



# PIG TECHNICAL BRIEFING

News, updates and advice from your Red Tractor assurance team

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

## IN BRIEF: WHAT'S CHANGED AND WHY SUMMARY OF CHANGES

A number of small but important changes are being made to the Red Tractor Pigs Standards, and we are urging producers to familiarise themselves with these before they replace the current standards this year on 1 October 2022. On the whole, most Red Tractor pig units will not need to do anything differently.

The main changes are the result of a number of external influences, such as the UK's exit from the European Union impacting legal requirements for export of pigmeat to the EU. In addition, there are amendments to standards and guidance to improve clarity based on feedback received since the version 5 standards were launched last November.

The new Version 5.1 Pigs Standards will be live on the Red Tractor website from Tuesday 9 August for producers to review in full.

### TRICHINELLA

Trade in live pigs and pigmeat must be certified as eligible for export by an official vet and meet the trichinella requirements set out in EU rules. Meat must be either tested for trichinella, frozen, or confirmed that the live pig came from controlled housing conditions (CHC). These CHC conditions are set out in EU law. Much of our trade with the EU will be CHC declared as opposed to tested for trichinella.

### "RED TRACTOR HAS LIAISED CLOSELY WITH THE FSA TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF EARNED RECOGNITION TO DELIVER CHC VERIFICATION"

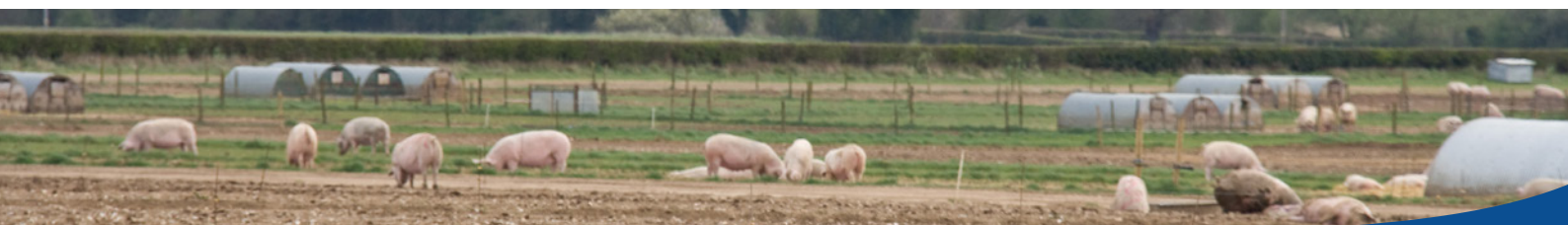
As a member of the EU, we were required to comply with these rules previously, but they did not have to be certified – self-declaration on movement licenses was used instead.

Following Brexit, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) now requires processes to be in place to ratify a farm's 'declared status' so that the holding can be 'officially recognised' as applying CHC.

Red Tractor has liaised closely with the FSA to develop a system of earned recognition to deliver CHC verification while avoiding additional inspections. While the current Red Tractor Pigs Standards meet most EU CHC requirements, they don't cover the need to notify the competent authority if landfill is located near the pig holding and the requirement to undergo a risk assessment where domestic pigs have access to outdoor facilities.

Therefore, two additional standards have been introduced to cover these legislative requirements.

**Continued...**



## "VERIFICATION THAT A PERMIT IS HELD WHERE NECESSARY IS IMPORTANT FOR ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION"

In addition, a new audit point requiring farms to accurately declare their controlled housing status on movement records has been added, which assessors will verify as part of the farm's routine annual assessment, thus providing a simple method of verification of the existing self-declaration system.

Rather than APHA assessors carrying out the required FSA risk assessment on units where pigs have outdoor access, the FSA has agreed that this can be carried out by the farm's vet on an annual basis as part of a Red Tractor quarterly visit. This is covered by a new standard and additional declarations added to the Red Tractor quarterly vet report template.

Overall, most Red Tractor pig units will not be affected by this change, other than having to notify the FSA if there is a known landfill within 2km and their assessor checking they are correctly declaring their controlled housing status on movement documents, as indoor units do not have to undergo the FSA risk assessment. Only units rearing pigs over five weeks of age (excluding breeding boars and sows) with outdoor access must undergo the risk assessment which will be done by their vet. The inclusion of these standards and changes will avoid an increased audit burden for producers and

contribute towards robust delivery of trichinella controls facilitating the export of pigmeat to the EU.

### ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS

A new standard will require Red Tractor assessors to verify that farms hold an environmental permit where required. Many of you have your environmental permit audit done at the same time as your Red Tractor assessment, and so the new standard requires no additional action. However, verification that a permit is held where necessary is important for ensuring compliance with environmental legislation on Red Tractor pig units.

### PIG IDENTIFICATION

The requirement to identify pigs under six months with an eartag, slapmark or ear tattoo when moving to another holding for further production is already a legal requirement in Northern Ireland. However, Red Tractor's guidance has been amended to reflect the Northern Ireland statutory pig identification requirements more accurately.

### ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

The information required to be detailed in the farm's Euthanasia Policy has been amended, to include details of euthanasia equipment maintenance and a record of checks. This has been included due to the importance of regular maintenance and cleaning

of captive-bolt equipment to ensure it operates effectively, as recommended by the Humane Slaughter Association.

Guidance related to the Real Welfare sampling protocol has been amended to reflect the number of visits that Real Welfare data can be collected over, including on farms that finish fewer than three batches of pigs over 50kg per year. This improves clarity and ensures assessors are aware of the required sampling regime when verifying sufficient pigs have been sampled.



### ANIMAL MEDICINES

The existing standard requiring producers to declare they take responsibility for antibiotic use has been amended, to now say "for correct antibiotic use" rather than "for all antibiotic use", as advised by the VMD which highlighted that it's the prescribing vet's responsibility which antibiotic is prescribed and therefore used. You may be responsible for administering antibiotics in line with how it is prescribed by the veterinary surgeon, in which case you are responsible for correct antibiotic use, rather than 'all' antibiotic use.



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

 TWITTER.COM/RTFARMERS  FACEBOOK.COM/REDTRACTORFOOD  INSTAGRAM.COM/REDTRACTORFOOD

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