

KNOW YOUR GRAIN STORES

TEMPORARY VS LONG-TERM – WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



The Red Tractor crops and sugar beet standards specify two types of grain stores.

- **Temporary stores** (can be used from harvest up to 31st October)
- **Long-term stores** (can be used all year)

A grain store's status of either temporary or long-term is determined by its construction, not the length of time grain is being stored in it. The suitability, or otherwise, of any holding area must be considered in relation to the potential hazard to the crop. This will depend on the length of time the grain will remain in 'situ' and on a range of other site-specific factors.

TEMPORARY STORES

> KEY GUIDANCE

Buildings used for temporary storage can be open sided with no doors. They must be sound enough to ensure the crop is kept dry and free from contamination. Temporary stores must be cleared by the 31st October each year. Should a member be at risk of exceeding this date, then a derogation should be applied for to their certification body, either Intertek SAI Global or NSF, as soon as possible. Derogations are not guaranteed and are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Blanket derogations have been granted in previous years where there have been widespread supply chain issues such as a national shortage of available transport.



Where livestock buildings are used for temporary storage, livestock and grain must not be in the store at the same time. The livestock building must be thoroughly cleaned, power washed and sanitised with a combined food grade detergent/ disinfectant and allowed to dry before grain is tipped. The most common product available to complete this task is sodium hypochlorite. Records must be kept of cleaning activities.

Grain in a temporary store.

Note Yorkshire boarding determining the store's temporary status.

QUICK FACTS

- ✓ Must be cleared by 31st October
- ✓ Can be open sided and have no doors.
- ✓ The roof must be sound and guttering in good order to keep the crop dry, while the floors and any walls must be of a suitable construction that prevents crop contamination through earth, stones, loose concrete, and other debris.
- ✗ Bitumen must not be used for new floors or as a filler for repairing existing floors.
- ✗ Oilseeds must not come in to contact with any bitumen.

LONG-TERM STORES

> KEY GUIDANCE

Buildings used for long-term storage of grain must be weatherproof with any roof leaks, broken cladding and guttering fixed before grain is stored. Rodents, birds, and domestic pets must not be allowed access to long-term stores through proofing and keeping doors shut when not filling, out-loading, or initially cooling the grain.

Ideally a long-term store is dedicated to grain storage although multi-purpose/mixed-use stores are acceptable to Red Tractor. Where machinery is stored in the same store, a safe distance must be observed between the machinery and the grain to avoid contamination from mud, stones, and crop debris etc. Special attention must be given to any oil leaks that may occur and these must be cleaned up before filling or out-loading takes place.

Livestock should not be housed in a long-term term grain store at the same time as the grain. The same rules apply for cleaning and disinfecting as for temporary stores.

Doors must fit and close properly to prevent ingress of water, rodents, and birds. At ground level even small gaps, over 6mm, can give vermin access to the store so particular attention should be paid to rubber strips on the bottom of roller doors, runners on sliding doors and general fitting of hinged doors. Sliding doors on older buildings can provide easy access for vermin if not well maintained.



Doors must fit and close properly to prevent ingress of water, rodents, and birds.

TOP TIP

The assessor may ask for all or a sample of the doors to be closed at the assessment to demonstrate they fit and close properly.

Poorly maintained and fitted doors.



At ground level even small gaps, over 6mm, can give vermin access to the store.



LONG-TERM STORES *Continued...*

The grain store walling must be constructed from materials that do not pose a risk of contaminating the stored grain. Breeze block walls can cause damp walls leading to moldy grain. If there is a history of this, then measures must be taken to protect the grain. The gap between the top of the grain walling and the cladding must be covered with a solid material to inhibit rodent and bird access. Storing grain on newly laid concrete floors must be avoided as the grain will absorb excess water.

Cladding must be of a suitable construction as not to allow ingress of water, rodents, and birds. Yorkshire boarding alone is not accepted by Red Tractor for use in long-term stores, but, if a well fitted close-mesh netting or similar material is attached to the boarding then it will be considered.

Cladding must be of a suitable construction as not to allow ingress of water, rodents, and birds.



An example of the interior of a long-term store. Note the solid capping between the concrete panels and the cladding.



The sides of the shed are clear of vegetation.

While small gaps in construction at low levels must be avoided there is a degree of more tolerance at height. For instance, the small gaps caused by the profile of the cladding in the images below could be acceptable because, the gaps are too small to allow bird access, and they overhang the main structure of the shed. In addition, the sides of the shed are clear of vegetation and stored items therefore not allowing vermin to easily climb to the gaps.

The gaps are too small to allow bird access, and they overhang the main structure of the shed



OTHER RELEVANT GUIDANCE

VERMIN CONTROL

Cleanliness of the site and the areas around all grain stores is key to controlling vermin on a farm. The less habitats available for vermin to live in on the site and fewer attractants there are, such as spilt feed, then the less vermin pressure there will be on the grain stores.

Roof vents in converted livestock sheds must be made inaccessible to birds.

Our standards do permit the use of toxic bait in grain stores when certain conditions allow.

LOADING AREAS

Loading areas outside ALL grain stores must be maintained in a clean and well-drained condition.



A good example of a loading area that services a dryer, a temporary and long-term grain store.

TIPPING GRAIN OUTSIDE

Red Tractor standards allow grain to be tipped outside in exceptional circumstances for a maximum of five days. Exceptional circumstances include, but are not limited to, delayed collection where a farm has no storage facilities, grain waiting to be dried in a wet harvest or a dryer or plant breakdown on site. If the outside storage lasts for more than five days, then a derogation must be sought from the certification body, Intertek SAI Global or NSF.



GRAIN DRYING, CONDITIONING, AND MONITORING

Grain MUST be covered when it is not being worked. Grain stored for more than a few days may need conditioning. It may also need to be dried and/or cooled. It is essential to avoid over-drying and causing heat damage to the grain. If the grain requires drying, it must be carried out as soon as possible to avoid damage to the grain through heating, mould or smell, and at a temperature consistent with preserving the quality required wet grain that is not dried may deteriorate and is at risk of the development of mycotoxins, heating, mites, and insect activity.

The 'safe storage time calculator' <https://ahdb.org.uk/safe-storage-time-calculator> is a guide how long the grain can be left unattended before it is dried or conditioned

There must also be a specific storage strategy for all grain on farm (whether in temporary stores and in long-term stores). This forms part of an ongoing risk assessment. Stored grain monitoring timelines are to be set out within the documented strategy. Grain must be monitored for temperature, moisture, and insect activity throughout its life in storage on farm. When storage records demonstrate that temperature has stabilised, monitoring frequencies can be reduced. Any rises in temperature must be investigated and the actions documented.

QUICK FACTS

- ✓ Grain must be tipped on a clean, concrete base or other sealed/impervious surface.
- ✓ Grain must be covered when not being worked (being worked includes grain being fed through a dryer).
- ✓ Records must be kept covering: the reason for outside tipping, the condition of the grain and the length of time (dates and times) the grain was outside.
- ✓ A derogation must be sought from the certification body, Intertek SAI Global or NSF, if the grain is stored outside for more than five days.

RELEVANT RESOURCES:

- Red Tractor standards
<https://redtractorassurance.org.uk/standard-categories/crops/>
- Templates relating to grain storage
<https://redtractorassurance.org.uk/templates/>
- AHDB grain storage guide
<https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/grain-storage-guide>