



Giving YOUR business the protection it needs

Large numbers of British seed growers are now members of this scheme and more and more ware growers are benefiting from it. Are YOU?

Third edition





The Safe Haven Certification Scheme is simple, practical and robust, offering strong protection from imported diseases for the whole industry. This is why the BPC played a major role in its development and its successor, the Potato Council, strongly supports it.

It began as a very effective way of reducing the threat of ring rot - a challenge that remains as outbreaks continue in Continental Europe. However, it has since also proven invaluable in the fight against many other phytosanitary risks, ranging from those that might cause inconvenience and financial loss to those that can, literally, kill a business. In other words, it's not about getting a rubber stamp, it's about achieving very significant risk reduction.

Faced with the risks and offered a simple, effective scheme to help counter them, our industry has responded magnificently. Two thirds of the Scottish seed area is now covered, while more and more seed growers elsewhere in Britain are recognising the advantages and signing up. Ware growers too are alert to the benefits and actively seeking out certified supplies.

Despite this, some are still missing out and I hope this new guide will raise awareness and help to put that right. I do not take it lightly when I say that those who are not signed up are not only exposing their own businesses to unnecessary levels of risk, but also potentially affecting the health and security of our whole industry.

Allan Stevenson
Chairman, Potato Council

To see businesses who are benefiting from the scheme, those able to supply Safe Haven certified seed or to find out more in the context of your own business, visit: www.potato.org.uk/safehaven

“The threat of serious diseases is real and the opportunity to exclude them will not last forever or come again. The Safe Haven Scheme significantly increases our chances of achieving exclusion from both seed and ware crops, giving invaluable protection for our livelihoods.”

“There are lots of market-based assurance schemes. This is different. I think of it as a re-assurance scheme. A practical route to peace-of-mind and business security through strong phytosanitary protection.”

Advantages for all

The Safe Haven Certification Scheme is supported by organisations right across the potato industry. This is because it offers major advantages with minimal hassle for all concerned.

Seed sector

- ✓ Simple, effective, scientifically proven scheme
- ✓ Safeguards the future of your seed business
- ✓ Makes a major contribution to the security of the British potato industry
- ✓ Further enhances Britain's reputation as a high quality seed supplier
- ✓ Easy to join and costs less than half a tonne of seed
- ✓ Your customers will start asking for Safe Haven seed. Who is going to supply them?

Ware sector

- ✓ Practical protection against major threats
- ✓ Peace of mind thanks to robust procedures
- ✓ Multiple benefits - real help fighting blackleg, *Dickeya* spp, brown rot and ring rot, as well as other non-indigenous pests and diseases

“Of course I want to pass on the business to my children. They often describe things as ‘no-brainers’ and that’s exactly how I see Safe Haven protection... in today’s world I’d be very stupid, even reckless, not to have it.”

“The Scheme began life as a simple, effective way to exclude ring rot, protecting our industry from this major strategic threat.

It’s now clear that the actual benefits go much further and it is greatly helping the fight against other threats like blackleg, *Dickeya* spp, brown rot and other non-indigenous pests and diseases.”

How it works - a secure seed supply chain

The Scheme is easy to understand and straightforward to implement. Summarised in the diagram below, it delivers added security and reassurance through practical procedures and a secure supply chain.



The Safe Haven Certified Seed Supply Chain is highlighted in green. (Two seed production units are represented in this chain. In practice there could be more).

Arrows labelled C, represent seed stocks leaving the Safe Haven Certification Scheme to non-certified units. Seed stocks are NOT allowed to pass in the opposite direction.

Overseas varieties will remain available through either:

- Import of disease free plant material through the existing quarantine service and multiplication through the Safe Haven certified supply chain.
- Import of seed potatoes by growers choosing not to join the Safe Haven scheme. This seed is excluded from entering the Safe Haven certified supply chain

How to benefit



Ware businesses

- Think seriously about how you source your seed
- Actively seek out suppliers who are accredited under the Safe Haven Scheme
- Encourage your seed suppliers to think seriously about signing up to the Scheme

With large numbers of seed growers and the majority of the GB seed acreage now covered by the scheme, supplies of Safe Haven Certified seed are excellent, so it is increasingly practical to take a decision to only source seed covered by the Scheme.

Unsure if your supplier is accredited? Only those that are can use its logo. You can also view a list of accredited producers at www.assuredproduce.co.uk

Seed businesses

- To meet the standard you simply have to follow practical, straightforward procedures (see next page).
- If you are a member of any existing farm assurance scheme, you will be able to have your Safe Haven audit carried out at the same time as your existing audit – minimising the cost and inconvenience.
- If you are not already a member of an existing farm assurance scheme, you will need a specific audit for the Safe Haven Scheme, but again the cost for this has been minimised.

The scheme is administered by Assured Produce and audits will be carried out by approved certification bodies. To organise your Safe Haven Audit, you need to contact your existing assurance auditor or one of the certification bodies from the list below.

Approved certification bodies and contacts for Safe Haven certification audits



01993 885 610



0131 335 6604



01423 878 878



01908 249 973



02920 856 505

Scheme rules and standards

RULES

Assured Food Standards (AFS) has developed Rules and Procedures for all its schemes and a detailed copy of this document is available from certification bodies licensed to certify to the standards or available on the AFS website www.redtractor.org.uk

The summary details relating to certification are briefly set out below for information.

- All non-conformances against the Standards must be put right. Some Standards are marked 'Key Standards' and if the assessor finds that there is a major non-conformance against one of the 'Key Standards' it may result in suspension of certification until it is put right. Non-conformances against 'Other Standards' should not result in suspension provided the member corrects them within an agreed timescale. This will normally be within 28 days of the assessment unless told otherwise. The Certification Body will also reserve the right to suspend certification in the case of a large number of such non-conformances or in the event of the same non-conformance being found on successive assessment visits.
- Some points may be marked as 'Recommendations'. These are not Standards and they will not affect certification. 'Recommendations' are often included to introduce points that will become a Standard in the near future.
- If non-conformances are not rectified satisfactorily, membership and certification will be suspended until the Certification Body has obtained satisfactory evidence that they have been corrected. This may involve a re-assessment for which a fee may be payable. Once a certificate is suspended non-conformances must be rectified within 3 months of the date of suspension otherwise the certificate will be withdrawn and membership will lapse. Certification can only be regained by following the procedure for a new applicant.

SAFE HAVEN STANDARDS

The basic standards required for accreditation under the scheme are set out here. Guidance on these is available from your certification body.

1. Introduction

Following a systematic approach will help members to avoid and manage the risks associated with bacterial ring rot of potato. Where the term 'production unit' is used below this refers to a business rather than to a physical unit of land. Where a business uses rented land for seed potato production this will be eligible for the Scheme provided all the standards are met.

Random samples of seed and ware production from production units will be collected by the appropriate plant health authority for official testing as part of the annual ring rot surveys performed in accordance with Directive 93/85/EEC. Sampling rates will be at least equivalent to those on non-accredited production units as laid down by the relevant plant health authority.

The following standards are based on a typical seed potato production process.

Ware crops grown on a safe haven accredited unit do not require to be entered in the seed potato classification scheme, but will otherwise be subject to all the same standards as detailed below for seed production.

2. Seed stocks

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| 2.1 | Producers must enter all seed potato crops in the seed potato classification scheme of the relevant UK authority and allow details of all these crops to be published in the official seed register. |
| 2.2 | All seed for seed multiplication must be from classified seed and have originated from the unit itself or must have been grown by another accredited production unit. In the case of first generation Pre Basic production, all seed must have derived in a direct line (i.e. without further clonal selection) from SASA ring rot tested nuclear stock or SASA quarantine tested in-vitro plant material and have been produced by a officially approved minituber producer. Seed produced from true potato seed will also be acceptable. |
| 2.3 | Full records of the multiplication history of each seed stock grown on the production unit must be maintained for 3 years. |
| 2.4 | Cutting of seed for seed production is not permitted. (Key) |

3. Transport and storage

3.1	<p>Seed tubers must only be stored or transported in boxes or containers that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Have never been used for potatoes produced outside the accredited production unit; (where boxes are to be sent to a packer or other outside production unit annual written assurance must be obtained that these boxes will not be used for handling any other potatoes before being returned).■ Or, have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before use. Cleaning records must be maintained (see 5.1). <p>Where transport is to be in bulk or in boxes from outside the accredited unit a record of inspection for each load must be retained. (Key)</p> <p>[Disinfectants with proven activity against ring rot bacterium in the presence of other organic material should be used. For full details of the guidelines for cleaning and decontamination of equipment and transport vehicles and of validated disinfectants see back page]</p>
3.2	Seed transport from an accredited unit should be in non-returnable containers. (Recommendation)
3.3	Producers should visually inspect boxes/ bulkers before loading. Any boxes/bulkers not meeting the required standard of cleanliness must not be loaded.
3.4	Bulk transport is not recommended, but where it is used, producers should ask the haulage contractor for details of the previous 3 loads carried by the vehicle. These details should be recorded. (Recommendation)
3.5	Non-accredited seed or ware potatoes must not be handled, graded or stored on accredited production units. (Key)
3.6	Accredited seed potatoes must not be handled, graded or stored on a non-accredited production unit. (Key)

4. Machinery

4.1	Contracted or other machinery that has physical contact with the seed or daughter crop (including harvesters, graders, planters, trailers etc) and that has been used on any other production unit must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before entry and use on the production unit. Records of cleaning and disinfection must be retained (as in section 5.1).
4.2	If machinery/equipment shared between producers has physical contact with the seed or daughter tubers it must be cleaned and disinfected before being moved to any other unit. Records of the shared crop equipment use and its cleaning must be available.

5. Cleaning records

5.1	<p>Cleaning records that must be retained are as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Name/identification of equipment;■ Event triggering the need for cleaning/disinfection;■ Date of cleaning operation(s);■ Disinfectant used;■ Name of operative
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6. Contractors' obligations

6.1	<p>In contracting arrangements on an accredited unit where machinery has physical contact with the seed or daughter tubers, there must be a separate record of each potato operation. The record must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Date■ Operation■ Contractor name■ Confirmation/description of disinfection procedure including name of operator.
6.2	<p>Members must ensure that any contractors undertaking work on the production of crops covered by the Safe Haven Scheme adhere to the scheme protocols.</p> <p>[To enable members to make their instructions clear, the Assured Produce contractor's Commitment Document can be used]</p>

7. Use of the logo

7.1	The Safe Haven Certification Scheme Logo must only be used in conjunction with the Scheme membership number on packaging, stationery and trade documentation by a grower who is certified under the Safe Haven Certification Scheme.
7.2	Records must be kept of the packing of certified material and if a packing site handles certified seed potatoes from more than one source records must be kept to allow traceability from final pack to supplier.
7.3	The scheme logo must always be reproduced in accordance with the guidelines in Appendix 3 of this standard (which can be viewed at www.assuredproduce.co.uk).

Practical guidance on hygiene

Guidelines for cleaning and decontamination of potato handling equipment and transport vehicles collecting seed potatoes in bulk for the avoidance of ring rot.

Cleaning of the equipment/trailer

Systematic cleaning should allow sufficient time to remove all plant residues and soil which can harbour infections.

- Start at the top of the equipment and work downwards;
- Start at the top of the trailer and clean from the inside to the edges.
- First remove dust, soil and potatoes using a broom;
- Remove adherent dirt and potato debris from the surfaces of the equipment/trailer, preferably using a detergent.
- Wash down surfaces, preferably with heated water (steam cleaning is particularly effective) where possible.
- Cleaning should be carried out on hard standing and run-off water from the cleaning process should be drained to sewerage and not allowed to contaminate agricultural land.

Decontamination of the equipment/trailer

Decontamination should take place following the cleaning of the equipment/trailer and after all dirt and potato debris have been removed. All disinfectants have their efficacy against the ring rot pathogen reduced by the presence of soil and other organic material. The removal of all soil and debris prior to disinfection is the most important phase of the cleaning process.

- First remove all water left in pools on the equipment or in the trailer. Rinse off any cleaning detergents since they may also affect disinfectant activity.
- Use one of the types of disinfectant mentioned below.
- Use disinfectants in accordance with the manufacturers' directions and pay attention to personal protection.
- If directions require rinsing, wait at least 10 minutes after application.

Validated Chemicals with proven activity against ring rot

A number of disinfectants are effective; these include:

- Chlorine-based products with at least 1% active chlorine (e.g. hypochlorite bleaches or chlorine dioxide)
- Chloramides (e.g. Halamid-d)
- Iodine-based products (e.g. Fam-30)
- Peroxide/peroxygen based products (e.g. Jet-5, Vanodox, Clamarin 150, Virkon-S, Sanprox P)
- Quaternary ammonium products (e.g. Menno-Ter-Forte, Dimanin, Neoquat-S, Sanibact, Virocid)
- Organic acids (e.g. Menno-Florades, Antec-Farm Fluid)
- Aldehyde-based products (e.g. Ren-cid/Glu-cid, Unifect-G, Agrigerm 2000SL, Horti-Desin, Korsolin, Virakil).

Members should check label restrictions for disinfectants before use.