

Proposed Amendments to Core Certified Standards RT Pigs Scheme

As part of the development of the Enhanced Welfare and Free Range tier standards, the Red Tractor Pig Scheme standards were benchmarked against the requirements of the main alternative assurance scheme for outdoor-bred pork. In order for the Red Tractor Enhanced Welfare standards to be considered equivalent with other assurance scheme requirements, which is necessary to ensure greater chance of uptake by supply chain customers, some new requirements and amendments are proposed to the Red Tractor Pigs Scheme core standards.

These are requirements that the Red Tractor Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) agreed should be required for **all** Red Tractor scheme members, not just those participating in the Enhanced Welfare / Free Range tiers, as they represent best practice. They are also aimed at ensuring the additional tiers are established on a strong foundation of core standards.

Enterprise	Code
CS	Certified Standards (Core)
CP	Certified Standards Plus
EW	Enhanced Welfare
FR	Free Range (finishing only)

Blue highlight = existing standard from Outdoor Pigs section incorporated into main body of standards

Red text = new standard / audit point / wording

Standard	How You Will Be Measured	Records	Enterprises
DP.1.1 A farm map must be present and areas of specific risk are identified	DP.1.1.a Farm map shows where applicable: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• all buildings• all fields, including area (hectares/acres)• watercourses including ditches and ponds• boreholes, springs and wells, including any on neighbouring land within 50m of the boundary• any areas of high pollution risk	Farm map	CS, EW, FR
	DP.1.1.b Farm map or other plans include <ul style="list-style-type: none">• total usable area/space provision within pens and accommodation• number of pigs held within each by age and weight (to not exceed maximum stocking rates or feeder and drinker ratios)		
GUIDANCE: One or more maps may be used and this may be held as a hard copy or as an electronic document			

DP.6 Where there is potential for adherence with Scheme standards to be compromised through trial work or other circumstances, Red Tractor is notified at the earliest possible time			CS, EW, FR
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TI.1 Key Pigs must be identified appropriately	TI.1.a Pigs of any age moving off a holding to a market, a slaughterhouse, a show, for breeding purposes* or for export are identified with at least one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • legible slapmark(s)* • metal and/or plastic heat- and tamper-resistant eartag, printed or stamped with the herdmark and prefixed with the letters 'UK' • tattoo of the herdmark on one ear 		CS, EW, FR
	TI.1.b Means of identification includes a unique identification number for the individual pig if moving <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to a show • for breeding purposes* • for export 		
	TI.1.c Means of identification includes 'UK-GB' when exporting pigs from a holding in GB; 'UK' for export from a holding in Northern Ireland		
	TI.1.d Pigs imported from outside the EU are identified with the destination farm's herdmark and relevant statutory letters (UK and F), within 30 days of arrival		
	TI.1.e Slapmarking other than for identification with the herdmark is prohibited. A suffix may be used to denote trial pigs		
VC.6 Actions must be taken to minimise fly infestations	VC.6.a Ongoing efforts to control fly infestations, where present, are evident		CS

HF.11 (was OP.11) Where pigs are held in a collection area prior to transport it is managed appropriately	HF.11.a (was OP.11.a) Pigs have access to water		CS, EW, FR
	HF.11.b (OP.11.b) Cleaned and rested between batches		
	HF.11.c Scheme maximum stocking densities are adhered to where pigs are held for more than 2 hours		

AH.2 Records of the health and performance of livestock must be maintained	AH.2.a Records of breeding and/or rearing herd performance are kept	Performance records	CS, EW, FR
	AH.2.b Incidents of injurious behaviour (tail/ear/flank/vulva) biting, possible causes and interventions taken are recorded	Injurious behaviour records	
	AH.2.c Incidents of facial scarring/udder damage are recorded	Facial scarring/udder damage records	
	AH.2.d Mortality records for breeding and post-weaning growing stock are kept, detailing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • date • pig type • identity/location (e.g. sow number; e.g. house A pen 5) • dead or euthanased • suspected reason 	Mortality records	
	AH.2.e Mortality records for suckling pigs include summary of daily deaths only		

	AH.2.f Overall mortality figures are recorded including (where relevant) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• pre-weaning mortality• sow and gilt mortality• rearing/finishing mortality		
	AH.2.g Records include slaughterhouse data regarding <ul style="list-style-type: none">• dead-on-arrivals• condemnations• tail damage (where reported)		
	AH.2.h Health and performance records are kept for at least 2 years		

GUIDANCE:
A tail biting ‘incident’ is defined as a minimum of one pig with a tail wound, or two pigs with bite marks in a pen

<p>AH.8.1 Appropriate facilities must be provided for the segregation or isolation of sick or injured livestock</p>	<p>AH.8.1.a Facilities are managed and maintained in accordance with the Scheme standards for housing and facilities, feed and water</p>		CS, EW, FR
	<p>AH.8.1.b Unless passageways are adapted to become a non-thoroughfare and to meet Scheme standards, they may only ever be used as a short-term isolation facility for up to 1 hour</p>		
	<p>AH.8.1.c Lame pigs that have been segregated from the main pen and pigs with a traumatic injury have bedding or some other form of cushioning to prevent slipping and pressure sores</p>		
	<p>AH.8.1.d Cleaned and disinfected between occupancies</p>		

AH.9.4 Steps must be taken to carry out euthanasia of pigs in a location that avoids unnecessary suffering of the animal and distress to potential onlookers	AH.9.4.a Non-ambulatory pigs, which are unable to stand or rise unaided, are euthanised without being moved, unless they can be moved with full body support and without causing further suffering		CS, EW, FR
AH.9.5 Checks must be made to ensure method of stunning/euthanasia is effective and if deemed ineffective a back-up method is applied	AH.9.5.a Checks are carried out immediately after stunning/euthanasia to ensure no signs of life		CS, EW, FR

AH.13 Piglets may only be weaned from the sow at an age less than 28 days under certain circumstances	AH.13.a Piglets may be weaned up to 7 days earlier if moved into specialised housing which <ul style="list-style-type: none"> has been emptied and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected is separate from housing where sows are kept 		CS, EW, FR
	AH.13.b Removal of piglets from a sow at an age earlier than 21 days is only permitted if the health and welfare of the piglets or dam would otherwise be adversely affected		
	AH.13.c Box systems for supplementary rearing of piglets, such as rescue decks, are prohibited		
AH.14	AH.14.a Declaration to this effect signed by the vet on the QVRs	QVRs for previous	CS

Supplementary rearing accommodation (“rescue decks”) must be managed appropriately		four quarters	
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HP.3.2 Tail docking is carried out appropriately	HP.3.2.a Only persons deemed competent to by a vet, within the last three years , perform tail docking, unless supervised by a trained and competent person	List of those deemed competent in VHP	CS, EW
	HP.3.2.b Only carried out on pigs up to 72 hours old		
	HP.3.2.c Tails are docked to a uniform length		
	HP.3.2.d Equipment is cleaned and disinfected between each litter of pigs		
	HP.3.2.e Equipment is different to that used to carry out teeth reduction		
HP.4.1 Teeth reduction is carried out appropriately	HP.4.1.a Only persons deemed competent to by a vet, within the last three years , perform teeth reduction, unless supervised by a trained and competent person	List of those deemed competent in VHP	CS, EW
	HP.4.1.b Only carried out on pigs up to 72 hours old		
	HP.4.1.c A smooth intact surface is left and the pulp cavity is not exposed		
	HP.4.1.d Equipment is cleaned and disinfected between each litter of pigs		

HP.4.2 (Recommended) <i>It is recommended to grind rather than clip teeth</i>			CS, EW
HP.5 Nose ringing must only be carried out by demonstrably competent persons	HP.5.a Only persons deemed competent to by a vet, within the last three years , carry out nose-ringing, unless supervised by a trained and competent person	List of those deemed competent in VHP	CS, EW

Bl.12 (was OP.8) Measures must be in place to minimise disease transmission between batches	Bl.12.a Indoor farrowing accommodation is cleaned and disinfected between occupancies		CS, EW
	Bl.12.b (was OP.8.a) Outdoor farrowing arcs, tents, kennels and associated enclosing runs for growing pigs must be moved* to fresh land after each farrowing cycle or batch *unless sited on a concrete base		EW
	Bl.12.b (was OP.8.b) After weaning, used bedding from farrowing accommodation is removed/destroyed		

LT.4.1 Withdrawal of feed before transport is within prescribed limits to avoid prolonged hunger	LT.4.1.a No more than 8 hours prior to transport (to farm or abattoir)		CS, EW, FR
	LT.4.2.b No more than 12 hours prior to planned arrival at destination		

LT.4.2 (was LT.4.1) Journey times (from time of first pig being loaded, to last pig being unloaded) must be kept to a minimum	LT.4.2.a (was LT.4.1.a) Piglets less than 10 kg are not transported for more than 8 hours		CS, EW, FR
	LT.4.2.b Pigs are unloaded without delay on arrival at farm		
LT.6 Emergency plans and facilities must be in place	LT.6.a Driver equipped with a mobile phone and emergency contact numbers	Contingency plan (can be detailed within farm contingency plan)	CS, EW, FR
	LT.6.b In the case of long journeys (over 8 hours) a written contingency plan outlines actions to be taken in the event of an emergency during transport of pigs off-farm is available		
	LT.6.c Any interruption causing a delay of more than one hour to the scheduled arrival time is notified to the receiving slaughterhouse or farm		
LT.9 Key Vehicles used to transport pigs must be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected with Defra-approved disinfectants	LT.9.a Vehicles are cleansed and disinfected before leaving the site, after each delivery, where pigs are delivered to an assured market, collection centre or abattoir	Vehicle C&D records	CS, EW, FR
	LT.9.b Vehicles are cleansed and disinfected after every load and within 24 hours of delivery, where pigs are delivered to farms, shows or other non-assured sites with no effective wash facilities. Where repeat journeys are made between the same two points in a single day, cleansing and disinfection is carried out before the first journey and within 24 hours of the last delivery		
	LT.9.c Only disinfectants approved by Defra/DAERA are used, applied at the approved dilution rates for General Orders		

	LT.9.d Records of vehicle cleaning and disinfection are kept		
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