



To: All SQC members

Further to our last SQC news update detailing information on the transfer of Certification Body from LRQA to Food Integrity Assurance (FIA) from 01 October, please now see below intro and FAQs – which contain additional information on the process and what is to be expected.

Our aim is to ensure as smooth a transition as possible – and we will continue to provide additional updates as necessary.

As always, should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Teresa Dougall, SQC Managing Director

Email – Teresa.dougall@scottishqualitycrops.co.uk

Intro from Food Integrity Assurance

Since being established in 2021, Food Integrity Assurance (FIA) business aim is to support, develop and build on Scotland's key credentials of truly sustainable food production that is climate-friendly and supportive of our unique rural environment.

We are looking forward to working closely with Scottish Quality Crops (SQC), SQC members and the wider industry to ensure requirements for the SQC Assurance Scheme are met and underpin the integrity of the Scottish Quality Crops Brand, whilst introducing assessment efficiencies through the adoption of new technologies and joint assessment capabilities with other assurance schemes we currently operate in Scotland.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What service will FIA provide for SQC members?

A: FIA is the certification body appointed by SQC and will be responsible for managing membership details, applications/renewals, assessments, and the certification process (issuing of certificates).

Q: I am an existing member of SQC – do I need to do anything, and will I still be approved?

A: Your membership details will transfer to FIA and provided you have a current certificate or letter of confirmation from the previous certification body (LRQA), you will be approved.

Q: I still have grain in store and need more grain passports to move it. Where can I get these from?

*A: If your grain was produced in the 2022 or previous harvest years your assessment and certification will have been conducted by LRQA and they will continue to provide any additional passports you require**

Through to 30 September, please contact LRQA on:

Email: sqc-ca@lr.org or Telephone: 0131 619 2100

From 01 October 2022, FIA will undertake this on your behalf. Please contact us on:

Email: info@foodassurance.co.uk or Telephone: 0131 609 0558

**Provided you are currently approved (have a current certificate) and are registered as having long term storage, your existing grain passports will remain valid and allow you to move grain as assured.*

Q: Will I still have the same assessor?

A: The new certification body, FIA, will be responsible for recruiting and/or contracting sufficient assessors to conduct SQC assessments. Some of their current assessors are already qualified to assess to the SQC Scheme Standards and they may be familiar to you.

Q: Can I still have joint assessments?

A: Where possible FIA will arrange to conduct joint assessments (i.e. QMS Cattle & Sheep). FIA are also working closely with other certification bodies to deliver joint assessments where possible to minimise the assessment burden

Q: How will I renew my membership of SQC?

A: You will receive an invitation to renew your membership in the Autumn of 2022 which will contain all the details on how to renew.

Q: I normally pay my renewal by direct debit – will I have to sign a new mandate?

A: If you have previously paid by Direct Debit your membership renewal fee will be collected using the existing mandate

Q: How do I contact FIA?

A: FIA offices are at:



*Food Integrity Assurance
The Rural Centre
Westmains
Newbridge
EH28 8NZ*

Email: info@foodassurance.co.uk

Telephone: 0131 609 0558

Web: www.foodintegrityassurance.co.uk

FIA phone lines are manned from 08:00 to 17:00 (Monday to Friday) and there is an answerphone option for you to leave a message. Any messages will be responded to as quickly as possible.