



UPDATE TO STANDARDS

To be published 01 October 2026

SQC is currently undertaking a full Standards review with the agreed new Standards due to be published on 01 October 2027. Therefore, only minimal changes will be applied to the Standards for the new Scheme year commencing on 01 October 2026. Details of these are included in the table below.

Summary of Changes



New standards – there are NO new standards for scheme year 01 October 2026 to 30 September 2027.



Substantive changes – there are NO substantive changes for scheme year 01 October 2026 to 30 September 2027.

STANDARD NUMBER	WORDING FROM OCTOBER 2025 MANUAL	NEW WORDING IN OCTOBER 2026 MANUAL	RATIONALE
Welcome – Assessment of Machinery Skills	Farm sprayer – The assessor will check sprayer operators hold a....by completing a BASIS Sprayer Operator Course annually...or proof of membership to NRoSO	Farm sprayer – The assessor will check sprayer operators hold a....by completing a SQC Sprayer Operator Course annually...or proof of membership to NRoSO	As per change to Requirement under Standard 2.15
1.9	Standard Digestate must either be PAS110 certified or home-produced using feedstock exclusively from the member farm. If feed stock is sourced out with the farm, it should be entirely 'green' as per Appendix 1. Detailed records must be kept.	Standard Digestate must either be PAS110 certified or produced using entirely green feedstock as per Appendix 1. Detailed records must be kept.	Removes the contradiction within the standard about home-produced and non home-produced feedstocks.
1.9	Requirements Records for both PAS110 Digestate and home-produced digestate must include: • Batch records of origin • Delivery records • Application records Advisory note: Growers must note that home-produced digestate that is not PAS110 must not include feedstock from outside the farm. It is accepted that the digester may not be on the member farm but may be offsite e.g. at an industrial estate or on a separate parcel of land owned by the member. SQC Growers must ensure that the end customer or merchant will accept crops that have received such treatments. Applications must be in line with NVZ requirements. Advisory note for producers: The SQC AD Scheme is not currently operational and is under active review with the aim of optimising the sustainable use of digestate and other bulky organic manures in Scottish crops and best aligning this with market acceptability. For producer information only: Appendix 1 shows the acceptable list of green feedstocks previously included in the SQC AD Scheme.	Requirements Records for all digestate must include: • Batch records of origin • Delivery records • Application records Advisory note: SQC Growers must ensure that the end customer or merchant will accept crops that have received such treatments. Applications must be in line with NVZ requirements. Advisory note for producers: The SQC AD Scheme is not currently operational and is under active review with the aim of optimising the sustainable use of digestate and other bulky organic manures in Scottish crops and best aligning this with market acceptability. Appendix 1 shows the acceptable list of green feedstocks previously included in the SQC AD Scheme.	
1.17	Standard Where water is used to irrigate crops, a plan must be in place to support the water usage and an appropriate abstraction licence.	Standard Where water is used to irrigate crops covered under the SQC scheme, a plan must be in place to support the water usage and an appropriate abstraction licence.	This change mainly impacts assessor guidance – ensuring that assessors now only assess irrigation used on combinable crops (not potatoes/soft fruit etc).

2.15	Requirements Operators have two options regarding maintaining their CPD: - Complete a BASIS approved Sprayer Operator Course annually i.e. within 12 months of the last completed course date OR - Become a NRoSO member and maintain the NRoSO annual CPD points requirement. Please note: attendance on any other sprayer operator course i.e. not a BASIS course, will not cover the operator without NRoSO membership. Sprayer operators who have passed their NPTC exam during the current Scheme year will be granted a year's grace for CPD. Sprayer operators attending a BASIS approved Sprayer Operator Course which takes place AFTER the scheme assessment must notify the Certification Body, FIA, on completion of the course.	Requirements Operators have two options regarding maintaining their CPD: - Complete a SQC Sprayer Operator Course annually i.e. within 12 months of the last completed SQC or BASIS course date OR - Become a NRoSO member and maintain the NRoSO annual CPD points requirement. Please note: Sprayer operators who have passed their NPTC exam during the current Scheme year will be granted a year's grace for CPD.	To ensure all growers and sprayer operators have an opportunity to attend an annual sprayer operator training course, SQC has reintroduced their course.
5.3	Requirements RRU environmental risk assessment forms must be completed for each site to demonstrate the need to use first and second generation anticoagulants. A CRRU form must be updated if there is a significant change of practice on the site, or a major infestation occurs. This must be retained on the site. Note: 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 here. For further guidance see the CRRU Environmental Risk Assessment Form	Requirements RRU environmental risk assessment forms must be completed for each site to demonstrate the need to use first and second generation anticoagulants. A CRRU form must be updated if there is a significant change of practice on the site, or a major infestation occurs. This must be retained on the site. For further guidance see the CRRU Environmental Risk Assessment Form	
7.5	Standard and Requirements Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA)	Standard and Requirements Fair Work Agency (FWA)	To reflect agency name change from GLAA to FWA.
Advanced notification on final page	The SQC Standard Review Committee / Board will continue to consider the introduction of a Soil Management Plan (that aligns with customer requirements and emerging Government policies)		This statement has been removed as not necessary to mention within document. However, the SQC Committee and Board will continue to monitor the situation.
Appendix 1	Approved feedstock (table)	New row added for Forage – listing Silage; Whole Crop; Grass	