OPTIONAL FSA VERIFICATION

FIELD TO MARKET & SAI PLATFORM EQUIVALENCY GUIDANCE

Applicable for those companies wanting to make FSA volume claims. Verification could take place directly after the first assessment step, or after a period of improvement and subsequent reassessment.

1. An example FSA volume claim could be '*100% of the raw material we sell comes from farms reaching FSA Silver level or above*' A random sample of farmers completing the Fieldprint Platform and the FSA Equivalency Module are selected. The minimum number of farmers that need to be selected are outlined in the Verification and Integrity Framework in Chapter 5.5.2. For convenience, the tables are listed below.

2. It is recommended that before proceeding to Step 3, the Fieldprint Project Administrator reviews the questionnaires informally, investigating any results that stand out.

3. The sample of the self-assessments are third-party audited. The purpose of the auditing step is to determine of the accuracy of the self-assessments, and hence effectiveness of the support provided to farms in the Fieldprint Project, and is not intended to be an audit of the individual farms themselves. The numbers of self-assessments that need to be checked are outlined in the Verification and Integrity Framework (Chapter 5.5.4) and listed below. The same document also gives details, on how to deal with any discrepancy in the self-assessments and the audits, including appeals processes, as well as details on auditor proficiency requirements.

4. To establish that FSA volume claims are accurate, the numbers will be checked to make sure there has been robust accounting. This check happens at the level of the 'farm management system' operated by the company buying raw materials directly from farms. For more details please refer to the Verification and Integrity Framework (Chapter 5.2.2)

5. After the auditor has delivered a final report validating the accuracy of the self-assessments, the company is free to publish the results and advertise FSA volume claims. For more details on how to calculate the volume claim, including mass balance situations, please see the FSA Implementation guidance.

# Farms in Group	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-50	51-100	101-200	201-300	301-400	401-500	501-1k
Self-Assessment Sample Size	6	10	13	17	23	29	33	34	35	37
# Farms in Group	**1k-2k**	**2k-3k**	**3k-4k**	**4k-5k**	**5k-7.5k**	**7.5k-10k**	**10-20k**	**20-30k**	**30k+**	
Self-Assessment Sample Size	39	39	39	40	40	40	40	40	41	

Figure 1. Verification rules for FSA volume claims: Minimum number of farms to complete the FSA self-assessment, for various sizes of farm management groups.

# Farms self-assessed	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-50
Audit sample size	4	5	7	9

Figure 2. Verification rules for FSA volume claims: Minimum number of FSA self-assessments that needed to be audited in each farm management group.

Related Resources

Equivalency Module Spreadsheet

Implementation Guidance (Appendix 1)

FAQ – Guidance for Growers (Appendix 3)

FAQ – Guidance for Supply Chain Companies (Appendix 4)