Combinable Crops & Sugar Beet Standards Review

Detailed Supply Chain Justifications

Pesticides (PPP)

The following justifications have been provided by supply chain organisations represented on the Red Tractor Combinable Crops & Sugar Beet Board.

These justifications supplement the overarching justifications provided within the 2026 consultation on proposed changes to the Red Tractor Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet Standards.

Aim

To demonstrate that plant protection products are managed responsibly throughout their lifecycle, minimising risks to people, crops and the environment, demonstrating legal compliance and providing assurance that UK agriculture is effectively controlling pesticide-related risks through industry-led standards and stewardship.

Supply chain justifications

Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)

The benefits of farm pollution risk mapping help farms target inputs more precisely, protect soil and retain nutrients, identify opportunities for environmental gains, and support sustainable production. Combined with integrated pest management it informs decisions that bring productive farming and environmental responsibility together which AIC fully supports. The Red Tractor Standard enables farms to demonstrate the responsible use of PPPs while meeting legislative requirements.

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British Sugar

British Sugar and our customers expect the sugar beet we process to have been grown responsibly and with care. Red Tractor's pesticide standards give us confidence that plant protection products are stored, handled and used properly, and that this is independently assessed. Maintaining confidence through quality assurance, rather than relying on quality control testing alone, helps manage the audit burden across the supply chain while upholding high standards of production.

Maltsters Association of Great Britain (MAGB)

Red Tractor PPP standards in applying and storing Plant Protection Products demonstrate the correct use and stewardship of agrochemicals. The inspections by HSE are now largely focussed on responses to incidents as opposed to routine farm inspections. The frequency of Red Tractor audits compared to the number of audits carried out by official inspectors thus gives UK maltsters the confidence that pesticide MRLs will not have been exceeded and therefore no pesticide residue is tested on intake. The MAGB support the continued inclusion of this section in the scheme.

Seed Crushers and Oil Processors Association (SCOPA)

SCOPA members rely on Red Tractor assurance to provide confidence that pesticide use and storage are independently verified at farm level and that crops entering the oilseed supply chain have been produced within appropriate controls. This supports customer due diligence and reduces the need for individual processors to replicate farm-level assurance.

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UK Flour Millers

Red Tractor PPP standards are important to demonstrate that due diligence and stewardship is conducted when storing and applying agrochemicals. This is particularly important when agrochemical regulatory approvals change and the risk of inappropriate application is greatest. Official Controls inspections by HSE are infrequent and limited in their coverage of farms. Red Tractor PPP standards and audits provide the UK flour milling sector with confidence that agrochemical regulatory requirements are adhered to and as a result, do not require agrochemical residue test results when UK wheat is supplied to flour mills. Due diligence monitoring of UK milling wheat confirms that this system is effective at producing compliant grain.

Weetabix

This a Weetabix requirement. We are frequently asked by our consumers and other stakeholders that we source from responsible suppliers. Many consumers and other bodies have an interest in pesticide usage. Being able to demonstrate responsible management of pesticides is critical in this. When we highlight how we source and work with local growers, and support British farming this some comes under greater scrutiny. It is also important to demonstrate to our customers that we source from British growers that meet recognised, responsible pesticide standards.

British Oat & Barley Millers' Association (BOBMA)

This is important to demonstrate that due diligence and stewardship are exercised when storing, handling and applying plant protection products. Oat millers rely on a secure supply of UK-grown oats that meet food safety, quality and regulatory requirements. Red Tractor PPP standards provide assurance that products are applied in accordance with legal requirements, product labels and integrated pest management principles. This enables oat millers to demonstrate to customers, retailers and consumers that oats are sourced from growers operating to recognised standards of responsible pesticide use. Independent Red Tractor audits provide a practical and consistent mechanism for verifying compliance across the farming base and maintaining confidence in the integrity of the UK oat supply chain.

Oat millers supply food manufacturers and retailers that operate to stringent food safety and due diligence requirements. Compliance with Red Tractor PPP standards helps demonstrate that crop protection products are used responsibly and in accordance with

current regulatory approvals, reducing the risk of non-compliant residues and supporting compliance with UK Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs). This assurance is particularly important for maintaining customer confidence in UK oats and reducing the need for additional supply chain verification activities.

Sustainable crop protection remains an essential component of productive oat growing, helping growers manage weeds, pests and diseases while achieving the yield and quality specifications required by the food industry. Red Tractor PPP standards encourage responsible decision-making, operator competence and environmental stewardship. Demonstrating robust controls over pesticide use helps maintain public trust in British farming and supports the continued availability of effective crop protection tools that are important for the long-term viability of UK oat production.