

Soya UK's Hard IP Soya Contract – The Key Details

“Hard IP” soya is Identity Preserved soya which is fully traceable, and guaranteed 100% non-GMO. The “Hard” distinguishes it from what is referred to as “Soft” IP soya, which tends to be from South America, and tends to be up to 2% GMO. The whole point of Hard IP soya, is that it is fully traceable and can be guaranteed to be non-GM. This means that we have to produce similar paperwork to the Canadian Hard IP growers, and abide by similar terms:-

- Growers should keep two seed labels (like you would do with a seed contract). This is to allow on-farm verification of the seed lot actually sown.
- Growers must not plant any other variety of soya in the same field (and preferably not on the same farm).
- If you are approached to do a soya trial on your farm, please only host trials in fields which are segregated from the Hard IP crop by an isolation strip of at least 2 metres, and under no circumstances can the beans from the trial be bulked in with the IP beans - it is imperative that you do not do this.
- Hard IP beans cannot be grown from home-saved seed. Home-saved seed is of unknown provenance and has not been tested as non-GM within the framework of a certification regime. The produce of home-saved crop can be traded, but it will be at an “any origin” world-market value (thereby forfeiting the IP premium which is around £40 - £50 per tonne). Hard IP buyers will not accept this under any circumstances.
- Crops need to be scrupulously segregated from other varieties of soya or potential sources of GM soya material (such as soya meal which may be stored on the farm).
- Growers must sign a post-harvest compliance declaration that they have not mixed or co-mixed the crop with any other soya material or contaminated the crop with any NOPS (see NOPS below)
- Glyphosate is not permitted as a desiccant due to residue issues. Other desiccants may be permitted by agreement.
- Growers need to complete their contract properly, which means filling in the field numbers and providing a photocopy map / sketch map / google map printout with the fields clearly marked in relation to some other landmarks such as houses, roads, rivers etc...

Other Points:-

- Growers must be part of a farm assurance scheme such as Red Tractor.
- When it's time to collect the soya beans after harvest, they must be collected from an address that is registered on your farm assurance scheme.
- The contract includes a clause about NOPS (Naturally Occurring Prohibited substances). This is all to do with Hard IP soya that goes into the horse feed industry. In 2014, there was a well-publicised incident where a prominent racehorse tested positive for morphine. It turned out that this was due to a grower who had grown both linseed and morphine poppy. The linseed was inadvertently cross-contaminated with some of the morphine poppy, and this led to the problem. Please do not be concerned by this clause, it is extremely unlikely that NOPS will be any kind of issue. Cross contamination with products containing tea, coffee, chocolate, biscuit waste, confectionery waste, or commercial morphine poppy is relatively unlikely on the vast majority of farms. Please also note that normal red poppies are not a problem, and their presence in your soya crop would not be an issue. The same is true of black nightshade which is not the same as deadly nightshade or Datura - neither of which are commonly seen in UK crops.
- In order to be considered “sustainable”, the contract also includes a clause about adherence to workers' rights, health & safety, and the modern slavery act.
- The contract is will be priced at the time of movement, or growers have the option of being in our marketing pool. This is why both the price and the movement terms are “by agreement”. This gives the grower the comfort of knowing that only when all parties are satisfied, that movement will take place.
- There is no fixed tonnage in this contract, so growers are not in any danger of being defaulted for under-delivery of any specific tonnage. However, the grower is obliged to make available the whole produce of the contracted crop.