

July 2014

## Pigs



# What Has Changed

Red Tractor has completed a review of the Farm Standards. Our objective is to have up-to-date standards which cover key reputational risks and are of benefit to you. We have spent time getting the balance right to ensure our standards meet the requirements of your customers as well as being practical and achievable to deliver on-farm.

We have made some improvements to the standards format and a few changes will come into force on **1st October 2014**. Each standard change is marked 'new', 'revised' or 'upgraded' in the manual. You will find them summarised here to explain what we have changed and why. You will find a useful self-assessment checklist on the back page.



## Antibiotic Usage

With increasing focus on antibiotic use in agriculture there is a need for the industry to demonstrate responsible use of medicines. This new standard therefore requires that you collate and record total antibiotic used on your farm, including in-feed antibiotics, and annually review the figure with your vet in order that any trends might be identified. BPEX have produced a handy template to help with this review process and it is available from: [www.pighealth.org.uk](http://www.pighealth.org.uk) (AM.f.1)

## Biosecurity

Robust biosecurity is of utmost importance to you, the whole of the pig industry and Red Tractor. Recent outbreaks of PEDv in other parts of the world really highlight the necessity for effective systems.

By taking a pig to a show, you are risking exposing it to different infections that could potentially affect your herd health status. This risk is seen as being too great, and therefore the standard now requires that pigs are taken directly to slaughter if they have been taken to a show. (TI.e)

We have also extended our requirement to comply with the ZNCP scheme to now include any current national zoonosis control programmes. (BI.b)

## Traceability of Breeding Stock

Traceability is a cornerstone of Red Tractor and one way our standards have previously reflected this is by requiring that all breeding stock come from assured farms. This has been extended to require that semen must also be sourced from assured farms and records must be kept of both breeding stock and semen suppliers. (TI.f, TI.f.1)

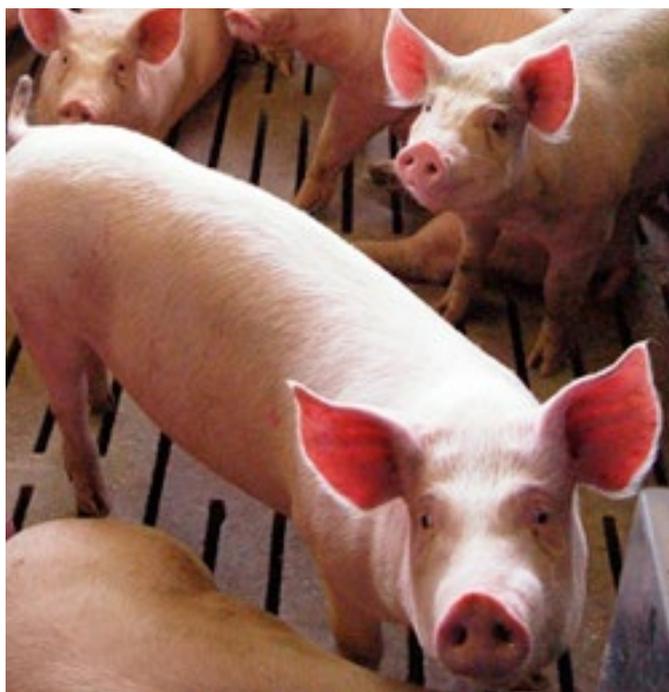
## Assured Feed

Bought-in compound feed and food industry by-products must already be assured helping to ensure it is free from contamination, is suitable and is what it says it is. Now:

- If you buy-in cereals or un-processed vegetables from another farmer, that farm must be assured (note: this does not apply to fodder beet).
- Bought-in minerals, mineral blocks/ licks (with the exception of rock salt), supplements and milk replacers must also be manufactured by a UFAS or equivalent compounder. The majority of products on the market meet this so it is unlikely you will have to change but it is worth checking to make sure. (FW.e)

## Ad-lib Feeding

Access to feed is important to both productivity and to animal welfare. We have now included a reference to ad-lib feeders and that the feeders are correctly managed to ensure that the ability for a pig to feed is not compromised. (FW.b)



## Concrete Slatted Flooring

A British Standard (BS) has been produced outlining the standard pig housing should be built to. In order to meet the requirements of this BS we have revised the standard. The changes are:

- The exclusion of a tolerance for slot and beam widths for piglets.
- The clarification of the requirements for boars. (HF.c.1)

## Staff

Having competent people, who understand what to do are crucial to your business. The standards related to staff look quite different, but are good business practice, are practical and not onerous. The term staff applies to full and part time staff as well as family members.

The key changes are:

- Any new staff need to be introduced to the farm and their tasks explained to them. You don't need to document this. (SC.a)
- For existing and future staff you must review their competence regularly. This may be as simple as watching them work or checking it once completed and doesn't have to be documented. If you find any issues then additional training should be given. (SC.b)
- If you use a Labour Provider to provide long-term, short-term or even regular staff (e.g. holiday-cover), you must protect your business by getting written confirmation that they are providing you with competent staff and that they have a Gangmasters Licence. (SC.d)

## Feed Storage

It is important for feed quality and safety that it is stored in a suitable way. The standard has been revised to specify that dry feed must be stored in weatherproof facilities. (FW.l)



## New Land, Storage or Facilities

Before taking on new sites, land or housing it is normal practice and now a standard to check them and consider the previous use. This does not need to be documented. Don't forget to tell your Certification Body when you take on new sites so your certification information is up-to-date. (DP.d)  
(Upgraded from a recommendation)

# Environmental Standards

Last summer regulations came into effect which implemented the Sustainable Use Directive (SUD) in the UK. If you are using any Plant Protection Products (PPPs) such as pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, molluscicides or insecticides, Plant Growth Regulators or soil sterilants then the SUD will apply to you.

A number of Red Tractor Assurance (RTA) recommendations have been included to help you prepare for the legal requirements coming into force.

## Sprayer Testing

All pesticide application equipment, other than handheld or knapsack sprayers, must legally have been NSTS tested at least once before the 26th November 2016 and every 5 years subsequently (with the exception of granular applicators and boom sprayers less than 3m wide which must be tested every 6 years subsequently). The RTA recommendation should give members plenty of time to get the relevant test done before the law changes. (EC.i)

## Waste Materials

If you bring any materials onto the farm with the intention of spreading them to land, records of delivery or Waste Transfer Notes or delivery notes need to be kept. This will allow you to trace back to source if there are any problems with the material. (EC.l). You must also keep Waste Transfer Notes or receipts for materials you dispose of rather than just having a Waste Transfer Plan. (EC.c)

## Controlling Vermin

Following incidents of birds of prey being found with secondary poisoning by rodenticides there has been increasing pressure on the wider agricultural industry to prove responsible use of rodenticides. Vermin control has always been important to Red Tractor and we know you will agree it is vital from an animal feed quality and safety perspective.

The standards focus more clearly on the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) code. You will find the standard (VC.b) has been refreshed so it explains clearly that you need to keep a bait plan (including a map/ location of all bait points), use bait responsibly in a manner to avoid non-target species and record the **bait laid down, bait point inspection dates** and **bait replenishment dates**.



## Spraying Competence

From the 26th November 2015 all farmers applying pesticides will legally need to hold a recognised certificate to do so i.e. PA1, PA2 as appropriate. Grandfather Rights for spraying will be removed. Those currently with Grandfather Rights will need to have obtained a certificate by this date if they intend to continue spraying. City and Guilds are providing a course which replaces Grandfather Rights: [www.nptc.org.uk](http://www.nptc.org.uk)

The RTA recommendation should give members plenty of time to obtain a qualification before the law changes. (EC.g.1)

## Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

It is recommended that you consider alternative ways to manage crop weeds, pests and diseases – this is known as Integrated Pest Management (IPM)(EC.f.1). The Voluntary Initiative has worked with the NFU to produce IPM templates for livestock farmers, which can be found here: [www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk/ipmp](http://www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk/ipmp)



# Checklist

We hope you find this checklist helpful. It is a quick reference list of what you need to do slightly differently. We have provided the relevant page number from the Standards Manual so you can easily find more guidance on each particular point if you need to.

Recommendations are listed at the bottom – you do not have to do these and they will not affect your certification.

Record templates will be available before 1st October on [www.redtractorassurance.org.uk](http://www.redtractorassurance.org.uk).

## Membership Rules

You are reminded to make sure you read the leaflet “How the Red Tractor Assurance Scheme works”.

It incorporates the Membership Rules which have been updated.

## Contact

For any queries relating to the Red Tractor Pigs Scheme either contact your Certification Body (details listed in the back page of the Standards Manual) or contact Red Tractor Assurance:

**Call us**  
01932 589 800

**Email us**  
[pigs@redtractor.org.uk](mailto:pigs@redtractor.org.uk)

**Visit**  
[www.redtractorassurance.org.uk](http://www.redtractorassurance.org.uk)

<b>Page 03</b>	DP.d	Do you check new land/buildings and tell your Certification Body?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>Page 04</b>	SC.a	Do you ensure new staff understand the work they have to do and are competent before being left to it?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>Page 04</b>	SC.b	Do you regularly review the work of your staff and implement refresher training when necessary?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>Page 04</b>	SC.d	If you use Labour Providers, do you have a labour provider agreement?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>Page 04</b>	TI.e	If you show pigs, do they go direct to slaughter after the show?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>Page 05</b>	TI.f & TI.f.1	Do you buy semen from assured sources and keep records?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>Page 05</b>	VC.b	If you use baits, do you have a bait plan including all the required information?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>Page 06</b>	HF.c.1	If you use concrete slatted floors, do they comply with the British Standard?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>Page 07</b>	FW.b	If you use ad-lib feeders, do you ensure pigs' ability to feed is not compromised?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>Page 09</b>	FW.e	Are your bought-in minerals, mineral blocks/licks, supplements and milk replacers manufactured by an assured compounder?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>Page 10</b>	FW.l	Is dry feed kept in weatherproof storage facilities?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>Page 15</b>	AM.f.1	Do your medicine records provide an annual collation of total antibiotic used, including in-feed antibiotics?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>Page 16</b>	EC.c	Do you keep Waste Transfer Notes/ receipts for any wastes e.g. plastics you dispose of?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>Page 20</b>	EC.i	Is your sprayer equipment maintained? (Note: From 2016 by law it must be tested)	Yes	No	N/A
<b>Page 21</b>	EC.l	If materials are brought onto the farm for spreading on land, do you keep the right records?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>Recommendations</b>					
<b>Page 21</b>	EC.f.1	Do you consider alternative ways of managing crop weeds, pests and diseases i.e. Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>Page 21</b>	EC.g.1	Do you hold the relevant certificates for sprayer operation?	Yes	No	N/A

