

August 2022



TECHNICAL UPDATE

from your Red Tractor Assurance team

To ensure you receive all guidance updates, please add rtfcomms@redtractor.org.uk and membermatters@redtractor.org.uk to your address book and regularly check all your inbox folders.

Our standards are the bedrock of progressive farming and underpins our industry's strength and credibility, securing its future as a world-leader.

The farming industry has faced significant challenges over the last year - driven by global events and other factors. This includes avian influenza, rising input costs and labour availability. To accommodate the impact this has had on food and farming, and responding to member feedback, our Technical Advisory Committees, which are made up of farmer representatives, leading industry experts and supply chain stakeholders, and our sector boards have been reviewing some of our standards.

This has resulted in necessary changes for some our members to meet the challenges in an ever-changing world.

For the Pigs, Combinable Crops & Sugar Beet and Poultry sectors there have been some small but important changes to the standards. Further details can be found below, and explanations and helpful guides are available on our [assurance website](#).

Please note that there have been no changes to our Fresh Produce, Beef, Lamb or Dairy standards.

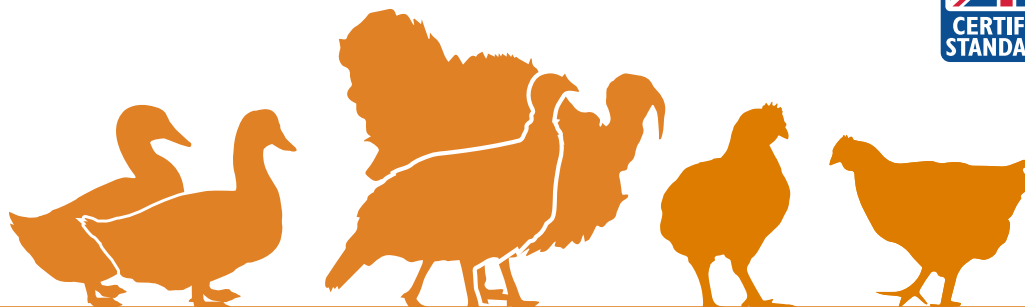
ALL CHANGES WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON 1 OCTOBER 2022.

COMBINABLE CROPS & SUGAR BEET STANDARDS

Red Tractor has listened and responded to member feedback about the use of toxic bait in grain stores since the current standards were launched last November. After taking professional advice from pest control experts the use of toxic bait in stores while the grain is in the store will be allowed, however its use must follow clear, auditable control points that are set out in a new key standard (VC.3).

The full set of standards can be found [here](#).





POULTRY STANDARDS

The impact of the avian influenza outbreak across the entire poultry industry prompted businesses, farmers, industry bodies and government to undertake a wholesale review of biosecurity practices, which in turn precipitated most of the changes coming into effect in the chicken, turkey and duck standards in October 2022.

Most new and revised standards are contained within the biosecurity section, but there are also changes to the housing and shelter section too.

The changes set out to improve the control of contamination from within the general bio-secure area and to reduce the risk from vectors of avian influenza.

The full set of CHICKEN standards can be found [here](#) while a summary of the changes can be found [here](#).

The full set of TURKEY standards can be found [here](#) while a summary of the changes can be found [here](#).

The full set of DUCK standards can be found [here](#) while a summary of the changes can be found [here](#).

PIGS STANDARDS

The main changes to the pigs standards are a result of several external influences, such as the changes to the legal requirements around the trichinella controls for the export of pigmeat to the EU as a result of Brexit.

We have also improved the clarity on some of our standards having listened to member's feedback following the launch of our latest set of standards back in November 2021.

The full set of standards can be found [here](#) while a summary of the changes and further explanations can be found [here](#).

DON'T FORGET

The Red Tractor portal is your free, secure online filing cabinet, allowing you to upload documents and save time ahead of your next assessment. Find out more [here](#).



MEMBERHELP@REDTRACTOR.ORG.UK | TELEPHONE: 0203 617 3670

 [TWITTER.COM/RTFARMERS](https://twitter.com/RTFARMERS)  [FACEBOOK.COM/REDTRACTORFOOD](https://facebook.com/REDTRACTORFOOD)  [INSTAGRAM.COM/REDTRACTORFOOD](https://instagram.com/REDTRACTORFOOD)

Red Tractor Assurance 5th Floor, 100 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 5JD