



DAIRY

WHAT'S CHANGED AND WHY VERSION 5

WHAT'S CHANGED?

Red Tractor has completed a review of the Farm Standards and a few changes will come into force on 1 November 2021. They have been reviewed and approved by our Technical Advisory Committee, which is made up of farmer representatives, leading industry experts and supply chain stakeholders, and our Sector Board. Many of the changes will help you meet the evolving supply chain demands. You will find the changes summarised here to explain what has changed and why.

The Red Tractor Team



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DOCUMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Red Tractor Dairy scheme standards already cover the care of youngstock on the farm regardless of gender. As part of the GB Dairy Calf Strategy, Red Tractor Dairy consulted in summer 2020 on proposed standards to ensure the industry delivers on this commitment to rear all calves with care and to eliminate the euthanasia of calves by 2023.

DP.5

Following this consultation, a new standard will be introduced focusing on a written breeding and management policy. It provides clear audit points that you will need to demonstrate compliance with.

STAFF (PL.1 Revised & PL.5 NEW)

PL.1

Employing competent people, who understand their role is crucial to your business. The standards help you to deliver good business practice while being practical and not onerous. New staff need to be introduced to the farm and their tasks fully explained to them; you will need to keep a record of this. As well as explaining their tasks, the documented induction should cover at least an explanation of your Health and Safety policies (see below) and management reporting lines.

PL.5

Health and Safety on farm is a known and significant risk to the industry. By law, all businesses must have a Health and Safety policy, and this must be written down where businesses have more than five employees. The new standard is a modest advance on the legal baseline - it requires all farms with workers to have a written Health and Safety policy. This will ensure that all Red Tractor farms have a simple, clearly defined approach to managing Health and Safety and that this can be independently verified. Given farm fatality figures it is right that Red Tractor checks that Health and Safety policies are truly in place.

MILK PRODUCTION

MP.29

To better reflect legislation we are now asking that facilities are made available for anyone milking or handling raw milk and colostrum washes their hands and arms. This includes everyone involved in the handling of your milk, not just the tanker driver. This requirement is integral to the continuation of Red Tractor's earned recognition status with the Food Standards Agency.

HOUSING

HF.6.1

Tethering poses a reputational risk for the industry. In line with current recommendations from the Farm Animal Welfare Council and EFSA, it has been accepted that tethering housing systems, for stock of any age, will not be permitted on Red Tractor farms as they restrict normal animal behaviour e.g. self-grooming and exercise. In the short-term derogations will be offered to the small number of members who are tethering their cattle. Red Tractor will be gathering information on how many farmers this new position affects. We want to know why the practice is being used and if it is possible for systems to be changed.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

Animal health and welfare is a core principle of Red Tractor. Efficient and meaningful health planning is built on generic management techniques to deliver continuous improvement through a proactive management system. An effective way to health plan is by setting targets and good planning then by monitoring and reviewing at the end of the cycle based on the results recorded throughout the year. The revisions are:

AH.1 /
AH.1.1

The standard and How You Will Be Measured section have been re-worded and re-ordered. They now better reflect the requirements that the health plan and H&P review are closely linked and are key to driving change within the health plan. Additionally, the Health Plan needs to be signed, dated and reviewed annually by your vet.

AH.2

As part of our commitment to rear all calves with care and eliminate the euthanasia of calves by 2023, annual collation of calf births/deaths must now be maintained. Trends need to be observed and actions arising noted in your health plan.

AH.3

The fragmented nature of the industry makes it difficult for vets to have a clear picture of what medicines have been used on the farm. A closer working relationship between vets and farmers will provide effective oversight, flexibility and accountability which will help to preserve the reputation of the industry. This revision, ensuring that your nominated vet visits the farm at least once a year to see the livestock, makes it clearer that the vet has professional oversight of the farm.

AH.6

The way members move and handle livestock is crucial for both welfare and the industry's reputation. Stress and poor handling do not just affect the welfare of the stock and staff; they also reduce returns by impairing carcase quality of the meat. Motorised backing gates are common in collecting yards outside milking parlour entrances and some are designed to administer an electric shock if an animal touches them. However, there are concerns about their use as they are not in the direct control of someone who can use discretion. For this reason, electrified backing gates can no longer be used on a Red Tractor dairy farm. We have also added a new appendix which explicitly sets out Red Tractor's expectations as to what is and is not acceptable livestock handling.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Supported by scientific research, it is well documented cattle do feel pain, therefore reducing any pain caused by routine animal husbandry procedures is a crucial aspect of maintaining farm animal welfare.

HP.1.1

With specific reference to calves, the rationale behind using analgesia has been well documented and has been recommended by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) and the British Veterinary Cattle Association (BVCA). We recognise that in the interest of animal welfare, human health and safety, and farm business viability that it will not be possible to replace, or reduce, the need for some routine husbandry procedures on calves. However, animal welfare is a core principle of Red Tractor and we are advocating the use of analgesia to manage the pain associated with these husbandry procedures.

THE ENVIRONMENT

EC.1/
EC.1.1

Pollutants present a serious risk to the environment. We know that you are already storing agrochemicals in a manner that minimises the risk of contamination and pollution to crops, feedstuffs, animals, soils, groundwater and watercourses. A slight revision of our standards will ensure that any spillages can be contained appropriately.

Looking after your organic manure is a key part of looking after the environment. Existing requirements have been strengthened to cover temporary field heaps, effluent from manure heaps and capacity of slurry storage. You will now be required to have an up-to-date, documented calculation of your slurry storage requirements.

Since the 1970s nitrogenous fertilisers have been misused in home-made explosives. We have introduced a new standard to ensure that these products are stored in a way that minimises the risk of theft.

CHECKLIST

We hope you find this checklist helpful. It is a quick reference list of what you need to do differently. The list covers only the changes within each standard - it is suggested that you refer to the full standard to ensure you comply fully. Those standards which have been revised to provide additional clarity, but do not require members to take different action, have not been listed below.

Record templates will be available before 1 November on:
www.redtractorassurance.org.uk

DP.5	Have you got a written breeding and management policy in place and implemented focusing on eliminating the routine euthanasia of calves?	Yes	No	N/A
PL.1	Do you know what to cover in your new starter induction?	Yes	No	N/A
PL.5	Do you have a Health and Safety policy in place? Can you demonstrate that you have effectively communicated it to your workers?	Yes	No	N/A
TI.4	If other farm assured members are transporting your stock have you completed a declaration?	Yes	No	N/A
VC.1	Has a site survey been completed at least annually while the stock are housed or feed storage areas in use?	Yes	No	N/A
MP.19	If using Private Water Supplies, has an annual risk assessment been carried out?	Yes	No	N/A
MP.29	Do you have accessible hand and arm washing facilities?	Yes	No	N/A
HF, FW & AH	Are you aware of outcome measures relating to hair loss, lesions, swelling, cleanliness, body condition score and lameness?	Yes	No	N/A
HF.6.1	Have you applied for the derogation to allow you to carry on using a tethered housing system?	Yes	No	N/A
AH.1	Has your nominated vet reviewed, signed and dated the Health Plan?	Yes	No	N/A
AH.2.1	Is there an annual collation of calf births and deaths?	Yes	No	N/A
AH.3	Has your nominated vet/vet practice visited the farm at least once in the past year?	Yes	No	N/A
AH.6	Are you aware that electrified backing gates can no longer be used on a Red Tractor farm?	Yes	No	N/A
EC.1	Does your agrochemical store allow for containment of any spillages?	Yes	No	N/A
EC.1.1	Have you got an up-to-date calculation of your slurry storage requirements?	Yes	No	N/A
EC.3	Can you demonstrate that nitrogen-based fertilisers are stored in a way that reduces the risk of theft?	Yes	No	N/A