

## **Red Tractor Assurance for Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet Membership rules for contract farming**

### **Introduction**

This document provides guidance for contractor businesses involved in the production of combinable crops and sugar beet which are effective for all renewals from November 2018 onwards. It should be read in conjunction with the detailed Red Tractor Membership Rules and the membership rules FAQ document which can be found [here](#).

RTA is focussed on ensuring:

- all assessments are credible and robust focussing on all aspects of the day to day management of the crop production
- assessments are carried out efficiently and without duplication whilst maintaining the integrity of the Red Tractor scheme
- transparent identification of all RT certified businesses for the whole supply chain

RTA understands that combinable crops and sugar beet farming businesses and trading arrangements can be complex. Contract farming is widespread throughout the industry and agreements range from contractors doing some, to all of the day to day management on behalf of another landowner or business.

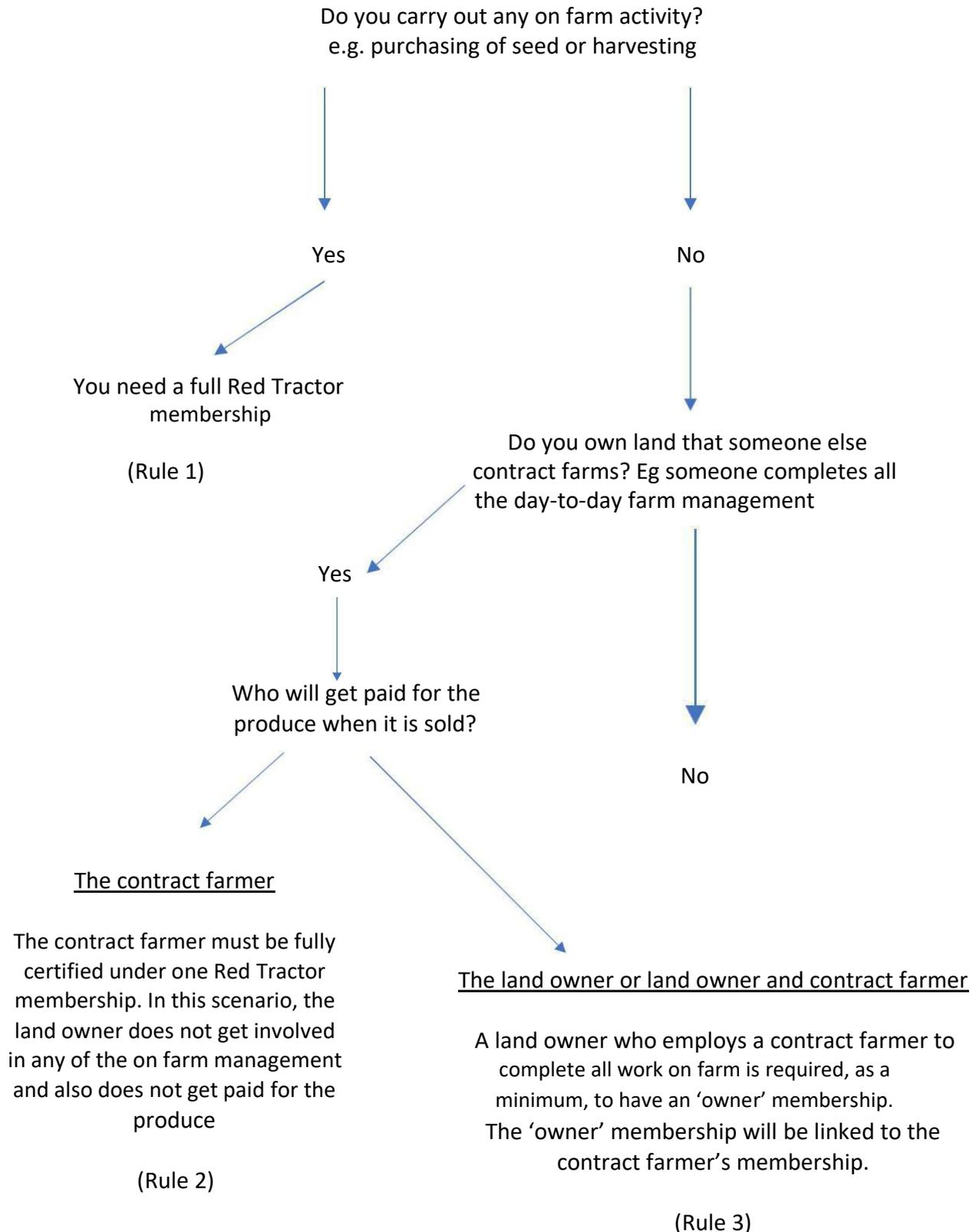
The following rules apply to contract farmers who **do all the day to day farm management** on behalf of a landowner but not businesses who are simply providing services to arable farms e.g. just contract spraying.

The rules will become effective for all renewals from November 2018 onwards, meaning implementation will take place over the course of a year and will be fully effective from 1 December 2019.

Land owners or farm businesses can opt to be a fully certified RT member but this will require them to pay for a full assessment covering all aspects of the crop production in addition to the contractor's assessment.

The following pages outlines the clarified rules, provides example scenarios and includes a flow diagram to help members identify which rule applies to them.

### Decision flow diagram of farming scenarios





## Rules

1. Farm businesses or land owners carrying out any activity relating to the Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet standards are required to be a fully certified Red Tractor member (even if they use a contractor to carry out some activities eg spraying). *This means they must apply in their own right, be fully assessed and have their own membership number and certification.*
2. Contractors who carry out all activities relating to the Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet standards on behalf of a land owner or farm business, who in turn are not involved with any of the management, are required to be a fully certified under one Red Tractor membership. *This means they must apply in their own right, have an assessment covering all aspects of their activities including those done on behalf of another land owner or farmer, all crops stores and have their own membership number and certification. Details of each land owner or farmer for whom they work must be confirmed to their certification body at the time of application / renewal.*
3. Land owners or farm businesses selling crops under their name, but which have all been grown or managed by a contractor are required as a minimum to have an 'owner' membership. The RT 'owner' membership:
  - a. application must be made to the same certification body as the contractor and at the same time
  - b. must be linked to the contractor's Red Tractor certification – the relationship will be verified during the contractors assessment to ensure all aspects of the 'owners' crop production are assessed. This means that any change to the contractor's Red Tractor certificate will affect all linked 'owner' memberships. E.g. if the contractor's certificate is suspended for any reason then all linked RT 'owner' memberships will also be deemed to be suspended.
  - c. is allowed to sell combinable crops and sugar beet as RT assured as long as the contractor certification to whom they are linked is valid. (Either the 'owner' or contractors membership can be quoted on grain passports)

Under these rules if the contractual relationship changes between a contractor and land owner or farm business then both the contractor and the RT 'owner' are required to inform their certification body. e.g. the land owner or farm business changes contractor. A site visit will be carried out on the contractors membership if a new linked 'owner' memberships is added if:

- The new 'owner' was not previously covered under a Red Tractor membership
- There is something physical on site which needs to be checked, for example a grain or pesticide store

## Inspection Charges

The contract farmer will be required to pay an inspection fee and complete a single inspection which will cover the management and crop stores of all the owners crops. The 'owner' member will be required to pay a RTA royalty fee but no inspection fee. CBs may also charge an admin fee. The table below helps to explain what fees need to be paid by the contract farmer and the 'owner'.

Owner type	Inspection fee	Royalty fee
Contract farmer	Yes	Yes – Based on own land area. If contract farmer does not own any land then they are charged the lowest royalty rate
Owner members	No	Yes – Based on area owned

## Example scenarios

The following provides some examples of how the rules affect different contractor arrangements.

1. The farmer completes all the work on the farm apart from the pesticide application and drilling, which is done by a contract sprayer who doesn't market any crops himself. *The farmer is required to have a full RT membership. The contractor does not need to be RT assured but he will need to provide his qualifications etc to the farmer so the assessor can check under the PPP standards.*
2. The farmer completes most of the work on the farm apart from the harvesting which is done by a neighbouring farmer who also markets his own crops. *Both the farmer and the neighbour are required to have a full RT membership and separate assessments.*
3. A landowner rents his land to a contractor who does all the day to day work on the farm, markets and is paid for all the crops. The landowner doesn't get paid for any of the crops produced. *The landowner does not need to be RT assured.*
4. A farmer doesn't complete any of the day to day work on the farm, employing a contractor, but gets paid for the crops. *The contractor and farmer will have their own Red Tractor memberships, with the farmer being classed as an 'owner'. Both the memberships will be linked.*

## FAQS

A list of FAQs can be found [here](#).