



Red Tractor Pig Vet Terms & Conditions

Introduction

We are Assured Food Standards, trading as Red Tractor Assurance ('RTA'), a not-for-profit company owned by organisations and trade bodies from across the British farming and food sector. The Red Tractor Assurance Scheme includes a series of integrated standards for different farming enterprises and different steps in the food supply chain.

In the pig sector, we operate the Red Tractor Assurance Pigs Scheme (the 'Scheme') for certifying conformity to the Red Tractor Assurance Pigs Standards (the 'Standards'). A requirement of the Scheme is that pig units must retain the services of a named veterinary surgeon or practice and, for the purposes of the Scheme a vet must:

- be registered with Red Tractor Assurance
- be a member of the Pig Veterinary Society (PVS)
- undertake quarterly inspections to all areas of the pig unit.
- complete a Quarterly Veterinary Report (QVR) form documenting each visit.
- undertake Real Welfare assessments in line with the AHDB Pork protocol, where applicable, having first undertaken AHDB Pork Real Welfare training

This document comprises the terms and conditions governing the involvement of pig vets registered with Red Tractor Assurance for the purposes of the Scheme ('Pig Vet'). Separate membership rules, referred to as the Red Tractor Assurance Scheme Membership Rules, apply to pig producers and govern the terms and conditions for membership of the Red Tractor Assurance Pigs Scheme.

By registering with Red Tractor Assurance as a Pig Vet and conducting quarterly visits and other associated activities in relation to the Scheme, you agree to adhere to these terms and conditions. You also agree to receive relevant communications from RTA regarding the Scheme.

1. In these Terms and Conditions

- a. 'Certification Body' means a certification body (acting as an independent contractor) which is licensed by RTA to carry out certification and assess conformance to the Standards.
- b. 'Default Event' has the meaning given to it in paragraph 22.
- c. 'Member' means a pig producer member of the Scheme.
- d. 'Membership' means membership of the Scheme.
- e. 'Pig Vet' means a veterinary surgeon registered with Red Tractor Assurance.
- f. 'Quarterly Veterinary Report' means a report completed and submitted to Red Tractor (directly or via a Certification Body) following a quarterly veterinary visit conducted on a Member pig unit. Up to date version(s) are available at <https://assurance.redtractor.org.uk/>
- g. 'Real Welfare' means the welfare outcomes scheme managed by the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board ('AHDB') as set out at <https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/real-welfare>
- h. 'Registration' means registration with RTA as a Pig Vet for the purposes of the Scheme.



- i. 'Registration Form' means the registration form to become a Pig Vet, available at <https://checkers.redtractor.org.uk/rtassurance/services/Registration/pigvets.eb>
 - j. 'RTA Website' means the website of RTA at <https://assurance.redtractor.org.uk> (or any replacement website RTA may establish and operate from time to time).
 - k. 'Scheme' means the Red Tractor Assurance Pigs Scheme.
 - l. 'Standards' means the Red Tractor Assurance Pigs Standards set out on the RTA Website at <https://assurance.redtractor.org.uk/standards>, as amended from time to time.
 - m. 'Terms' means the terms and conditions outlined in this document.
 - n. 'you' means a prospective or registered Pig Vet.
2. These Terms must be always complied with. Failure to comply with these Terms may result in RTA imposing 'Special Conditions of Registration' or your Registration being terminated.
 3. RTA may update these Terms at any time. When changes are made to these Terms, we will give you notice of that fact and confirm in such notice when the amended Terms will come into effect and how you can view or otherwise obtain the amended Terms.
 4. These Terms are in addition to any statutory requirements. Nothing in these Terms shall be deemed to provide exemption from current legislation.
 5. From time-to-time RTA may publish (including via the RTA Website) additional specific rules and guidance which will be supplementary to these Terms.

Registration

6. A veterinary surgeon who intends to undertake quarterly visits and associated activities for the purposes of the Scheme on Member pig unit(s) must register with Red Tractor Assurance as a Pig Vet.
7. To register as a Pig Vet you must complete a Registration Form.
8. In submitting a Registration Form, you are agreeing with RTA to be always bound by these Terms.
9. You must renew your Registration annually.

Requirements

10. To obtain and maintain Registration, you must:
 - a. be a Member or Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons ('RCVS') and actively working in farm animal practice.
 - b. be a current and fully paid-up member of the Pig Veterinary Society ('PVS'). Red Tractor has access to the PVS membership tracker and verifies membership on a regular basis.
11. If you undertake Real Welfare assessments, you must have undergone the appropriate AHDB Pork Real Welfare training and any refresher training as required from time to time.
12. You must commit to completing the relevant sections of the appropriate version of the Quarterly Veterinary Report ('QVR') at or after each quarterly veterinary visit conducted at a Member unit, including those carried out remotely, and to signing QVRs in accordance with the guidance issued by the RCVS regarding Certification in their Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Surgeons.



13. You must undertake relevant training, as may be required by RTA from time to time, within the prescribed time period.

General Obligations of Red Tractor Pig Vets

14. You must ensure that RTA is at all times provided with your up-to-date contact information.
15. You must ensure you remain familiar with relevant aspects of the current version of the Standards in order that you can identify areas of concern or issues that should be raised with RTA.
16. As outlined in the Standards, Scheme Members are required to retain the services of a named veterinary surgeon (or practice) who must undertake quarterly inspections to all areas of the pig unit. Visits must be planned to take place at a time in the quarter when pigs will be present on the unit. The only exception to the requirement for quarterly veterinary visits is where the Member has notified their Certification Body that the farm is destocked of pigs for a full quarter (90 days).
17. Following a Red Tractor quarterly veterinary visit you must complete and submit a QVR, within the prescribed time, based on your professional judgement having looked at a reasonable sample of the farm. You must complete the QVR in full, in line with guidance issued by RTA which may be amended from time to time, providing all relevant information where applicable.
18. You may also raise any concerns about a Member at any time directly with RTA or the Member's Certification Body and must do so where there is a concern about pig welfare and where failure to do so could result in RTA or the Scheme being brought into disrepute.

Special Conditions and Termination

19. You will remain a Registered Pig Vet with RTA unless you do not annually renew your Registration or unless and until your Registration is terminated in accordance with these Terms.
20. At any time after the occurrence of a Default Event (and whether or not you have given notice of such event to RTA), RTA shall be entitled, without prejudice to any other rights and remedies it may have, by notice in writing to you to:
 - a. specify 'Special Conditions of Registration' for your continued registration; or
 - b. terminate your Registration as a Pig Vet with RTA.
21. The 'Default Events' are:
 - a. failure to comply with these Terms.
 - b. (without prejudice to paragraph 21.a above) a material breach of these Terms where such breach is not capable of being remedied or, if such breach is capable of being remedied, a failure to remedy such breach within 30 days after receiving written notice to remedy it from RTA.
 - c. gross negligence or fraud on the part of the Pig Vet.
 - d. the making of any false or misleading statement by the Pig Vet in a QVR or any other communication with RTA.



- e. any act or omission by the Pig Vet which (i) has brought or may, in the reasonable opinion of RTA, bring RTA or the Scheme into disrepute or (ii) has damaged or may, in the reasonable opinion of RTA, damage the integrity of the Standards or any other Red Tractor Assurance Standards
- 22. If Special Conditions of Registration are specified and the Pig Vet does not, within any timescale specified by RTA, take the actions RTA has confirmed they need to take to maintain their Registration, RTA may by notice in writing terminate the Pig Vet's Registration.
- 23. Upon termination of a Pig Vet's Registration, quarterly veterinary visits and QVRs completed by the Pig Vet will not be accepted as valid and Pig Scheme Members will need to arrange for a different Pig Vet to attend their unit for the purposes of the Scheme.
- 24. You may terminate your Registration immediately at any time by giving written notice to RTA.
- 25. RTA reserves the right to at any time lodge any serious concerns about a veterinary surgeon with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Appeal Procedure for Pig Vets

- 26. If you wish to raise a formal complaint (such as a formal expression of dissatisfaction about RTA's personnel, services, decisions, or contractors), you should supply details of the complaint and evidence supporting it in accordance with RTA's complaints procedure, a copy of which will be provided upon request (provided that where your complaint relates to an RTA decision your complaint must be sent to RTA within 14 days after the date of the RTA decision).
- 27. Decisions taken by RTA to terminate your Registration at any time are subject to a right to appeal. You may lodge an appeal in writing with RTA in accordance with RTA's Pig Vet Appeal Procedure (and in any event within 14 days after the date of any relevant RTA decision), a copy of which will be provided by RTA upon request.

Confidentiality

- 28. Your details will be treated in confidence save as set out below, and your personal data will be treated in accordance with the terms of our Privacy Policy. RTA may however provide to any third parties who have a legitimate interest in knowing the same (including your clients), details of your Registration status (being full or terminated).
- 29. RTA shall be entitled to share information and data submitted by you with relevant Certification Bodies for them to carry out certification and assessment of conformity to the Standards of pig units participating in the Scheme.
- 30. RTA shall be entitled to produce and publish statistical reports drawing upon aggregated Scheme and Pig Vet data, provided that individual performance data cannot be traced back to you.