

Sainsbury's Requirements: our approach to Crop Protection

The Sainsbury's approach to Crop Protection is contained within our supplier facing Responsible Sourcing Manual (RSM). The is typically updated biennially sets out our requirements to help support sustainable and resilient food production. The areas covered include in fresh and frozen produce and also key grain crops (for example we have requirements that apply to flour, rice and bakery products).

This summary document provides an overview of the requirements we require from our suppliers:

- **Safe and legal:**
 - Suppliers must safely source all fruit, salad, vegetable, grain and other crop products: ensuring that all crop protection products used on specific crops meet with regulatory requirements in the country of use and maximum residue levels (MRL) levels set by the regulator in the country of sale.
- **Use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM):**
 - Suppliers must be able to demonstrate an IPM based approach to crop protection. This should drive best practice and ensure that, where possible, crop protection products use is minimised.
 - Some countries set IPM requirements in their legislation (where these are in place they must be followed), but in addition, Sainsbury's also provide guidance to support our suppliers with IPM best practice, for example where there are no 'in country' requirements in place.
 - We require our UK fresh produce growers to obtain and hold LEAF Marque certification. This is a third party assurance standard based on Integrated Pest and Farm Management (IPM / IFM).
- **Plant Protection Product Use:**
 - Where plant protection products are used, this should be a well managed and targeted use of these products (such as pesticides) within an IPM based approach.
 - We require due diligence from our suppliers to show that the products they intend to use are approved for use on the relevant crops in the country of use.
 - We have a list of pesticides (active ingredients) that we do not allow to be used in our supply chains: for example, some of the most hazardous materials that have been identified through international conventions (such as the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions).
 - We also have certain active ingredients where our suppliers need to be able to show a clear case to support the use in an IPM programme (e.g. for resistance management or food waste risks). All of the applications must be reviewed and signed off by a Sainsbury's agricultural expert.
- **Pesticide Residue reporting:**
 - Our suppliers must have a transparent approach to pesticide residue testing and reporting where crop protection products are used.
 - Any testing programme must be based on a risk assessment: for example, considering relevant risk factors for that particular crop and country of production.
 - Tests must be undertaken by an accredited laboratory and shared with Sainsbury's for review.
 - If we see an MRL exceedance, or even a high level, we will investigate with suppliers to understand why this occurred and to support best practice and learning.
- **Technical engagement and working with each other:**
 - We work together with our suppliers and growers to share insight, horizon scanning and best practice – to learn from each other.
 - This extends beyond crop protection and IPM into wider priorities (for example, food waste, legislation and environmental goals), with suppliers expected to actively engage in Sainsbury's Crop Action Group, development groups and other wider forums / activities.
 - Working together in this way helps to encourage best practice and improve risk awareness to support sustainable and resilient IPM based crop production.