



Red Tractor Assurance

13 February 2017

Dear Member,

According to our records you are currently using Recycled Manure Solids (RMS) or “Green Bedding” on your farm. As you know, the use of RMS is allowed by Defra, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government under a derogation to the Animal By-Product regulations provided that certain “Conditions of Use” are met. Defra, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government confirmed in July last year that they would continue to allow the use of RMS provided that amended Conditions of Use are adhered to. This position is due to be reviewed again in July 2017.

Red Tractor has also reviewed the use of RMS on Assured farms and have concluded that RMS will continue to be permitted on Red Tractor Assured farms provided that the Conditions of Use are assessed to confirm they are being met and that the use of RMS is reviewed on an annual basis with your vet. The first assessment must be done by 1st May 2017 and then on a 9 monthly basis thereafter. The Red Tractor position on the use of RMS on assured farms is being continuously reviewed to take account of any developments in scientific research or consumer perception.

Your certification body will be in touch to arrange an initial assessment to check that the conditions of use are being met. This assessment will be charged to your milk buyer who may pass the cost onto you. Attached to this letter is a document outlining what the assessors will be checking at the assessment. If any conditions are not being met you will have 28 days to correct the non-conformance or to confirm you have stopped using RMS.

You can find more information on the Conditions of Use on the Defra website here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-recycled-manure-solids-as-cattle-bedding>

and on the AHDB Dairy website here: https://dairy.ahdb.org.uk/technical-information/buildings/housing/recycled-manure-solids/#_WFO1vFOLQdU

If you are no longer using RMS please inform your certification body so our records can be updated.

Yours faithfully

Red Tractor Technical Team



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Recycled Manure Solids Standards

Standard	How you will be measured
<p>GB.a RMS must only be produced using raw cattle manure/slurry from housing and/or yards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manures/slurries and used bedding managed separately from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the parlour (including waste milk) ○ isolation/quarantine/hospital pens, calving pens ○ other livestock species ○ TB inconclusive reactors, TB reactors and cattle under Brucellosis investigation ○ The herd during period of non-OTF status ○ livestock under statutory medicine withdrawal periods • Placental material and birthing fluids not included in slurry/manure intended for production of RMS
<p>GB.b RMS must only be used as bedding for cattle which are in the same epidemiological unit as those cattle from which it is generated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slurry separator on-farm • RMS not moved between epidemiological units • All manures used for RMS production sourced from within the epidemiological unit
<p>GB.c RMS must be produced from a slurry separator unit designed for the purpose and maintained</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slurry separator produces manure solids of at least 34% Dry Matter • Separator maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions
<p>GB.d Material that has been composted/digested must not be used as RMS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMS used within 12 hours of production • Alternative methods of storage and disposal available for compost/digestate



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<p>GB.e RMS is not used on farms under restriction for notifiable diseases or where herd are showing clinical signs of significant infection e.g salmonella</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production and use of RMS suspended in the event of a significant disease breakdown or infection • Suitable alternative bedding source available • RMS only produced and used on farms where herds hold Officially Tuberculosis Free (OTF) status for bovine TB
<p>GB.f RMS must only be used as bedding for housed cattle over twelve months old</p>	
<p>GB.g RMS must only be used on cubicle beds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMS not used as a deep bed in pens or yards • Used either as a layer on top of a mattress or as a cubicle bed up to 15cm in depth
<p>GB.h Pre-milking teat preparation must include a pre-milking teat disinfection</p>	
<p>GB.i Bought-in livestock must be quarantined for a minimum of 1 month</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarantine procedure outlined in Biosecurity Plan • Manure from bought-in stock not used for RMS production during quarantine period
<p>GB.j Equipment used for handling and processing RMS must not be used for handling/processing feed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment dedicated for RMS handling/processing • Equipment previously used for RMS cleaned and disinfected before repurposing to handle/process feed
<p>GB.k Slurry separation equipment used for RMS production must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before being moved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment cleaned and disinfected before moving to separate epidemiological units



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<p>GB.l RMS material must be covered between production and use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RMS material under cover e.g. covered by a roof
<p>GB.m An annual review of the use of RMS must be undertaken by the vet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual review recorded on Red Tractor template