

TURKEY 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 and consumer expectations, best practice and legal requirements. This is not an exhaustive list, as we have focused on standards changes that are most relevant for vets. Please refer to the pigs standards manual for all detailed changes.

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.

A revised version of the form for quarterly vet reports will be available at redtractorassurance.org.uk before 1 November.



[REDTRACTORASSURANCE.ORG.UK](https://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. The revisions across our turkey standards will improve the impact that they have on the outcome for birds.

HF.5

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.

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.10.3

We are strengthening our standards on Mycoplasma testing for breeder layers. Testing is in line with the poultry health scheme and a testing record for *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, *Mycoplasma synoviae* and *Mycoplasma Meleagridis* must be retained to ensure bird welfare and the prevention of disease.

HATCHERY EGGS

Our standards ensure that hatchery eggs are fit for purpose.

HC.2

We are aiming to improve health and welfare in hatcheries by avoiding setting eggs from parent flocks who have tested positive from *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, *Mycoplasma Meleagridis* and/or *Mycoplasmas synoviae*. If it is unavoidable to set the eggs, then a documented mycoplasma containment plan must be implemented, which covers a range of parameters to safeguard the welfare of the progeny, parent stock and planned depletion to contain the spread of disease.

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 to 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 be applicable on breeder replacement and layer units.