



Dear valued crops and sugar beet members,

As I took on the role of sector board chair in January 2021, the process of developing these standards was already underway. This was an important time to listen to members.

Accordingly, some tabled proposals have been dropped but others included, notably the requirement to show health and safety policies as part of the farm assessment.

Having such a policy is a legal requirement, but many felt that given recent farm fatality figures it was right that this scheme checks it is truly in place.

Many of these standards are based on existing food safety law and so we tweaked a standard on vermin control, meaning poison can no longer be used inside grain stores. However, members are allowed to buy rat baits they would otherwise be prohibited from purchasing.

Government rules on Renewable Energy Directive (RED) eligibility have become more exacting, meaning from 1 July 2021 farmers must show figures on crop volumes going in and out of stores. This allows assured crops to be sold into the bio-fuels market.

This scheme also incorporates the Voluntary Initiative (VI), a cross-industry drive to reassure government that spray operators are professional and responsible when using pesticides. It requires sprayer operators to undertake the National Register of Sprayer Operators (NRoSO) training and an annual MOT for sprayers.

For simplicity, grain trailer ID marks now only need to be clearly identifiable, not shown on three sides. ID marks are not required unless transporting another farm's grain into a third-party intake.

In an ever-changing world, Red Tractor assurance is your definitive point of reference for peace of mind that your farm business meets key requirements to supply the food chain, without additional checks and cost.

With ever-increasing interest and scrutiny of how food is produced, compliance with these standards not only serves to protect the reputation of your own farm, but the entire sector in which you play a vital part.

Here's to a secure and sustainable future for British farming.

Best wishes,

Guy Smith

Chairman, Red Tractor Crops sector board