



**SCOTTISH
QUALITY CROPS**

NEWS UPDATES

April 2024

SQC Member – Food Integrity Assurance Update

The whole Food Integrity Assurance (FIA) team would like to wish SQC members a productive Spring. Hopefully there will be some long overdue dry weather to allow the Spring work to progress, it's certainly been a very challenging start to the year.

We are now six months into the current Scheme Year which saw the introduction of a product certification model by SQC which replaces the previous harvest year model. This allows members to maintain their certification approval providing they pay their membership fee and are assessed and certified within the Scheme Year, which continues to run from October to September.

To date, FIA has conducted over 1300 SQC assessments, which is 43% of the membership, therefore, 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 that your FIA assessor may make contact to arrange your next SQC assessment shortly and we would welcome your support to allow more assessments to be

conducted during the Spring months to take pressure off the pre-harvest period.

Under the new product certification model membership approval to the SQC Scheme is maintained on an ongoing basis providing each member receives an annual assessment which is certified.

The approval status of membership is updated daily to the SQC Member checker which is hosted in a secure environment on the SQC website and used by the industry to validate if the grain they are buying is SQC assured. All members will remain approved on the checker unless they are suspended as a result of a certification decision, or they have withdrawn from the Scheme either voluntarily or for failure to renew their membership.

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 will no longer be marketed as assured.

Passports for the 2024 harvest will be issued around May, which again is dependent on the member approval status. More details on this year's passport process will be issued shortly.

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



FIA Contact Details

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Website: sqcrops.co.uk (where you will find an enquiry form) or foodintegrityassurance.co.uk



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