



SQC MEMBERSHIP RULES – AMENDMENTS TO RULES

Under SQC 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. You must ensure full compliance with all such changes to the Standards and the Membership Rules in order to retain SQC Assured status.’

Changes to the Membership Rules are noted below:

Date	Membership Rule	Original wording / document version	New wording / document version
01 Dec 23	Rule no 40	Doc version 1 - 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.	Doc version 2 - 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.

12 Dec 23	Rule no 40	Doc version 2 - 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.	Doc version 3 - 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. Members failing or unwilling to comply with this requirement shall be respectively excluded from participating in the SQC scheme.
22 Jan 24	Rule no 40	Doc version 3 - 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. Members failing or unwilling to comply with this requirement shall be respectively excluded from participating in the SQC scheme.	Doc version 4 - Doc version 3 - 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 competent authorities of Member States to supervise operations / allowing competent authorities of Member States access to premises where relevant and requested. Members failing or unwilling to comply with this requirement shall be respectively excluded from participating in the SQC scheme.

01 Oct 24	Page 6 – definition of Terms used within these Rules		<p>Addition of 2 new terms in Doc Version 5:</p> <p>‘Contractor’ - A person or company that does work for other people or organisations but is not directly employed by them. E.g. a contracted sprayer operator is a person who is not employed by the grower/member, but who undertakes spraying either using their own machinery or by using the grower’s/member’s equipment.</p> <p>‘Grower’ – This term is interchangeable with ‘Applicant’ and/or ‘Member’.</p>
24 Apr 25	Page 7 - definition of ‘Critical (non-compliances)’	Document version 5 - A serious/significant non-compliance to the Standards which is critical, or a breach of the Scheme Rules or a breach of legislation which presents a serious risk to food safety, or environmental protection and that jeopardises the integrity or reputation of the Scheme.	Document version 6 - A serious/significant non-compliance to the Standards which is critical, or a breach of the Scheme Rules or a breach of legislation which presents a serious risk to food safety, or environmental protection or fraudulent issuance of a proof of sustainability or self-declarations e.g. intentional duplication of a proof of sustainability to seek financial benefit, and that jeopardises the integrity or reputation of the Scheme.
24 Apr 25	Page 7 – new definition		Document version 6 – ‘Expired’ – This refers to a certificate that is no longer valid / active.

24 Apr 25	Page 7 – definition of ‘Major (non compliances)’	Document version 5 - A non-compliance of a mandatory requirement, where the non-compliance is potentially reversible or where there is little or no evidence that the requirements of a standard are being met.	Document version 6 - A non-compliance of a mandatory requirement, where the non-compliance is potentially reversible or where there is little or no evidence that the requirements of a standard are being met or repeated and systematic issues.
24 Apr 25	Page 8 – definition of ‘Suspended’	Document version 5 - If a Certificate is Suspended, the Member may not sell or make claims that their grain is SQC Approved or Assured.	Document version 6 - If a Certificate is Suspended, the Member may not sell or make claims that their grain is SQC Approved or Assured and they may not make sustainability claims.
24 Apr 25	Page 8 - new definition		Document version 6 – ‘Terminated’ - This refers to a Certificate that has been voluntarily cancelled while it is still valid.
24 Apr 25	Page 8 – definition of ‘Withdrawn’	Document version 5 - This refers to a certificate that is no longer valid i.e. it has been permanently cancelled by the Certification Body for failure to comply or the Member has voluntarily left the scheme.	Document version 6 - This refers to a certificate that is no longer valid i.e. it has been permanently cancelled by the Certification Body or the Voluntary Scheme.
24 Apr 25	Page 11 – Rule 32	Document version 5 - Any grower engaging in fraudulent activity with the SQC Grain Passports will have their Certificate Suspended and Membership may be Withdrawn from the	Document version 6 - Any grower engaging in fraudulent activity with the SQC Grain Passports will have their Certificate Suspended and Membership will be Withdrawn from the Scheme

		Scheme and only re-admitted at the discretion of the Board.	and only re-admitted at the discretion of the Board.
24 Apr 25	New Rule		Document version 6 - Addition of new Rule – 42 (a) Compliance with the Renewable Energy Directive will be listed as either compliant or not compliant for biofuels.
24 Apr 25	Rule 50 (iii)	Document version 5 - They identify a Critical non-compliance. When a critical non-compliance is identified, the Certification Team will review the evidence and will contact SQC via telephone and email. This may result in withdrawal of the Member's Certificate and ultimately Membership	Document version 6 - They identify a Critical non-compliance. When a critical non-compliance is identified during surveillance or re-certification audits, or through a voluntary scheme's internal monitoring or complaints process, the Certification Team will review the evidence and will contact SQC via telephone and email. Where the critical non-compliance is confirmed by the Certification Team, this shall lead to the immediate withdrawal of the Member's Certificate and ultimately Membership.
24 Apr 25	Rule 51	Document version 5 - Each of SQC and the Certification Body may refuse applications or impose particular conditions for re-entry into the Scheme where the application relates to a business, holding, site and/or store in respect of which certification has previously been	Document version 6 - They identify a Critical non-compliance. When a critical non-compliance is identified during surveillance or re-certification audits, or through a voluntary scheme's internal monitoring or complaints process, the Certification Team will review the evidence and

		<p>Withdrawn in accordance with the Membership Rules (and even if all relevant non-compliances have been rectified).</p>	<p>will contact SQC via telephone and email. Where the critical non-compliance is confirmed by the Certification Team, this shall lead to the immediate withdrawal of the Member's Certificate and ultimately Membership.</p> <p>Each of SQC and the Certification Body may refuse applications or impose particular conditions for re-entry into the Scheme where the application relates to a business, holding, site and/or store in respect of which certification has previously been Withdrawn in accordance with the Membership Rules (and even if all relevant non-compliances have been rectified).</p>
24 Apr 25	Rule 53 (v)	<p>Document version 5 - If a material breach by you of the Membership Rules (including a Major non-compliance to the Standards) which is not capable of being remedied has occurred or a material breach by you of the Membership Rules (including a Major non-compliance to the Standards) which is capable of remedy has not been remedied within 30 days (or such other period as SQC or the Certification Body notify you in the case of a Critical non-compliance of</p>	<p>Document version 6 - If a material breach by you of the Membership Rules (including a Major non-compliance to the Standards) which is not capable of being remedied has occurred or a material breach by you of the Membership Rules (including a Major non-compliance to the Standards) which is capable of remedy has not been remedied within 30 days (or such other period as SQC or the Certification Body notify you) after service of a written notice requiring it to be remedied</p>

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