

Summary of October 2017 Standards

We have outlined below some of the key areas strengthened. Not every change is listed here, however there is a checklist detailing all the changes available online at: <http://assurance.redtractor.org.uk/tools-and-library>.

The full version of the standards can be found [here](#).

COMBINABLE CROPS AND SUGAR BEET

Irrigation

A new section has been introduced which only affects the small number of UK growers who irrigate their combinable crops or sugar beet. The requirements ensure that the water being used does not contaminate crops, and avoids excessive use of water.

Temporary holding of grain

To reduce the risk of contamination and grain quality being compromised, the standards now address the temporary holding of grain outside. It is only permitted in exceptional circumstances and for a maximum of five days unless a derogation has been sought. It must be kept on a concrete or impervious base and covered when not being worked.

Metaldehyde

In line with the Metaldehyde Stewardship Group (MSG) guidelines, a standard has been introduced requiring scheme members to only use Metaldehyde in a manner that reduces the risk to water, birds and small mammals.

Rodenticide use

Permanent baiting must not be routinely undertaken and baits can only be sited where evidence shows they are being continuously effective. A site survey and risk assessment of watercourses and populations of non-target species should also be carried out and recorded before treatment. This ensures assured farmers can buy professional rodenticides without further proof of competence.