



Safe Haven New Entrants Protocol

Amended October 2014

Background

As the scheme develops and continues to offer protection to the UK potato industry, it is important that consideration is given to potential new entrants.

New Members who have only grown UK Nuclear Stock or other approved initial stock provider (SASA or DARD)

Standard 1.2 requires that all seed for multiplication must have originated from the unit itself or must have been grown by another accredited production unit. It is however, noted that new members may have an existing commitment to sourcing seed stocks for more than one year. In such cases, CBs must ensure that the seed producer provides a written commitment that any new input seed will only be sourced from another accredited production unit.

Note: Assessors must check existing contracts at the initial audit and then check input seed contracts/invoices thereafter.

New Members who have grown imported stock

There is an increased chance of potential new members having grown imported stocks – not originated from UK Nuclear Stock, which is traceable to UK Nuclear Stock or other approved initial stock provider (SASA or DARD).

Up to now no questions relating to a business' historic seed sourcing have been asked when they apply to join the scheme. New members only have to be compliant at their first audit (be growing Safe Haven seed that year). This is a potential threat to the scheme. Growers who have handled imported seed are of greater risk. It is important that new entry criteria is implemented to help provide more information and protect the scheme. This will include a delayed entry to the scheme for those who have handled imported seed, other than from a risk-free source.

Application Form Question

An additional question is to be added to the application form that the grower signs when applying for an audit to join the scheme. The proposed question will be worded along the lines of:

To the best of your knowledge, in the last five years, has your business unit ever planted or handled seed or ware potatoes that originated overseas (of non-SASA origin)? This includes seed once grown in Britain but which originated from overseas.

If the answer to that question is yes, then the protocol highlighted below, must be implemented. If the answer is no, then the applicant is free to have their audit for entry.

There is the chance the applicant could choose to answer falsely, but clearly asking this question on a signed declaration discourages this. If any false declaration came to light the member could be removed from the scheme. (This needs to be clear on the declaration).

Protocol for having handled seed that originated from overseas

This protocol has been advised on by John Elphinstone, Fera, and the Safe Haven Technical Advisory Group. It uses many of the principles applied to fields that have been associated with Ring Rot, but were negative (where there is a potential risk). This offers robustness to protect the scheme from Ring Rot, but also allows the grower entry to the scheme in an acceptable timely manner.

Year 1

- Full disinfection of all handling equipment before handling year 1 material (planters, etc would need to be disinfected prior to planting; harvest boxes, harvesting/grading equipment need to be done before harvest of year 1).
- All seed planted will have to be from within the scheme.

A full Safe Haven Audit will have to be carried out to ensure compliance, however entry to the scheme would not be permitted.

Year 2

- All seed planted will have to be from within the scheme.
- A full Safe Haven Audit will have to be carried out to ensure compliance. Entry to the scheme would only be permitted once laboratory testing was completed on year two crop. This seed can be marketed as Safe Haven on completion of the tests highlighted below.
- Testing would be 3 x 200 tubers taken at random. It is anticipated that the testing would be carried out post-harvest. Costs (about £300) would need to be met by the grower. Sampling would be carried out by either official inspector or certification body, and be tested at either SASA or FERA.

Safe Haven Members removed for planting seed from overseas origin

If a current member is removed from the scheme for planting seed of overseas origin, it is proposed that the above protocol would apply before their Safe Haven accreditation can continue. This would apply to both seed and ware within the business unit.

Other member states

Where seed has been received directly from another nuclear stock facility within the European Union (never been field grown), that is of the same standard as UK Nuclear Stock produced by SASA, the material will be accepted for immediate entry to the scheme. Additionally, if a grower in another member state is accepted under the scheme, on the basis of using seed from such a nuclear stock facility, and compliance with all other scheme requirements, then resulting seed will also be acceptable for use by UK growers in the scheme.

In the event of the formation of an approved Safe Haven Scheme in another member state, it is anticipated that the material from this scheme would be accepted for immediate entry to the scheme

(NOTE: This would be subject to prior agreement and auditing of any new scheme to comply with the current standards set out in the Safe Have Certification Scheme and initiation material).