



CROPS TECHNICAL BRIEFING

News, updates and advice from your Red Tractor assurance team

To ensure you receive all guidance updates, please add rtfcomms@redtractor.org.uk and membermatters@redtractor.org.uk to your address book and regularly check all your inbox folders.

New Sector Chair has been appointed



Kit Papworth has been appointed as Red Tractor's new Crops and Sugar Beet Sector Chair after Guy Smith stepped down from the role last spring. Kit, is a Norfolk-based farmer growing feed and seed wheat, malting barley, sugar beet, oilseed rape, vining peas, and potatoes. He joins Red Tractor with experience as a leader within British Agriculture and the wider industry, having previously held numerous chair and board roles.

"I'm excited to be appointed as Red Tractor's new Crops and Sugar Beet Sector Chair at such a challenging time for British Agriculture. Crop assurance is vital to the entire food chain. I look forward to working with customers to understand their requirements both now and in the future. I am keen to discuss the issues around equivalence to imported grains and to explore how inspections can be made less challenging for growers."

TOXIC BAIT IN GRAIN STORES – WE LISTENED

When the new standards came into force last November, it didn't allow for toxic bait to be used in grain stores while grain was inside. Over the past few months members and vermin control contractors have told us that they are struggling to control mice in stored grain, which has resulted in some contamination problems on farm.

The Red Tractor combinable crops technical advisory committee, which is made up of industry experts across a broad cross section of the supply chain has listened to members, investigated how toxic bait can be used safely, and reviewed this standard.

Therefore, from 1 October, the audit point prohibiting the use of toxic rodent baits in grain stores whilst grain is being stored will be removed.

A new standard is being introduced which will outline the criteria for how they can be used, which is safe, and minimises the risk of contaminating the stored grain. **CLICK HERE** for further guidance.

CRITERIA FOR USING TOXIC BAIT IN OCCUPIED STORES

- Must be a defined need
- Use only gel/paste products
- Bait boxes must be lockable, identifiable and secured to the building in areas where there is minimal risk of being crushed or displaced
- Documented training

CROP CONTAMINATION

Several grain processors have reported that they have found a wide range of contaminants in deliveries. While we know that members would not intentionally let their grain become contaminated by things that could compromise food or animal feed safety, in addition to the mostly harmless objects like twigs and sticks, there have been some more serious incidents of contaminants like toxic rodent bait blocks, electrical wire, lead/copper shot, pesticide residues, mycotoxins and Chlorpropham (CIPC). This year's round of the AHDB Contaminant Monitoring Project found residues of CIPC in several milling wheat samples.

“We have seen some CIPC residues in deliveries. While they do not represent a food safety issue, we have been recording levels that are above legal limits, which can result in the withdrawal of product from the supply chain. Taking steps, such as carrying out risk assessments, helps to prevent this from occurring and avoids unnecessary waste, which is a positive action for everyone”

Joe Brennan, Technical Adviser,
UK Flour Millers



UK FLOUR
MILLERS

Our standards (RA.1) aim to raise awareness of crop contamination from the field to the store.

Templates are available on the **Red Tractor website** for growing crop, grain store, CIPC and mycotoxin risk assessments. These completed forms must be available for your assessor to inspect at your annual visit.



RED TRACTOR PDF PASSPORTS

Did you know that you do not need to apply stickers onto the passport accompanying your grain? Instead, you can use our online system which allows you to create, download and print a grain passport at home, populated with real time assurance details. The area of the passport where the stickers would normally be applied is populated with your up-to-date assurance details **CLICK HERE** to see how to register to use this service.

MASS BALANCE

It has been a year since we introduced the requirement to calculate a mass balance in the standards to be compliant with the Renewable Energy Directive (REDII)

As we are in a new harvest season, you must now complete your current mass balance records. Record your reconciliation figures and any carry-over from the 2021 harvest record onto a new mass balance calculation. Our standards require:

- An individual mass balance calculation must be in place for wheat, barley and OSR at each site
- Any carry-over from the previous harvest is included in the mass balance
- The estimated figures for each crop on each site must be recorded when harvest has finished

CLICK HERE for template to help with mass balance calculation

TOP TIP

Make sure grain leaving the store is recorded to maintain a real-time up-to-date mass balance figure

PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCT (PPP) STORAGE STANDARDS

Last November, new standards for PPP storage came into effect, bringing Red Tractor standards into line with the HSE PPP storage guidance.

A REMINDER OF THE CHANGES



New signage on the store

(no smoking & naked flame prohibited signage)



Segregation of empty packaging from stored products



Emergency phone numbers must be displayed



A first aid kit (inc. eyewash) is available



A fire extinguisher is available

REMINDER – TEMPORARY STORAGE

Remember that **temporary storage must not be used after the 31 October**. Temporary stores aren't sealed or are weather or vermin proof, so after this time grain must be either moved into a long-term store, into a central store or be sold to the end user. If your trader is struggling to uplift grain from temporary stores by this deadline, please contact your certification body who will guide you through the process of applying for a derogation.

NROSO UPDATE

Red Tractor members have reported that it has been a struggle to get their NROSO CPD points during the COVID pandemic. Being part of the NROSO advisory board means that Red Tractor has been able to ensure that the grace period for members who have fallen short of their 30 points at the end of the 3-year period is extended by a further 90 days.

This short term 'COVID Compassion Scheme,' will be reviewed by NROSO and could end in January 2023. Members in the 90-day grace period will not receive a non-conformance for out-of-date NROSO membership.

We have also successfully been able to influence another important change to benefit our members. Previously, if members fell short of points and were removed from the NROSO scheme, there was a 12 month wait before re-joining was allowed. This wait period has now been halved to just 6 months.



TOP TIPS

To make sure your NROSO membership runs smoothly:

- Keep your contact details up to date with NROSO. This includes email and postal address.
- Convert your payment method to direct debit. Cheques take a month to process.
- Add points as you accrue them. Do not leave everything until the end of your 3-year term.
- Log on to the **NROSO website** to manage your account information and access your points statement.

COLLECT 2 NROSO CPD POINTS FOR READING THIS UPDATE

Email nrosocpd@cityandguilds.com and quote **NO471380f**, Red Tractor technical update. Include your name, date of birth and NROSO number so your points can be added quickly.