmers, and the partnership working with our Certification Body, FIA.

If you haven't already seen this, please do take a couple of minutes to view it via the SQC X (Twitter) page – [click here](#) – and via my own LinkedIn page – [click here](#). It is also available to view on the home page of the SQC website – [click here](#) or on [Vimeo](#).

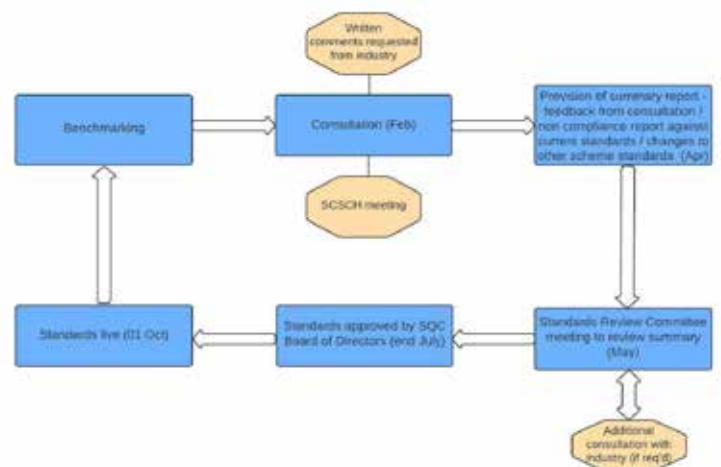


Standards Setting Process and Committee

Further to consultation with members and industry, the SQC Board of Directors has approved a new SQC Standards Setting Process to ensure full engagement and consultation with our members and the industry when undertaking our annual review of the Standards. In addition, we welcome Gary Catto of Scotgrain Agriculture to the Standards Setting Committee.

We would like to take this opportunity to advise all members that we will be undertaking a full review of the SQC Standards this scheme year – looking to remove duplication and ensure that all Standards remain in line with assurance requirements. We will keep everyone informed as we move forward in this process.

A copy of the Standards Setting Process (including a flowchart diagram) can be found on the SQC website and by clicking [here](#).



LAUNCH OF NEW DOCUMENTS FROM SQC STRATEGY AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Further to our last enews, all members have been emailed copies of documents outlining the interim review of the SQC 5 Year Strategy (2022 to 2027) and key achievements during Year 2 of the Strategy.

As you will have seen, our key focus remains on the assurance scheme and consolidation – to continue doing what we do – but doing it better across all areas. For those yet to look at the documents, they can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

Annual Sprayer Training Course

Alongside representation from FIA, I recently attended the annual Train the Trainer event for the Annual Sprayer Training Course – this year hosted by BASIS which now provides the course material.

As per previous communications and an update to the October 2024 Standards (2.15), “Sprayer Operators must undergo Continual Professional Development (CPD) during the current scheme year.” The requirement to meet this from 01 October 2024 has now been amended to read:

Operators have two options regarding maintaining their CPD:

- Complete a BASIS-approved Sprayer Operator Course annually i.e. within the current scheme year

OR

- Become a NRoSO member and maintain an annual record of 10 CPD points.

Ringlink – and others – will continue to provide the course (as approved by BASIS). The dates for the Ringlink course are opposite with booking available by contacting Gemma via email gemma@ringlink.co.uk or by phoning the office (and asking to speak with Gemma Cumming or Paul Wynne) on **01561 376000**.

NOVEMBER		FEBRUARY	
Coupar Angus	27-Nov	Dunfermline	03-Feb
Cupar	28-Nov	Coupar Angus	05-Feb
Keith	29-Nov	Laurencekirk	07-Feb
DECEMBER		Falkirk	10-Feb
On-Line	02-Dec	Blackford	12-Feb
Forfar	04-Dec	On-Line	13-Feb
Inverurie	05-Dec	Lanark	14-Feb
Perth	06-Dec	Banchory	17-Feb
Falkirk	09-Dec	Arbroath	19-Feb
Laurencekirk	11-Dec	Inverurie	20-Feb
JANUARY		Cupar	25-Feb
Coupar Angus	08-Jan	Laurencekirk	26-Feb
Cupar	09-Jan	MAY	
On-Line	10-Jan	Musselburgh	26-May
Ellon	13-Jan	Keith	28-May
Arbroath	15-Jan	Inverurie	29-May
Laurencekirk	17-Jan	Ellon	30-May
Inverurie	20-Jan	JUNE	
Kelso	22-Jan	Coupar Angus	02-Jun
Berwick	23-Jan	Kelso	03-Jun
On-Line	24-Jan	Cupar	04-Jun
Rothbury	24-Jan	Falkirk	05-Jun
Cupar	28-Jan	Laurencekirk	06-Jun
Musselburgh	30-Jan	On-Line	06-Jun

Update on EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED) II and III

SQC continues to work hard to ensure that SQC’s quality assurance scheme maintains recognition from the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) II via the European Commission to ensure there is no interruption to the European bio fuels market for Scottish growers.

In addition, the EC has launched RED III – which we expect to be implemented in May 2025. Our application for RED III recognition has now been submitted and we await assessment feedback.

We still await clarification from the EC with regards to their Implementing Regulation 11(1) and the process for accreditation and certification.

Over the last year, SQC has joined Voluntary Schemes from the UK and Europe to discuss joint issues around RED II, the new Union database and approval of new NUTS 2 values.

At the end of October, over 15 Voluntary Schemes, including SQC, met in Krakow to look at formalising arrangements to set up a formal group of Voluntary Schemes and discuss joint issues around accreditation, the new EU database and agreement of NUTS2 values. This collaboration will give us a stronger voice when approaching the Commission with issues – and provide a platform to engage further with the EC.

UPDATED DOCUMENTS

In line with the new scheme year, we have updated the following documents on the SQC website and these can be found at Scottish Quality Crops – Document Catalogue (sqccrops.co.uk):

- SQC Application Form Oct 2024
- SQC HACCP Plan
- October 2024 SQC Standard 1.9 Guidance Appendix 1
- SQC Scheme Standards Oct 2024
- SQC Standards Oct 2024 – Amendments from Oct 2023 Standards
- SQC Membership Rules – Version 5
- SQC Membership Rules – Amendments
- RED form for new members
- RED form for continuing members

We are also looking to develop the SQC website to ensure that all information is easily accessible and simple to download. Further details on this to follow.



SCOTTISH QUALITY CROPS

www.sqccrops.co.uk

[@ScotQualCrops](https://www.instagram.com/ScotQualCrops)

FIA Contact Details

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