APPENDIX

DEFINITION OF ASSURANCE

For livestock and meat products that derive from livestock to be labelled or marketed as 'assured', the criteria below must be met. These criteria must be verified.

a) For an animal to be considered assured it must derive from a farm holding, assured under the species specific RTA Farm Schemes or other RTA recognised equivalent schemes (for Beef and Lamb – FAWL, NIBL FQAS, QMS Cattle and Sheep; for Pigs – QMS Pigs; for Goats – Goat Farm Assurance Scheme (incorporating meat goats)). The site must hold a valid certificate on the date the livestock were sold as assured.

b) For an animal to be considered farm assured it must have been on the assured farm for the species specific minimum residency period.

- Cattle must have been kept on an assured farm(s) for a minimum period of 90 days before slaughter. (NB – This period may be shared between more than one assured farm).

- Sheep must have been kept on an assured farm(s) for a minimum period of 60 days before slaughter. (NB – This period may be shared between more than one assured farm).

- Pigs and Goats must have been kept on an assured farm(s) for their whole life.

c) For cattle, sheep and goats to be considered assured, any movements through markets or collection centres within the residency periods, must be through a holding assured to the Red Tractor Assurance Scheme or Livestock Markets and Collection Centres or other RTA recognised equivalent schemes (QMS Markets).

d) For an animal to be considered as assured it must be transported in an assured livestock vehicle either by:

- A vehicle used by a member of the species-specific farm assurance scheme, for transporting their own stock (or in Northern Ireland for transporting a neighbours stock);

- Or a vehicle assured under the Red Tractor Assurance for Livestock Transport Scheme or RTA recognised equivalent schemes.

Only product that has met all of the criteria above can be considered and marketed as assured.

© Assured Food Standards 2021