

Red Tractor version 4 standard changes document

Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet

The following document outlines all interim changes which have been made to the version 4 Combinable Crops standards since October 2017. Further guidance and document templates can be found on the Red Tractor website.

October 2019

New standard EC.f.3.1

New standard being implemented in October 2019 on Nematicide stewardship best practice which will apply to all members who use Nematicide. The standard is based the Nematicide best practice protocol and the standard aims to ensure:

- Staff applying granular nematicides have completed relevant training on the Nematicide Stewardship Best Practice Protocol
- The applicator is checked prior to the start of the season and on each working day to ensure all pipework is correctly fitted, the hopper bungs are in place and the hopper lids are secure. When the applicator is in use granules are monitored to check they are flowing correctly
- Applicators are fitted with a device in the cab which allows the operator to shut off nematicide granule flow at least 3 meters from the end of each row. In sugar beet crops the applicator must be able to turn off the flow of granules before the row end.
- Designated areas for filling hoppers in each field are used which can easily be checked for spillages. Spillages should be dealt with according to manufacturer recommendations and the NSP Protocol to ensure no granules are left on the surface
- Treated fields are checked 24-48 hours after application for any adverse effects to wildlife. If any are found contact the Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS) and the granule manufacturer.

December 2017

These changes below only affect members who have converted land to arable for the production of biofuels in the last 10 years. The changes relate to standard & appendix EI.c and the Renewable Energy Directive.

1. Crops and Sugar Beet for the biofuels market cannot be grown on land was peatland on or after 2008. The exception to this is if evidence can be provided that the cultivation and

harvesting does not involve drainage or previously undrained soil. Further details defining the status of land can be found in the Appendix E1.c or link below.

*This is in addition to not being able to grow biofuels crops on land of a high biodiversity value or land with high carbon stock on or after 2008.

2. Members must keep mass balance records which document the following:
 - Timeframe over which the system operates;
 - Total amount of all crops grown on farm;
 - Total amount of crop grown for biofuels;
 - Total amount of crop sold as biofuels;
 - Details of carry-over stock.
3. Documentation relating to wetlands must reflect seasonal changes within a year.

The changes above are in addition to the existing standards which include:

1. Where applicable, Environmental Impact Assessment records must be kept for 5 years.
2. Members must retain documents of previous land status for 5 years. This could include SFP paperwork, maps or other official records.
3. The producer must sign the related declaration on sustainability on the grain passport.
4. Where crops have been produced on land converted from one of the excluded categories since 1 January 2008, records must be kept detailing volume/ tonnage (s) and type of crop produced. These crops must not be sold into the biofuel or bioliquid market. For these crops, records must be kept to show other end markets they were sold to ie. contracts/ grain passports or invoices.