



**SCOTTISH  
QUALITY CROPS**

# NEWS UPDATES

**December 2023**



**Teresa Dougall,**  
SQC Managing Director

SQC would like to wish all their members a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year (when it comes). Before we move into 2024, just a couple of important updates on work we have been keeping you informed on over this year.

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**

## Renewable Energy Directive (RED) II

SQC have been working with the other UK and European voluntary schemes, key partners, stakeholders and Government to resolve the potential loss of the UK's biofuels assurance status with the European Commission, known as the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) II.

In June, the Commission notified SQC, AIC and Red Tractor Assurance (RTA) of its intention to withdraw accreditation for UK-based RED II assurance schemes at the end of 2023, which had the potential to affect UK biofuel exports.

The Commission said this was because it only recognises schemes accredited in EU Member States, and the UK is now regarded as a third country since it left the EU.

Through liaison with voluntary schemes in other countries, it became apparent that all were experiencing difficulty in meeting the Commission's demands as outlined in their Implementing Regulations – and specifically IR 11(1) around accreditation.

However, on 12 December, SQC and other voluntary

schemes received a communication from the European Commission which included the following confirmation:

**“Accreditation:** We looked into the issue based on your feedback and concluded that more time is needed for the implementation of Article 11(1) of the Implementing Regulation on certification. We therefore prepared an implementing act postponing the application of this provision...”

### **What this means for scheme Participants?**

SQC welcome this communication via the European Commission as it removes the potential for UK voluntary scheme recognition to be withdrawn in the near future, maintaining access to the EU market as a valuable outlet for biofuels under the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) II.

However, we await the draft EU regulation and it is not yet clear for how long the postponement of implementation of Article 11(1) of the Implementing Regulation on certification will last.

We will continue to engage on this matter and keep SQC members informed.

## SQC Membership Rules – Revision to Rule 40

We informed all members of the launch of the SQC Membership Rules on 01 October 2023.

As per Membership Rule number 4, “SQC may update these Membership Rules and the Standards at any time. You will be given notice of the specific changes made to the Standards and the date that they will come into effect. When changes are made to the Membership Rules, SQC will give You notice of the changes, when the new or amended Rules come into effect and where You can view and/or download copies of the amended Rules.”

To ensure ongoing recognition to RED II, the EC have asked that we amend Membership Rule 40. The original version read, “Each of SQC, the Certification Body and any third party duly authorised to act on behalf of either or both of them has the right to carry out an Assessment or spot check at Short Notice or Unannounced. This includes allowing Member States to supervise operations / allowing Member States access to premises where relevant and requested.”

This has now been updated to include the following statement, “Members failing or unwilling to comply with this requirement shall be respectively excluded from participating in the SQC scheme.”

Copies of the SQC Membership Rules and documentation outlining amendments are available to all SQC assured members at [Scottish Quality Crops - Scheme Documents Documents \(sqcrops.co.uk\)](http://ScottishQualityCrops - Scheme Documents Documents (sqcrops.co.uk)).



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[www.sqcrops.co.uk](http://www.sqcrops.co.uk)

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## FIA Contact Details

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