

Changes to the SEG Standard, October 2026

Purpose

This summarises the changes made to the SEG Standard, between Versions 7.6 and 8.0 during its revision in 2026.

Aspect of the Standard	Change
Structure and content	1. To reduce the size of the Standard much of the background and explanation, which changes less frequently, has been moved to a separate document – 103b Rationale. 2. The Standard then focuses on key aspects of methodology and the conformance indicators.
Methodology	1. Conformance levels have been changed from three to four, with indicators for each criterion clearly defining each: ▪ ‘Responsible’ (full conformance) ▪ Minor non-conformance ▪ Major non-conformance ▪ Critical non-conformance 2. Those conformance levels are consistent with the ability to be accredited to ISO17065 – the preferred benchmark for standards, and to be compatible with the Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition Directive. 3. There is a clearer ‘checklist’ approach to help identify which conformance level is met. 4. Description of outcomes and where Improvement Plans are needed is clearer, simpler and more consistent. 5. Scoring has been simplified. There is no weighting – all Criteria are treated equally.
Claims	Allowable Claims are defined for the first time, and to be compatible with the Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition Directive. They are described in more detail in 205 SEG Claims & Labelling Guide.
Criteria	
1.2 Contribution to Eel Conservation projects	SEG Clients are also expected to be a Member of the Sustainable Eel Group
1.3 Traceability	1. Whilst full segregation and separation of batches is preferred, the revised standard allows mixing of SEG and non-SEG certified batches

	in some circumstances, but with clear guidance on ‘mass-balance’ so that the client cannot sell more eels as certified than were purchased. 2. There is now no minimum threshold for the proportion of SEG certified eels that must be handled. This is to allow new players to enter the SEG System. The objective is to review this annually to improve and increase over time towards the 95 – 100% target.
2.4 Mortality during fishing is minimised	There are more variations on the fishing speed and duration that are regarded as acceptable.
2.8, 3.8 and 4.6 Transport	1. The relevant national Regulations are referenced
4.5 Handling and welfare	2. Time limits are described for Fishers and Traders to hold glass eels
3.4 Mortality during fishing is minimised	Indicators for yellow and silver eel fishing have been included for the first time.
5.3: Feed is used as efficiently as possible	Due to plant based ingredients in fish feed, the feed conversion thresholds have been increased by 10%.
5.9: Biosecurity on eel farms	National or EC Registrations / Certifications or Regulations are referenced.
Component 6 Restocking	This has been removed as it is currently not used. However the main components are retained as a reminder of the content.