



**SQC MANUAL / STANDARDS TO BE PUBLISHED 01 OCTOBER 2023**  
**IDENTIFIED AMENDMENTS TO ALL STANDARDS – FROM OCTOBER 2022**

**Key change to scheme from 01 October 2023** – we are moving from an annual scheme to a product certification model. See Appendix 1 for flowchart.

**Part 1 – About the Scheme**

The majority of this section has been removed from the Manual – to be replaced by SQC Membership Rules, to come into effect on 01 October 2023. Assessors to be provided with a copy of the document once agreed.

The Manual now opens with an Introduction to the Scheme and contents page.

Contact details for SQC and FIA have been moved to the back of the Manual.

**Part 2 – The SQC Standards**

There are no new Standards within this edition.

Given that we are currently reviewing the SQC Approved Digestate Scheme, we have removed mention of this from the Manual (see Standard 1.9).

The 'Find Help' box at the end of each section has been removed and replaced at the end of the Manual by an Appendix which lists all links mentioned in the document. Note: all links to relevant guidance still remain in each of the Standards (where appropriate).

The layout of the Standards section of the Manual has been amended and will now be displayed as follows:

| <b>Standard number / Ref to HACCP</b>   | <b>Standard wording</b> | <b>Guidance</b> |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|
| It will also be noted in this column if this is a 'Revised' or 'New Standard' |                         |                 |

All amendments to wording of the Standards are as listed below:

| STANDARD NUMBER | REVISED / NEW | WORDING FROM OCTOBER 2022 MANUAL  | NEW WORDING IN OCTOBER 2023 MANUAL<br>(new wording highlighted in red)  |
|-----------------|---------------|---|---|
| 1.4             | Revised       | <p><b>Growers must also consider the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil status</li> <li>• Previous cropping</li> <li>• Application of organic manures</li> <li>• Natural losses.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Growers must also consider the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil status</li> <li>• Previous cropping <b>and yield</b></li> <li>• Application of organic manures</li> <li>• Natural losses.</li> </ul>  |
| 1.8             | Revised       | <p><b>Records must include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Batch records of origin</li> <li>• Delivery records</li> <li>• Application records</li> <li>• <b>SQC Growers must ensure that the end merchant will accept crops that have received such treatments.</b></li> </ul>  | <p><b>Records must include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Batch records of origin</li> <li>• Delivery records</li> <li>• Application records</li> <li>• <b>SQC Growers must ensure that the end <b>customer or merchant</b> will accept crops that have received such treatments.</b></li> </ul>   |
| 1.9             | Revised       | <p>Digestate must be PAS110 or SQC Digestate Scheme certified. Detailed records must be kept.</p> <p>The SQC Farm Approved Digestate Standards aims to define acceptable inputs to the AD plant, best practice and conditions to allow the application of SQC Approved Digestate onto land destined for cereal production. A separate application will be required for membership of the SQC Approved Digestate Scheme.</p> <p><b>Records must include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Batch records of origin</li> <li>• Delivery records</li> <li>• Application records</li> <li>• <b>SQC Growers must ensure that the end merchant will accept crops that have received such treatments.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Applications must be in line with NVZ requirements.</b><br/>For further guidance see SQC Digestate Standard and the 'Find Help' section below.</p> | <p><b>Records must include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Batch records of origin</li> <li>• Delivery records</li> <li>• Application records</li> </ul> <p><b>SQC Growers must ensure that the <b>end customer or merchant</b> will accept crops that have received such treatments.</b></p> <p><b>Applications must be in line with NVZ requirements.</b></p> <p><b>Advisory note for producers:</b> The SQC AD Scheme is not currently operational and is under review. As part of the review, a consultation will be undertaken with the sector with the aim of optimising the sustainable use of digestate and other bulky organic manures in Scottish crops and best aligning this with market acceptability.</p> |

|                  |         |   |  |
|------------------|---------|---|--|
|                  |         |   | <b>For producer information only:</b> Appendix 1 shows the acceptable list of green feedstocks previously included in the SQC AD Scheme.   |
| 1.15             | Revised | Field boundaries must be protected from fertiliser, FYM and slurry.<br><br>Growers must limit the amount of crop enhancement products that may be thrown into field boundaries, hedges and open water adjoining arable fields. Headland kits must be used where available.  | Field boundaries must be protected from fertiliser, FYM, slurry, <b>lime and other crop nutrient or soil improver applications.</b><br><br><b>For example:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maintaining safe distances from headlands</b></li> <li>• <b>Maintaining safe distances from open water sources</b></li> <li>• Headland kits must be used where available.</li> </ul>  |
| All of Section 2 | Revised | All mention of 'Crop Protection Products'   | Changed to ' <b>Plant Protection Products</b> '  |
| 2.4              | Revised | <b>Containers must:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be fit for purpose</li> <li>• Clearly labelled</li> <li>• In sound condition.</li> </ul>   | <b>Containers must:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be fit for purpose</li> <li>• Clearly labelled *</li> <li>• In sound condition.</li> </ul> <p>* Where a product has been decanted into a replacement container, the new container must show the original labelling information (which can be printed from manufacturers websites).</p>  |
| 2.6              | Revised | Growers must ensure that all products used are on label and CRD approved. If a product being used is an EAMU, a copy of the relevant notice of approval must be kept and documented.<br>All plant protection products must, at all times, be used in accordance with product labels or Extension of Authorisation for Minor Use (EAMU). - Harvest intervals are observed and recorded. Maximum permitted dose rates are not exceeded. | Growers must ensure that all products used are on label and CRD approved. If a product being used is an EAMU, a copy of the relevant notice of approval must be kept and documented.<br>All plant protection products must, at all times, be used in accordance with product labels or Extension of Authorisation for Minor Use (EAMU). <b>Key points include e.g.</b> Harvest intervals are observed and recorded. Maximum permitted dose rates are not exceeded. <b>Check product labels before use.</b> |

|                    |         |  |  |
|--------------------|---------|--|--|
| 2.7                | Revised | Expired or withdrawn Crop Protection Products must be disposed of by an approved waste disposal contractor.  | Expired or withdrawn Plant Protection Products must be <b>kept segregated from approved stock pending disposal by an approved waste disposal contractor.</b>   |
| 2.8                | Revised | Growers must keep accurate records and up to date spraying records which must be retained for at least three years.  | Growers must keep accurate records and up to date spraying records which must be retained for <b>a minimum of five years.</b>  |
| 2.10               | Revised | Growers must follow all statutory label requirements for maximum permitted dose.   | Growers must follow all statutory label requirements.  |
| 2.11               | Revised | Application of insecticides to oilseed rape must be during appropriate times of the day.   | Application of insecticides to oilseed rape must be during appropriate times of the day. Growers must avoid bright weather and mid-day applications to protect and minimise any potential harmful effect on bees.  |
| 2.17               | Revised | All pesticide application equipment must be tested under the National Sprayer Testing Scheme (NSTS) so that a valid MOT is in place at the time of spray applications.<br><br><b>The NSTS requirements:</b><br>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. | All pesticide application equipment must be tested under the National Sprayer Testing Scheme (NSTS) so that a valid <b>test certificate</b> is in place at the time of spray applications.<br><br><b>The NSTS requirements:</b><br>SQC growers must note that 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. |
| 2.17 / 2.18 / 2.20 | Revised | All mention of 'MOT' removed   |  |
| 2.21               | Revised | Pesticides must be used in a manner that reduces the risk to water, birds and small mammals. Maps must record these areas.   | Pesticides must be used in a manner that reduces the risk to water, birds and small mammals. <b>Growers must have a record with a farm map, clearly highlighting areas of high pollution risk.</b>   |
| 3.2                | Revised | Growers must provide information on the area which is in an arable rotation (including temporary grass) for the current scheme year.<br>Documents for verification of previous land status must be retained for a minimum of 5 years.  | Growers must provide information on the area which is in an arable rotation (including temporary grass) for the current scheme year.   |

|                       |         |  |  |
|-----------------------|---------|--|--|
|                       |         |  | Documents for verification of previous land status must be retained for a minimum of 5 years, <b>or longer where it is required by the relevant national authority.</b>  |
| 3.3                   | Revised | All growers must use a mass balance system and retain records for five years.  | All growers must use a mass balance system and retain records for <b>a minimum of five years, or longer where it is required by the relevant national authority.</b>   |
| 3.4                   | Revised | Growers are required to identify and manage fields at risk from ergot.   | Growers are required to identify fields at risk from ergot <b>and take specific management action.</b>   |
| 3.4                   | Revised | Fields with ergot present in the previous scheme year must be recorded.<br>Management systems must be modified to limit ergot in future years.   | Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fields with ergot present in the previous scheme year <b>should</b> be recorded.</li> <li>• <b>Fields where ergot is identified in season should be harvested and stored separately to avoid contaminating larger bulks</b></li> <li>• <b>Management plans may include actions such as controlling grass weed hosts</b></li> </ul> <p>Growers should consider and minimise the risk of other contaminants</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Physical contaminants such as plastics from compost applications, or lead pellets from shooting</b></li> <li>• <b>Crop contaminants such as HEAR oilseed rape or crops that might contain allergens</b></li> </ul> |
| 4.9                   | Revised | Moisture meters must be calibrated.  | Moisture meters <b>and temperature probes</b> must be calibrated <b>annually.</b>  |
| Advanced notification | Revised | The SQC Technical Committee/Board are considering the introduction of a Soil Management Plan (to align with emerging government policies and conditionality payments) which may be introduced as a 2022/23 or 2023/24 Standard.<br>For further information on Soil Management Plans use the 'Find Help' section below. | The SQC <b>Standard Review</b> Committee/Board <b>will continue to consider the introduction of a Soil Management Plan (that aligns with customer requirements and emerging government policies).</b>  |

# APPENDIX 1 – PRODUCT CERTIFICATION MODEL PROCESS FLOWCHART

