



# PIG TECHNICAL BRIEFING

News, updates and advice from your Red Tractor assurance team

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## COMMENT FROM THE RED TRACTOR TEAM

We hope you will have seen our recent technical briefings on **medicine training and tail biting** and **changes to the Red Tractor Pigs Standards** coming in on 1st October. With all the challenges faced by the industry at this time, we wanted to provide you with a helpful guide to keep you on track with your Red Tractor membership/ certification.

On the 1 November 2021, the revised standards came into effect, and we have been using this time to carefully monitor and record

when and why non-conformances are raised, so we can provide more targeted guidance to help members avoid them.

For example, with permanent access to enrichment, we have found that failure to meet the standard is mostly because enrichment has not been provided in farrowing pens to sows or piglets, and/or there has been a failure to supplement marginal interest enrichment with suboptimal or optimal enrichment.

You can find out more about suitable enrichment on the **AHDB website**.

For euthanasia, we know that one of the most common reasons for non-conformances is because personnel are not being reassessed by the vet every two years. Anyone on the unit that is carrying out euthanasia needs to have their competency reassessed by the vet if they were initially trained and deemed competent more than two years ago.



## RISK-BASED APPROACH HAS POSITIVE EFFECT ON COMPLIANCE

Red Tractor's risk-based approach to assessments was introduced for our pig, poultry and dairy schemes more than three years ago. The objective was to improve compliance with our standards, to deliver on our promise to consumers that food carrying the logo is safe, traceable and farmed with care.

We anticipated that most pig farms would not notice any change to their inspection regime. Our data confirms that it is only a minority of pig farms that require closer attention. The adoption of the risk-based approach has had a positive effect on compliance at routine assessments on Red Tractor pig farms.

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## What is the risk-based approach?

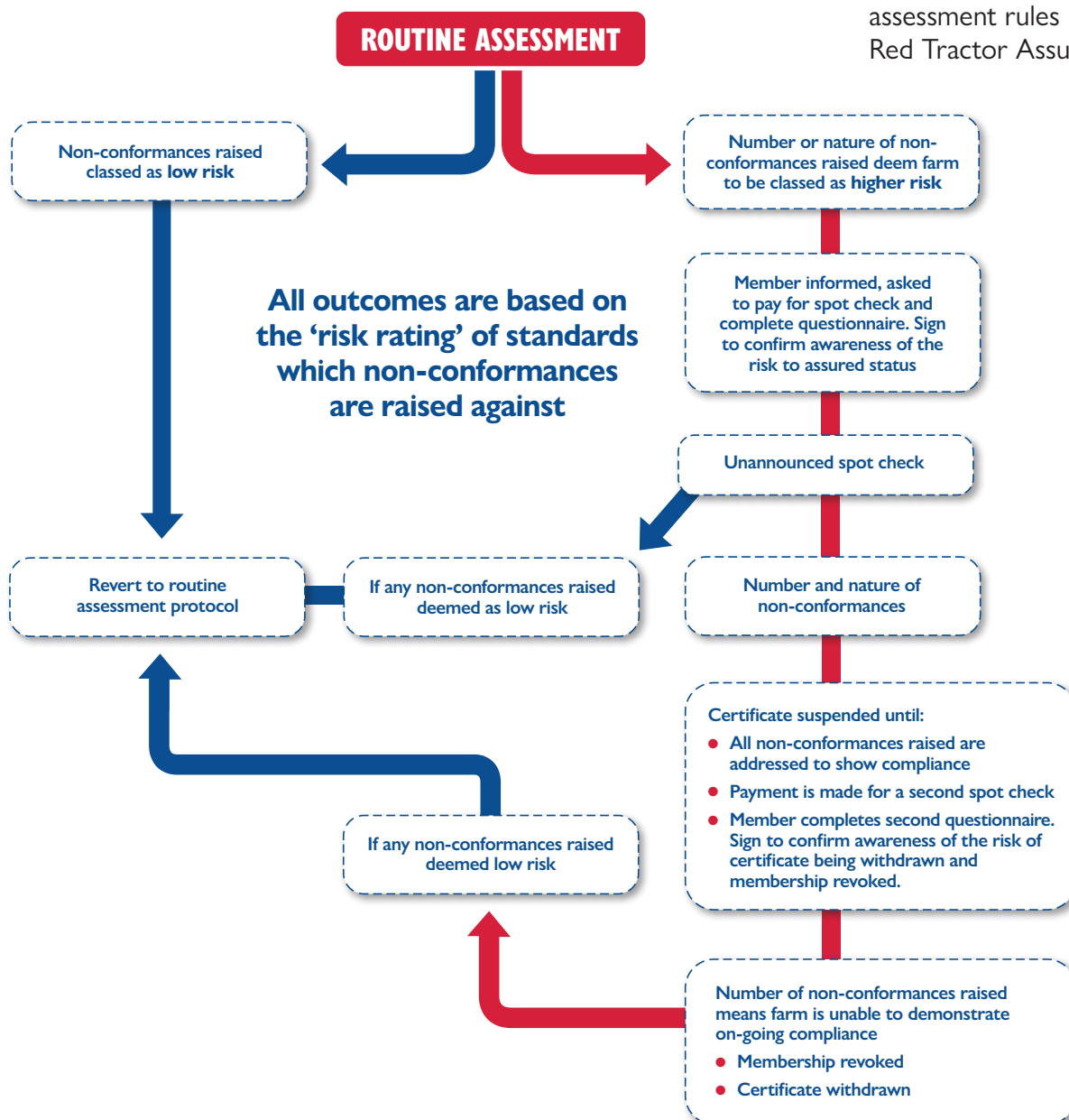
Depending on the nature and number of non-conformances found during a routine assessment, members with poor compliance are required to have an additional unannounced spot check to check ongoing compliance with the standards. If we continue to find evidence of non-compliance a member's Red Tractor certificate may be suspended (after the first unannounced spot check), or membership of the Scheme

could be revoked (after a second unannounced spot check).

Members are required to pay for the additional spot check(s). Our partner Certification Bodies set the fee as it covers the cost of the assessor visiting the farm to carry out the additional spot check and the associated administration. Red Tractor receives no financial benefit from the extra spot checks.

Most Red Tractor farmers do an excellent job meeting every standard every day, and as such are not affected by this risk-based approach. We think this approach not only adopts a fair and objective method of identifying members with poor compliance, but also ensures that the reputation of members who meet the standards consistently is preserved.

For a reminder of the risk-based assessment rules please visit the Red Tractor Assurance [website](#).



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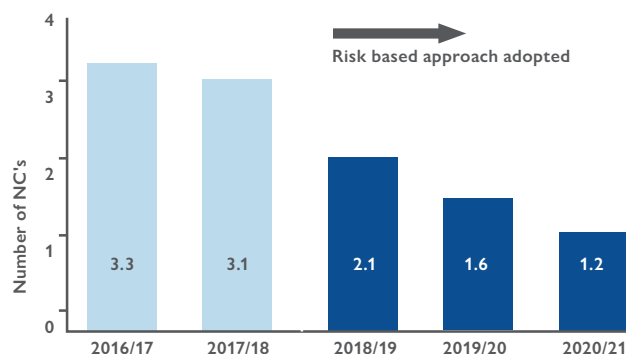
## KEY FACTS

### Since risk-based was introduced in the pig sector

- The average number of non-conformances on pig units per assessment has fallen consistently year-on-year
- More pig scheme members receive zero non-conformances
- More pig scheme members receive no more than two non-conformances
- Number of pig farms requiring an unannounced spot check has remained below 10% every year.
- Only 9% of the 350 spot checks conducted on pig farms have resulted in suspension
- Only two pig scheme members have had their membership terminated as part of the risk-based approach

### Risk-based has had a positive effect on compliance in the pig sector

● Average number of non-conformances per assessment, Nov to Oct



## RED TRACTOR SUPPLY CHAIN SERVICES

Red Tractor offers a range of services through the food production supply chain. Our long-established **checker service** enables authorised users to search for the assurance and certificate status of Red Tractor assured farms. Many pig abattoirs use our Tracker service to reduce the administrative burden of manually verifying assurance status of their supplying farms. They receive alerts if the assurance status of any of their regular suppliers' changes, for example due to certificate suspension or withdrawal.

### New developments

Building on the success first piloted in the fresh produce sector, we are introducing the capability whereby customers can ask their pig producers for permission to access their Red Tractor assessment date history and details of any non-compliances raised. When this

data-sharing approach was first introduced in fresh produce, it led to a major retailer removing all its additional standards and audit requirements for its suppliers. There is now interest in this service from businesses in the pork supply chain.

**"THE ABILITY TO ACCESS OUR SUPPLIERS' RED TRACTOR ASSESSMENT RECORDS SECURELY AND CONFIDENTIALLY, HELPS US TO PROVIDE VALUABLE REASSURANCE TO OUR CUSTOMERS THAT ROBUST COMPLIANCE IS BEING ACHIEVED."**

Cranswick plc has been the first customer to request access to their supplier's assurance data. Having already rolled this initiative out to their own farms, they are now broadening out to their independent suppliers enabling oversight of their entire supply base in the longer term to ensure

that, as a major supplier, they can help protect and support the reputation of the pig sector.

Commenting on the scheme, Ash Gilman Cranswick's Director of agricultural strategy said: "The ability to access our suppliers' Red Tractor assessment records securely and confidentially, helps us to provide valuable reassurance to our customers that robust compliance is being achieved. "On those rare occasions where standards might have slipped, we can provide dedicated support to the farm and help address any concerns before they become more serious. This not only helps to protect Cranswick's reputation, but also that of UK agriculture."

**Continued...**

Red Tractor is providing the service through a system called “Xure”. Customers can ask their farmer

suppliers for permission to access their Red Tractor assessment history, and to view selected documents they have uploaded

to the Red Tractor Portal. Both requests can only be approved by members, by opting in through their membership



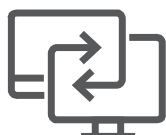
## How does this help me?

This new development reduces duplication for members, enabling you to upload documents once to the Portal and then make certain ones visible to the business requesting access, rather than sending paperwork separately to many different buyers. If you are being asked to share paperwork with customers via a different route please

let us know so we can work with businesses to facilitate it through our service and make things easier for all.

By sharing assessment dates and details of non-compliance with selected customers, members can easily demonstrate their compliance with the Red Tractor standards and provide strong reassurance to the supply chain. Processors will be able to provide more targeted help to farms that require assistance and support in maintaining standards.

This collaborative approach is a positive step for the supply chain and is another way to help maintain and protect the reputation of the UK pig sector and further reduce the audit burden for members.



## How do I opt in for data sharing?

Red Tractor is providing the mechanisms for this voluntary service. If members receive a request to share data and or/documents, they can be confident that access will only be authorised with their expressed permission. Members are always in full control of who has access to what information, and at any time can revoke their permission quickly and easily through the Xure system.

If a pig processor adopts this service, members may receive an email inviting them to share their assurance data and/or Portal documents. If a member is asked to share data by more than one customer a separate email from each customer will be received. All permissions can be managed in one place by logging into the Xure system. The email inviting you to share your data will explain how to do this. Guidance is also available on the Red Tractor Checker [website](#).

Contact [memberhelp@redtractor.org.uk](mailto:memberhelp@redtractor.org.uk) if you need any support.



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## AHDB WELFARE TRAINING PLATFORM LIVE

The new UK Pig industry training platform developed by AHDB, launched on 1 March 2022. Ensuring pigs are always treated compassionately is vital for pig welfare and will protect the industry's reputation. A new requirement in our standards is that anyone involved in the care of pigs needs to have completed the available training module on this platform by 31 August 2022.

AHDB have waived the £10 per person fee for the first 8,000 people or for the first six months (whichever is reached first). To date more than 4,500 people have registered for the course. Visit the **AHDB website** for more information.

**“Really enjoyed it. A great format, easy to watch and complete”**

**FEEDBACK FROM THOSE WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE TRAINING INCLUDES:**

**“Informative and easy to follow”**

**“Good visual training where all those involved in handling stock can learn something, whether they are experienced or new to the industry”**

