



Important notice on SQC Standard 2.15 on CPD training requirements for Sprayer Operators and other revised wording to Standards from 01 October 2026

Further to our communication earlier this week, we are writing to advise you about the amendments to the SQC Standards for the new scheme year starting on 01 October 2026. These are minimal changes to improve and streamline the Standards for growers, for example, more flexibility in how you evidence digestate from green feedstocks. Full details of these are in the attached document.

We'd like to draw your attention to the altered wording in Standard 2.15 as this may affect how you select CPD training requirements for the year ahead.

Revised requirements for SQC Standard 2.15 (CPD training)

Safe use of pesticides is one of the fundamentals of the SQC Scheme, and SQC members can meet the requirements of the relevant SQC Standard (2.15) either through NRoSO membership or attendance at an annual sprayer training event.

In recent years, many SQC grower members have been able to access annual training by attending the NRoSO BASIS Annual Sprayer Training Course (ASTC). However, the Voluntary Initiative has recently advised that only NRoSO members will be able to access this course.

SQC has therefore been working at speed to consult and provide SQC grower members with options. To facilitate access to annual training, SQC will be reintroducing the SQC Sprayer Operator Course for the new scheme year. Many members will already be familiar with this training and will have utilised it in the past.

The wording of the relevant SQC Standard (2.15) on training will remain the same: *'All sprayer operators must undergo annual Continual Professional Development'*, however the wording for the requirements will be revised to say this can be either via NRoSO membership or completion of an **SQC** Sprayer Operator Course annually (new wording in bold). SQC grower members may choose either option.

The reintroduced SQC course will be delivered by Ringlink and coordinated by a steering committee of Scottish co-ops to ensure topical, high quality and locally relevant content. The SQC course will be open to all SQC grower members, both non-NRoSO and NRoSO members.

Full details of all course dates, times and venues and FAQs will be emailed to you within the next couple of weeks.

If you still need to speak to someone, please contact Teresa on
Teresa.Dougall@scottishqualitycrops.co.uk

Regards,

Teresa Dougall
SQC Managing Director

and

Fiona Burnett
Chair of the SQC Standards Setting Committee