

DUCK STANDARDS

VET BRIEFING

VERSION 5 - 1 NOVEMBER 2021



OVERVIEW

We've reviewed our farm standards and these changes will apply from 1 November 2021.

These updates have been approved by our Technical Advisory Committee of farmers, vets, and industry experts, and Sector Board, following a public consultation. They will help members meet evolving supply chain demands, consumer expectations, best practice and new legal requirements.

Find out about the main changes and why we made them in the summary below.

The Red Tractor Team

REMINDER

Vets play an important role in upholding the Red Tractor scheme, and the wider industry's reputation. If you encounter any issues around compliance with our standards or the law, the most effective way to raise a concern is with a member of the Red Tractor Team directly using the details below.

If you wish to report a concern anonymously, please use our independent confidential **TELL US** web reporting service by visiting safecall.co.uk/RT.



REDTRACTORASSURANCE.ORG.UK

MEMBERHELP@REDTRACTOR.ORG.UK

TELEPHONE: 0203 617 3670



FACEBOOK.COM/REDTRACTORFOOD



TWITTER.COM/RTFARMERS



INSTAGRAM.COM/REDTRACTORFOOD

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Red Tractor's reputation is built on traceable, safe food production that has been farmed with care. Maintaining our reputation is crucial to everyone.

DP.2

In line with a new standard requiring that farms must be capable of implementing a compulsory housing order (Bl.14), additional criteria on welfare planning for housing free range flocks has been added to the avian influenza contingency plan.

HOUSING SHELTER AND HANDLING

Delivering a safe, comfortable and hygienic environment for birds is essential on all Red Tractor farms. We have revised several standards across our duck standards to improve the impact that they have on the outcome for birds.

HF.2.2

Heat stress continues to be a significant challenge during hot weather. A member's heat stress policy must now be demonstrably implemented on the farm. It must be reviewed if there are any bird losses due to heat or cold stress.

HF.5

Adequate lighting on all units is a customer expectation. Once per crop, the lux level in all bird housing must be measured and recorded at bird head height across 80% of the building.

HF.5.1

Evidence shows that transitions between light and dark over a 30-minute period reduces fearfulness in ducks. As such we have introduced a dawn/dusk transition period within the lighting schedule requirements.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

Members will already proactively manage bird health and welfare through regular planning and reviewing activities. We have revised some key standards in this area.

AH.7.1

Aligning all Red Tractor poultry standards, there is a new requirement for a named welfare officer to coordinate welfare at the hatchery and on the farm. Their name and contact number must be displayed on farm/in the hatchery. There are specific areas of responsibility for the welfare officer, such as monitoring welfare policies and procedures.

MEDICINES AND HUSBANDRY

Responsible and competent use of medicines and veterinary treatments is the bedrock of good animal welfare across all Red Tractor poultry species.

AM.6

Records must be kept of all administered veterinary medicines. We have extended this to cover the length of withdrawal period for eggs, as they can sometimes go into the food supply chain.

AM.8.1

Most units will be familiar with our standard that does not allow for the prophylactic administration of antibiotics. The industry is committed to responsible antibiotic use on farm and as such we have extended this to be applicable on breeder replacement and layer units.

AM.9.1

Use of macrolides and fluroquinolones are only used as a last resort, under veterinary direction, on most Red Tractor poultry units already. We are extending this requirement to apply to breeder replacement and layer units.