Combinable Crops & Sugar Beet Standards Review

Detailed Supply Chain Justifications

Waste and pollution (WP)

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 ensure farm wastes are managed responsibly and legally, protecting the environment, reducing pollution risks and providing confidence that waste-related risks are effectively controlled across UK agriculture.

Supply chain justifications

Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)

AIC's documented position is that it supports continued inclusion of the Waste and Pollution requirements in the Red Tractor Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet Scheme. The rationale is that independently assured waste controls provide confidence to customers and processors and reduce the need for additional customer-specific verification.

British Sugar

Our customers, like us, expect sugar beet to be farmed responsibly, with care taken to avoid pollution and contamination. Red Tractor's standards for storing fuels, oils and chemicals, and for managing waste, give us confidence that these risks are well managed on farm. Maintaining confidence through quality assurance, rather than 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)

Safe and responsible management of waste is key to both maltster and customer sustainability requirements when sourcing barley and malt. UK malting barley has a reputation for being a responsible and sustainable raw material in the malting process, and Red Tractor Assurance gives confidence that risks to food and feed safety, biosecurity and the environment are kept to a minimum.

Seed Crushers and Oil Processors Association (SCOPA)

SCOPA members need confidence that waste is managed appropriately on farm because poor practice can create environmental, contamination and reputational risks within the supply chain. Red Tractor provides independent verification of these controls across assured growers, supporting responsible sourcing and giving processors a consistent level of assurance without requiring separate customer checks.

UK Flour Millers

This is important to demonstrate that due diligence has been conducted with regards to farm pollution risk. Modern, productive agriculture depends on the use of agrochemicals and fertiliser to produce crops of the necessary quantity and quality required by the supply chain. This usage faces pressure and is criticised by those concerned about negative environmental impacts if due diligence is not exercised . Mapping areas of high pollution risk, with regards to fertiliser, agrochemicals and waste, is an important aspect of good farm stewardship. Auditing of Red Tractor standards is a more robust mechanism to ensure this due diligence is being conducted versus the infrequent inspections conducted by the Environment Agency.

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Weetabix

This a Weetabix requirement. We are frequently asked by our consumers and other stakeholders that we source from responsible suppliers. Safe and responsible management of waste is a key part of this. When we highlight how we source and work with local growers , and support British farming this some comes under greater scrutiny.

British Oat & Barley Millers' Association (BOBMA)

Responsible waste management is a key component of good agricultural practice and environmental stewardship. Red Tractor standards help ensure that wastes generated on farm, including agrichemical containers, packaging, oils and other materials, are managed, stored and disposed of appropriately. Effective waste controls reduce the risk of pollution incidents and demonstrate a commitment to maintaining high environmental standards throughout the oat supply chain.

Oat millers are increasingly asked by retailers, food manufacturers and consumers to demonstrate that raw materials are sourced from responsibly managed farms. The Red Tractor waste management standards provide independently audited assurance that growers are managing waste in a manner consistent with legal and environmental obligations. This supports customer confidence in British-grown oats and the wider sustainability credentials of the UK oat sector.

Poor waste management practices can undermine public confidence in agriculture and attract negative attention from regulators, customers and consumers. Red Tractor waste standards provide a recognised framework for demonstrating good practice and legal compliance. Independent auditing helps ensure that waste-related risks are identified and managed consistently, supporting the reputation of UK oat growers, oat millers and the wider food supply chain.