



Crop and Sugar Beet Membership Guidelines

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Red Tractor recognises that entire farming operations are often undertaken on behalf of landowners who wish to trade grain under their farming entity. Some frequently asked questions are outlined below with more information and a decision flow diagram outlined in a separate document.

1. As a contract farmer, I complete all day-to-day farm management on behalf of a farmer/ landowner. Are these categories of membership available to me and my clients?

Yes, the Red Tractor rules apply to contract farmers who do all day-to-day farm management but do not apply to contractors who simply provide services to arable farms e.g. contract spraying. The rules also apply to the farmer/landowner for whom you contract farm (see question 3).

2. I am a farmer/ landowner who shares the day-to-day farm management with a contract farmer. Are these membership options available to me?

You cannot be classed as an 'owner' member but instead you will need a full Red Tractor membership which will require an assessment and the full membership fee.

The certification body may be able to undertake this at the same time as your contractor, but they will require a full assessment for each business.

3. I am a farm business owner/ landowner who does none of the day-to-day work on the farm as it is carried out by a contract farmer. Do these rules apply to me?

Yes. You have two options:

- A. You can have a full Red Tractor membership which requires an assessment and the associated fees/fee. You should arrange this with your Certification Body of choice.
- B. Or you can have an 'owner' membership which requires no assessment as it will be undertaken as a part of the contractor's assessment. You will be required to sign an application/renewal form that gives permission your contractor can make the arrangements with the Certification Body.

4. As an 'owner' member what fees do I have to pay, and will I have a full assessment?

'Owner' membership requires payment of a Red Tractor royalty fee and may be subject to admin fees but will not be liable for the full costs associated with a full membership. The 'owner' membership must be linked to a contractor's Red Tractor membership whose assessment will cover all the management of all the associated 'owner' crops. The table below helps to explain what fees need to be paid by the contract farmer and the 'owner'.

Owner Type	Royalty Fee
Contract Farmer	Yes – Based on own land area
Owner Member	Yes – Based on area owned

5. Are the Red Tractor grain passport stickers going to be different for an 'owner' member compared to a full member?

No, the grain passport stickers will remain unchanged. Both contractor and owner members will be issued with grain passport stickers with their associated Red Tractor membership number detailed.

All parties will have the option to produce PDF passports from the Red Tractor checker's service. Details on how to register and generate real time passports can be found on the Red Tractor website: [Crops Grain Passport Guide](#) or for a template of the Combinable Crops Passport: [Red Tractor Downloadable Passport](#)

6. What do owner and contractor memberships look like on Red Tractor industry checker?

Both types of Red Tractor membership can be found using the Red Tractor industry checker for Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet and their associated grain stores. Searching using a contractor farmer's membership number will display their full Red Tractor certification status and list all the owner memberships which are linked to that Red Tractor membership. Searching using an owner's membership number will display the owner's certification status and details of the contractor to whom that owner membership is linked. Therefore, searching using either membership number will display the information required by the trade to verify the relevant farm assurance for the business selling the grain or sugar beet.

7. What does the “Contract Farming Details” section mean?

For contractors:

Contract Farming Details

This membership belongs to a contractor, farming on behalf of the following owners:

Owner Membership Number(s):

498124, 498125

If the membership belongs to a contractor, the screen displays the **Owner Membership Number(s)** for the land being farmed on behalf of others.

For landowners:

Contract Farming Details

The site(s) belonging to this membership are farmed by the following contractor:

Contractor Membership Number:

498123

If the membership belongs to a landowner whose land is being farmed by a contractor, the screen displays the **Contractor Membership Number**.

8. If the Red Tractor certification for the contract farmer is suspended, will all the associated owner memberships be suspended?

Yes. As each owner Red Tractor membership is linked to their contract farmer's membership then if the contract farmer becomes suspended, each linked owner membership will also be suspended.

9. Can a contract farmer add a new owner membership as a linked membership between renewals?

Yes, a new Red Tractor owner membership can be created or an existing one transferred and added as a linked membership to a contract farmer's membership between renewals. A site assessment may be carried out. This will be dependent on the assured history of the site and if there are physical aspects to be assessed.

10. Can an owner member become a full member to a scheme?

Yes. If the contractual relationship changes between a contract farmer and landowner / farm business, then both the contractor farmer and the owner must inform their certification body. e.g. the landowner/ farm business changes contractor. The certification body will help the member through this process.

To become a full member, the site would require a full assessment covering all applicable elements of the Red Tractor standards.

What happens if the renewal payments are not made?

Each party is responsible for payment of its own renewal fees. If a landowner fails to pay the renewal fee, the membership will be closed. If a contractor fails to pay the renewal fee, all linked memberships will be closed at the same time as the contractor's membership. The certification body will contact all affected parties if this situation arises.

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 themselves. *The farmer is required to have a full RT membership. The contractor does not need to be RT assured but they will need to provide their 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 spraying which is done by a neighbouring farmer who also markets their own crops. *Both the farmer and the neighbour are required to have a full RT membership and assessments.*
3. A landowner rents their land to a contractor who does all 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 but has to ensure that the land is declared in their membership.*
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 each have Red Tractor memberships, with the landowner being classed as the owner member. Both the memberships must be with the same Certification Body.*