



**SQC MANUAL / STANDARDS TO BE PUBLISHED 01 OCTOBER 2025**  
**IDENTIFIED AMENDMENTS TO ALL STANDARDS – FROM OCTOBER 2024**

**Summary of changes**

- **New standards** – there are NO new standards for scheme year 01 October 2025 to 30 September 2026
- **Substantive changes** – there are NO substantive changes for scheme year 01 October 2025 to 30 September 2026.

**All other changes to the wording within the Standards document – edition October 2025 (changes highlighted in red)**

**Full document**

- All references to Renewable Energy Directive (RED) (EU) 2018/2001 have been updated to show **Revised Directive EU/2018/2001**

**Part 1 – Welcome**

- Page 3 – Inclusion of new statement under Paragraph 1 to read – **Note** – Revised Directive EU/2018/2001 was as previously referred to as Renewable Energy Directive (RED) (EU) 2018/2001”
- Page 5 – Under ‘Farm Sprayer’
  - Wording from Oct 2024 Standards – “The Assessor will check sprayer operators hold a Certificate of Competence and have demonstrated CPD training by completing a BASIS Sprayer Operator Course in the current scheme year or proof of membership to NRSo.”
  - New wording in Oct 2025 Standards – “The Assessor will check sprayer operators hold a Certificate of Competence and have demonstrated CPD training by completing a BASIS Sprayer Operator Course **annually i.e. within 12 months of the last completed course date** or proof of membership to NRSo.”
- Page 5 – Under ‘At the end of the Assessment’ – additional text added as follows:
  - **The Certification Team will undertake an evaluation of the completed assessment report submitted by the assessor together with any corrective evidence for non- compliances identified during the assessment that has been submitted by the grower. Note - The audit team**

shall have the competence, experience and the generic and specific skills necessary for conducting the audit taking into account the scope of the audit. Where there is only one auditor, the auditor shall also have the competence to perform the duties of an audit team leader applicable for that audit. The certification body shall ensure that the certification decision is taken by a technical reviewer that was not part of the audit team.

- Page 6 – Under ‘European Union Database’
  - Wording from Oct 2024 Standards - “The Revised Directive EU/2018/2001 specifies that relevant economic operators shall enter data onto the European Union database as soon as this comes into operation”
  - New wording in Oct 2025 Standards - “The Revised Directive EU/2018/2001 specifies that relevant economic operators shall enter data onto the European Union database **in a timely manner.**”
  - Amendment of wording in 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph from ‘member checker’ to **‘industry checker’**

## Part 2 – The SQC Standards

All amendments to wording of the Standards are as listed below:

SECTION / STANDARD NUMBER	REVISED / NEW	WORDING FROM OCTOBER 2024 MANUAL	NEW WORDING IN OCTOBER 2025 MANUAL (new wording highlighted in red)
2.15	Revised	<b>Standard</b> All sprayer operators must undergo Continual Professional Development (CPD) during the current scheme year.	<b>Standard</b> All sprayer operators must undergo <u>annual</u> Continual Professional Development (CPD)
2.15	Revised	<b>Requirements</b> Operators have <b>two</b> options regarding maintaining their CPD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete a BASIS approved Sprayer Operator Course annually i.e. within the current scheme year</li> </ul> <b>OR</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Become a NRSo member and maintain an annual record of 10 CPD points.</li> </ul>	<b>Requirements</b> Operators have two options regarding maintaining their CPD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete a BASIS approved Sprayer Operator Course annually i.e. <b>within 12 months of the last completed course date.</b></li> </ul> <b>OR</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Become a NRSo member and maintain <b>their annual CPD points requirement.</b></li> </ul>
	Revised	Section 3.0 – Standards for the Production, Harvesting of Crops and Biodiversity Land (HACCP 1 and 6)	Section 3.0 - Standards for the Production and Harvesting of Crops (HACCP 1 and 6)
3.0	Revised	<b>Intro paragraph</b> Detailed information on high biodiversity land can be found here.	<b>Intro paragraph</b> Detailed information on high biodiversity land, <b>high carbon stock and peatland can be found on the SQC website – and is also available at the end of this Section.</b>

3.1	Revised	<p><b>Requirements</b></p> <p>Growers must provide this information to produce biofuel crops compliant with the Revised Directive EU/2018/2001. Growers must comply with the Articles 29 (3) to (7), the land-based sustainability criteria, of Directive EU 2018/2001</p>	<p><b>Requirements</b></p> <p>Growers must provide this information to produce biofuel crops (<b>biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels produced from agricultural biomass</b>) compliant with the Revised Directive EU/2018/2001. Growers must comply with the Articles 29 (3) to (7), the land-based sustainability criteria, of Revised Directive EU/2018/2001</p>
3.1	Revised	<p><b>Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A high biodiversity level or</li> <li>○ Land with a high carbon stock or</li> <li>○ Land that was peatland unless evidence is provided that the cultivation and harvesting of those crops does not involve drainage of previously drained soil</li> </ul>	<p><b>Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Land with <b>high biodiversity</b> or</li> <li>○ Land with a high carbon stock or</li> <li>○ Land that was peatland unless evidence is provided that the cultivation and harvesting of those crops does not involve drainage of previously drained soil</li> </ul>
5.3	Revised	<p><b>Requirements</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> From 2026 all users of second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) will need a specialist training certificate to purchase SGARs. For 2024 and 2025 SGARs can still be purchased (if required) by SQC scheme members.</p>	<p><b>Requirements</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> From 01 October 2025 to 31 December 2025, second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) can be purchased (if required) by SQC scheme members. From 01 January 2026 all users of SGARs will need a specialist training certificate to purchase SGARs. Further details on this are available <a href="#">here</a>.</p>