

## Summary of October 2017 Standards

We have outlined below some of the key areas strengthened. Not every change is listed here, however there is a checklist detailing all the changes available online at: <http://assurance.redtractor.org.uk/tools-and-library>.

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

### **DAIRY**

#### **Documented medicine records**

Medicine records must provide an annual collation of total antibiotic used for the unit either by a vet from prescription data or completed by a farmer from medicine records. An annual review of antibiotics used must be undertaken by a vet. For farm-to-farm sales, animals under statutory withdrawal periods for medicines must be accompanied by a withdrawal period declaration.

#### **Quaternary Ammonium Compounds**

Cleaning chemicals and udder and hoof care products must not contain QACs. The presence of QACs in milk can affect cheese production. The FSA has also revised the national maximum residue level for QACs in milk.

#### **Colostrum**

A documented colostrum policy should ensure that youngstock are receiving adequate colostrum. This needs to be written in the health plan. A recommendation has been added that the quality of colostrum should be tested too.

#### **Silage storage**

Silage must be stored in a manner that minimises the risk of contamination and pollution with particular attention to field clamps where they are permitted (not in Scotland).

#### **Tethering**

Year-round tethering of cattle is not permitted and halters must be made from non-abrasive materials.

#### **Water**

As well as providing permanent supply of clean water, members must also ensure that troughs are kept clean.

#### **Environment**

The environmental protection section has no significant changes but is now more appropriate for livestock farmers and has been divided in to two areas; the responsible use of agri-chemicals and nutrient management.

#### **Farm map**

A map should show the unit's buildings, fields, watercourses and high pollution risk areas.

**Rodenticide use**

Permanent baiting must not be routinely undertaken and baits can only be sited where evidence shows they are being continuously effective. A site survey and risk assessment of watercourses and populations of non-target species should also be carried out and recorded before treatment. This ensures assured farmers can buy professional rodenticides without further proof of competence.