

Sustainable Canola

What does sustainable Canola mean?

In 2005 the European union became a signatory to the Kyoto agreement (an international environmental treaty with the goal of achieving the "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system"). As part of this agreement the European Union entered into an ETS (emissions trading scheme) which includes but is not limited to reduction of Greenhouse Gas emissions, sustainable use of land, protection of natural biospheres and social sustainability.

The EU has set itself an objective to achieve a minimum share of 10% renewable energy in transport by 2020. Where biofuels are used to achieve this target (such as Canola), it must meet a set of sustainability requirements. In Australia there are only two schemes available for the certification of sustainable canola.

These are

- 1) The ISCC Scheme
- 2) 2BSvS (Biomass, Biofuels Sustainability Voluntary Scheme, used by SQP Pty Ltd)

In 2010/11 more than 90% of Australian canola exports went into the EU, and one third of these originated from Eastern

Australia. Therefore certification is needed in order to continue to access this market.

What we are asking the grower to sign?

- Certify that their land was classified arable on or before 1st Jan 2008
- Certify that cultivated land is abiding by any legal requirements in regards to rare species and ecosystems that may exist.
- Agree to the SQP using aerial photography and production maps of grower's farms for auditing purposes.
- Agree to undergo an onfarm audit of sustainability if required by SQP
- Agree that they have read, understood and comply with sustainability criteria as per article 17 of the Renewable energy Directive (RED)

What is Article 17?

Article 17 of RED basically states the following:

Energy from biofuels and bio liquids shall be taken into account for the purposes of

- 1) Measuring compliance of national targets
- 2) Measuring compliance with renewable energy obligations

Bio fuels shall not originate from land with the following statuses on or after January 2008

- ❖ Primary forest or woodland

- ❖ Used by law for nature protection purposes
- ❖ Used for the protection of rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems or species
- ❖ Was natural grassland with natural species
- ❖ Was non-natural grassland which was species rich and not degraded
- ❖ Wetlands
- ❖ Continuously forested
- ❖ Peat land

Key points regarding audit process

- The audit is paid for by the marketer (i.e. by SQP)
- If the grower fails compliance, there looks to be no legal ramifications, they just become uncertified and their Canola is no longer classified as sustainable.
- Auditor can nominate up to 5% of SQP listed certified growers for auditing.
- Certification is only valid for one year, so grower may be audited more than once every few years.
- Information may be cross checked by SQP against satellite images
- All parties in the supply chain need to be certified to comply with RED guidelines, this includes growers, bulk handlers, traders and exporters.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the grower certifying just the paddock growing the Canola or their entire farm?

The grower is only certifying the area of land on which the actual canola delivered has been grown. Therefore they are not required to certify their entire farm.

Are the growers able to deliver into the BHC and sign the form later, or does the form need to be signed prior to delivery?

The grower can sign for certification post-delivery providing Canola has been delivered into approved site for SQP premiums.

Are areas that used to be farm land on 1 January 2008, but are now swamps because they have still not drained from flooding, classed as wetlands?

2BS Standard says "The 1st gathering entity shall ensure that biomass does not come from wetlands, land that is covered with or saturated by water permanently **or for a significant part of the year.**" The text in bold above is referring to the year of the current harvest.

Providing the grower doesn't actually harvest the swamped area where water has covered the land for a significant part of the year then they are still classified as sustainable.