

Overview

This standard covers managing the production of novel crops, including growing, harvesting and storing them.

A novel crop is one that has to be grown under specific conditions. The standard does not deal with the basic principles of establishment, plant health, harvest and storage but focuses on the specific protocols required for the production of novel crops. This includes separation distances, different types of barrier and methods to prevent adventitious presence (cross contamination) and volunteer control.

This standard is suitable for those with responsibility for the production of novel crops.

Manage the production of novel crops

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the site and the activities being carried out
2. identify areas of potential cross contamination
3. establish measures to maintain the required levels of hygiene and bio-security and confirm that they have been implemented
4. identify different novel crops and the types of seed/grain available
5. confirm that all legislative requirements for the growing of novel crops have been met
6. identify the most appropriate separation method for each type of crop, such as physical barrier or separation distance
7. manage soil seed banks for novel crops
8. confirm that all machinery used in the production of novel crops is clean and decontaminated
9. manage the methods of harvesting novel crops to avoid cross contamination
10. confirm that the storage area is clean and free from contamination that might affect the quality of the novel crop
11. confirm that the novel crop is stored in a suitable area and kept separate from other crops
12. establish measures for the recycling or disposal of waste in accordance with legal and organisational requirements, and confirm that they have been implemented
13. confirm that working methods maintain health and safety and are consistent with relevant legislation, codes of practice and organisational requirements
14. confirm that appropriate records are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation, codes of practice, quality assurance requirements and organisational policies

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. how to interpret risk assessments
3. the importance of carrying out an environmental assessment of the site before starting work and the findings that may affect the proposed activity
4. the reasons and requirements for growing novel crops
5. the methods of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the reasons why this is important
6. how physical barriers can prevent pollen movement and what effect different barriers have
7. the size, source and potential effects of different pollens
8. the recommended separation distances for different crop types
9. how to manage current and relevant legislation that may impact on the growing of novel crops
10. how to manage cooperation with neighbouring farms that may impact on the growing of novel crops
11. how cultivation and drilling times help control potential cross pollination
12. how to manage/control volunteers in subsequent crops including, seed, tubers and roots
13. the crops that are sexually compatible with other crops or weeds
14. the importance of cleaning all equipment, storage and transfer areas used in the production of novel crops
15. the actions to take when harvesting the novel crop to avoid cross contamination
16. the potential impact of adventitious presence (cross contamination)
17. the relevant legal and organisational requirements for the handling, transport, storage, recycling and disposal of waste and by-products
18. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and organisational requirements
19. the requirements for reporting and recording and the length of time for which records should be retained

Glossary

Novel crops include:

- Hear oilseed rape
- Holl oilseed rape
- GM crops
- Other HT (herbicide tolerant) crops

Sustainable agriculture: Meeting the requirements for food production while maintaining profitability and preserving the environment

Volunteers: Plants that grow on their own, rather than being deliberately planted

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