Combinable Crops & Sugar Beet Standards

Summary of proposed changes

10 November 2026

Red Tractor is consulting on a **clearer, better-organised and less prescriptive** set of standards, with **around a quarter fewer requirements**.

Every standard has been reviewed and challenged by the Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet Technical Advisory Committee, with retained requirements justified by **legislation, earned recognition, customer needs or market access**.

At a glance

A quarter fewer requirements	Six-week consultation	Changes planned for late 2027
Standards have been: **- Consolidated** **- Justified** **- More logically structured** Removing prescriptive or unnecessary requirements	Open to all stakeholders from **10 November until midnight on 22 December 2026**.	Final standards would be subject to UKAS approval, and published at least **three months before implementation**.

"This review represents a significant step forward in improving Red Tractor assurance for growers. Every standard has been challenged. Nothing remains simply because it has always been there."

Julian Sturdy, Chair of the Combinable Crops & Sugar Beet Sector Board

Key proposed changes

	**Clearer, easier-to-navigate standards** Related requirements have been consolidated and reordered, with a justification provided for every retained standard.
	**Storage based on risk and duration** Requirements have been organised around temporary, short-term and long-term storage. All stored crops require a documented, risk-based storage strategy, while detailed material from the AHDB Grain Storage Guide has been moved from the standards into supporting guidance.
	**Less transport administration** Requirements for trailer identification and ownership records have been removed, while controls covering cleanliness, previous loads, traceability and load protection remain.
	**Industry responsibility for accurate verification of assurance status** Red Tractor stickers are no longer required on Combinable Crops Passports. Growers enter their membership number on a paper or electronic passport with verification of status the responsibility of the next intake point
	**More focused pest-control** Requirements have been consolidated around food and feed safety. Duplication of requirements covered by CRRU have been removed, while effective controls against contamination and pest damage remain.
	**Environmental protection requirements reorganised** Soil, nutrient, fertiliser, pesticide, waste and pollution requirements are grouped more logically, with clearer justification of their purpose within farm assurance. A new Crops Systems Resilience section brings together soil management and integrated pest management requirements.
	**A broader nutrient-management approach** A dedicated fertiliser section, including replacing the existing manure-management approach with a Nutrient Management Plan where applications are made to land.
	**Irrigation section removed** The irrigation section has been removed. Feedback is invited on any implications for legal compliance, environmental protection or supply-chain assurance.

What's not changing

	Robust assurance of **food and feed safety, traceability, customer due diligence and market access** remains at the heart of the scheme.
	The **single shared assurance model** would continue to allow merchants, millers, maltsters and other buyers to rely on a common standard rather than introduce separate controls.
	Recognition as a voluntary scheme under the **EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED III)**, the recognised **urea stewardship scheme**, and earned recognition with the **Food Standards Agency** will be maintained, while the need for **SAI Silver recognition** across different supply chains is being reviewed.
The farm assessment itself is unchanged for now. Work on risk-based assessment cycles and technology is being considered separately.	

Take part

- Growers and wider industry stakeholders are being asked to identify anything that is **unclear, impractical or disproportionate**, explain why, and suggest a better approach.
- Feedback will be considered by the Technical Advisory Committee and Sector Board before the final standards are agreed in 2027.

Find out more and take part in the consultation:

redtractor.org.uk/crops-consultation