

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](#).

FRESH PRODUCE

Preventing product contamination

The main pillars of the revisions sit around more detailed risk assessments, putting in controls in packhouses and fields that will prevent product contamination.

Category specific

Rather than standards being generic to all crops, the new-look fresh produce scheme is more category specific. There are four category levels to crops and each category has its own risk assessment.

Water use

The sustainable use and safety risks of all water of farm has also gone under the microscope. There must be a documented water risk assessment which relates to crop category and covers all water used in crop production.

Metalddehyde

In line with the Metalddehyde Stewardship Group (MSG) guidelines, a standard has been introduced requiring scheme members to only use Metalddehyde 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.