



**SCOTTISH
QUALITY CROPS**

NEWS UPDATES

January 2024

Food Integrity Assurance Update

The whole Food Integrity Assurance (FIA) team would like to wish SQC members all the very best for 2024 and a successful year, although the recent storms and freezing weather will no doubt be creating challenges on farming activity.

We are almost 4 months into the current Scheme year which saw the introduction of a product certification model by SQC which replaces the previous harvest year model and allows for 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 have conducted over 600 SQC assessments which is 200 more than this time last year, so thank you for all those who have supported our hard-working assessors with early appointments. The new product certification model allows for the delivery of assessments to be spread over twelve 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 winter and early 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a certification decision, or they have withdrawn from the Scheme.

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 in late spring on bulk, which again is dependent on the member approval status. More details on this year's passport process will be issued in our next update.

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 the contact details provided below.



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FIA Contact Details

Telephone: 0131 609 0558 or info@foodassurance.co.uk
Website: sqcrops.co.uk (where you will find an enquiry form) or foodintegrityassurance.co.uk

www.sqcrops.co.uk

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