Is there a standard similarity index for plagiarism?

Similarity Index
\[ \text{Similarity Index} = \frac{\text{Number of word matches}}{\text{Total word count}} \]

The index, however, does not reflect whether the paper carries plagiarized materials or not. It is an indication as to the word-for-word match with the Turnitin database. The final judgement resides on the examiner of the paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colour coding of originality reports</th>
<th>Percentage Match</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>One word - 24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>25 - 49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>50 - 74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>75 - 100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Important Note!

Colour coding of originality reports

Percentage Match

Blue          0%
Green         One word - 24%
Yellow        25 - 49%
Orange        50 - 74%
Red           75 - 100%

Same paper in different assignment boxes/ student accounts

Once a paper is submitted to Turnitin, it will become part of the Turnitin database. You will get a high similarity index when the same paper is uploaded to Turnitin again.

To avoid this:
1. **DO NOT** submit your paper using different accounts/ assignment boxes.
2. With the assignment option set to overwrite reports, you can make multiple submissions under the same assignment. Re-submissions require 24 hours to generate a new originality report. Contact your instructor for this setup.

The originality report is RED.

It matches my previous submission in another account.

Explain this to your instructor. If the explanation is acceptable, your instructor can remove the match in the instructor mode. Please see page 22 in the Instructor Guide.

**DO NOT** ask your instructor to delete classes/ assignments. Papers removed from the assignment inbox are still retained in the Turnitin database.