A Red Tractor pig standard introduced in October 2017 relating to wet and dry feeding systems has been amended with producers being given until 1 July to comply.

The original standard stated that the water source integral to the wet and dry feeder did not count towards the total number of drinkers required in a pen.

The Technical Advisory Committee has reviewed this position and agreed that the integral water source within the wet and dry feeder should have some value. The new standard will, however, still require a separate water source when using wet and dry feeders.

The new standard wording states that there must be at least one drinker for every 15 pigs in the pen as a whole and, of these, at least one drinker for every 30 pigs must be provided outside of the wet and dry feeder.

Joanna King, Red Tractor’s technical manager for pigs, said: “The new standard is a minimum requirement which, in most circumstances, should provide ample water provision both within the wet and dry feeder but also as a separate water source outside of the feeder.

“However, there may be individual situations where competition for water due to insufficient provision could lead to unwelcome pig behaviour so producers may choose to install extra drinkers to tackle vices such as tail biting.”

Flow rate is important in all drinking systems and producers should be mindful, especially now that the water source within wet and dry feeding systems is being counted, that the water flow within such systems is adequate.

Systems that deliver water into feed and where water cannot be easily consumed separately and/or without being interspersed with feed are classed as wet and dry feeders. Systems where drinkers are provided above a feed trough or dispenser that can be accessed without intake of feed are not classed as wet and dry feeders.

To see further examples of wet and dry feeders visit www.redtractor.org.uk/pigFWc
FW.c Key Livestock must be provided with adequate access to a supply of fresh, clean drinking water

- There are adequate water troughs/drinkers for the number of livestock
- Troughs/drinkers are suitably located and are at an appropriate height, allowing unrestricted access whilst minimising the risk of fouling
- For dry feeding systems:
  - nipples or mini bowls
    - ad-lib feeding 1 per 15 pigs
    - restricted feeding 1 per 10 pigs
  - bowls*
    - ad-lib feeding 1 per 30 pigs
    - restricted feeding 1 per 20 pigs

* A bowl is defined as a self-filling bowl having a design capacity of at least 2 litres with a permanently available reservoir of water (the filling must not be pig operated).

- For wet and dry feeding systems:
  - a total of at least one drinker point per 15 pigs
  - of which at least 1 drinker point per 30 pigs is provided as a separate water source from the wet and dry feeder

- For wet feeding systems:
  - in addition to the water provided in the wet feed, at least 1 drinker point per 30 pigs is provided as a separate water source from the wet feeder

- Where water is provided in troughs the trough length exceeds the following:
  - Pigs <15kg – 0.8cm per pig
  - Pigs 15-35kg – 1.0cm per pig
  - Pigs >35kg – 1.2cm per pig

- The flow rate is adequate and the water pressure appropriate for the age and type of pig for which it is provided

- Water systems are checked daily to ensure they are working and clean

- A back-up source of water is available where private water supplies (e.g. boreholes) are used

Cleansing and disinfecting of vehicles

A revision has been made to the Red Tractor standards regarding the transport of assured pigs to markets, collection centres and abattoirs where farmers are using their own vehicles. When transporting pigs to Red Tractor assured markets, collection centres or abattoirs, producers must clean and disinfect their vehicle on site after each load and before leaving the site. This revision brings the Red Tractor pig standards, which specifically relate to farmers’ own vehicles, in line with the existing requirement for commercial haulage vehicles who are members of the Red Tractor Livestock Transport Scheme.

Come and see us at the Pig & Poultry Fair

Pig producers are invited to come and meet the Red Tractor team at the 2018 Pig & Poultry Fair. The event is taking place at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, on 15 and 16 May. Red Tractor will be based on the NPA stand and staff will be able to answer your questions about standards and also hand out promotional materials to help members to engage with the public.