



9th September 2020

UPDATED SAFE HAVEN STANDARDS TO LAUNCH NEXT MONTH

The Red Tractor's Safe Haven scheme was introduced in 2005 in collaboration with the Potato Council, now known as AHDB Potatoes. While the initial focus was to reduce the threat of Ring Rot, the scheme has now been expanded to include the non-indigenous diseases bacterial Ring Rot and Dickeya. The seed potato trade knows only too well that the establishment of these diseases in Britain would affect the long-term viability of the entire industry.

In conjunction with the industry, the Safe Haven standards have recently been reviewed and Version 4 of the Safe Haven standards will come into effect on 1 October 2020. As a Safe Haven member you can now access the updated scheme manual on the Red Tractor Assurance website [here](#).

There are three key areas of emphasis in the update of the Safe Haven standards:

- Enhanced traceability controls to allow for informed decisions to be made and to flush disease affected stock out of the system.
- Water - identified as a key vector for the transfer of bacterial pathogens, particularly Brown Rot and Dickeya species. While irrigation of seed potatoes is relatively unusual, selection and management of water is a key risk reduction step.
- Seed storage - Identified as an important element of the process and an area of particular risk. The new Safe Haven requirements are complimented by the AHDB seed storage guide which is available on the AHDB website [here](#).

There is a document summarising all the changes to the standards on the Red Tractor Assurance website [here](#). Please familiarise yourself with the new requirements when you are planning for your next assessment.

The Safe-Haven scheme is an important export tool for the UK, it is a valuable marketing brand. Ensuring the scheme is robust and up to date protects the UK potato industry, both in terms of safeguarding existing markets and facilitating future international trade opportunities.