

# SQC Non-Compliance Update – Harvest 2026

## Audit Performance

- 14% of audits so far have received one or more non-compliances (NCs).
- Nearly half relate to sprayer testing, operator competence, or equipment checks.

## Top 10 non-compliances in 2026

Rank	Standard	Issue	NCs
1	2.17	Annual Sprayer Test	68
2	2.2	IPM Plan	14
3	3.7	Biodiversity Action Plan	13
4	2.14	Sprayer Operator Certificate	11
5	2.18	Small PPP Application Equipment	10
6	2.3	Spray Storage	9
7	3.3	Mass Balance Record	8
8	5.3	Environmental Risk Assessment	8
9	2.15	Sprayer Operator CPD	7
10	4.1	Temporary Storage	7

## Key Messages for Farmers

- Sprayer Testing – 68 NCs recorded. Ensure annual testing and keep certificates ready.
- IPM Plans – Complete the PHC template and keep a signed copy available.
- Biodiversity Plans – Complete the SQC template and map biodiversity features.

## Audit Preparation Checklist

For further information and the required documents check out the SQC website, [sqcrops.co.uk/member-hub](http://sqcrops.co.uk/member-hub)

## Summary

Over 130 audits have recorded at least one NC. Most involve sprayer testing, operator competence, and documentation. Early preparation helps avoid these issues.