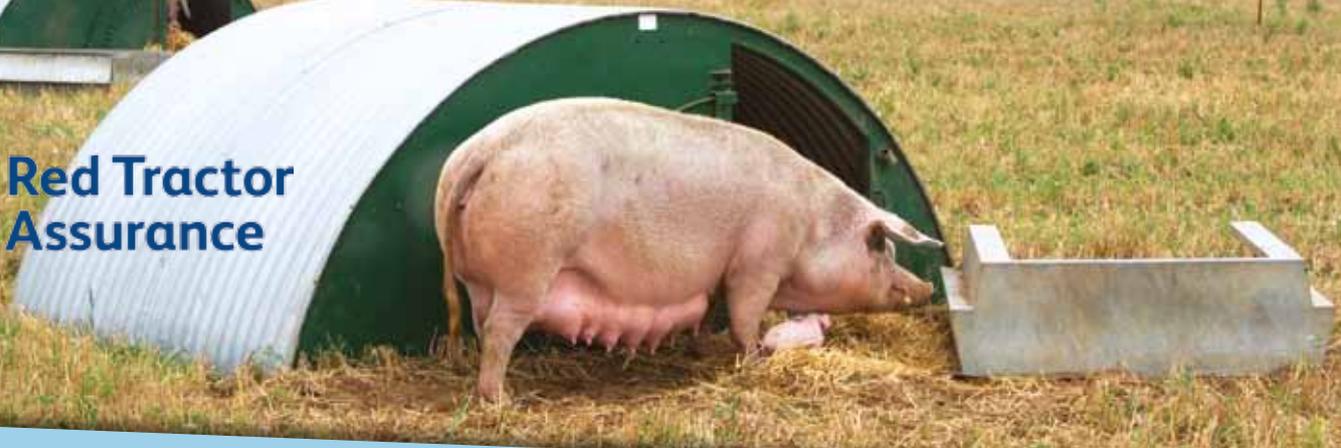




Red Tractor Assurance



Climb aboard



News, updates and practical advice from your Red Tractor Assurance team // SEPTEMBER 2018

memberhelp@redtractor.org.uk • Combinable Crops, Fresh Produce, Pigs & Poultry, Dairy, Beef & Lamb - T. 0203 617 3670

New inspection regime to be rolled out to pig sector

Poor performing farms to receive unannounced inspections in move to increase consumer confidence in Red Tractor logo.

From November, Red Tractor pig farms will be the first to move to a new risk-based inspection regime.

The decision to strengthen the inspection programme is part of a strategy to increase consumer confidence that food carrying the logo is safe, traceable and farmed with care.

Depending on the nature and number of non-conformances found during an inspection, poor performers will receive an increase in inspection frequency, which will be unannounced.

If improvements aren't made, those poor performers will be suspended or

withdrawn from the scheme to protect the reputation of British farming and the Red Tractor logo.

The vast majority of members do a fantastic job adhering to every standard every day, and those who continue to achieve these high standards and can demonstrate it at their normal inspection will notice no changes to their inspection programme.

How inspections are changing

Red Tractor's current system of measuring compliance is based on routine inspections regardless of whether a member has a 100% compliance record or multiple non-conformances at every inspection.



British pork sausages bearing the Red Tractor logo

From November, a new risk-based approach will be adopted.

A considerable amount of time has been spent developing a fair and objective method of identifying high-risk members.

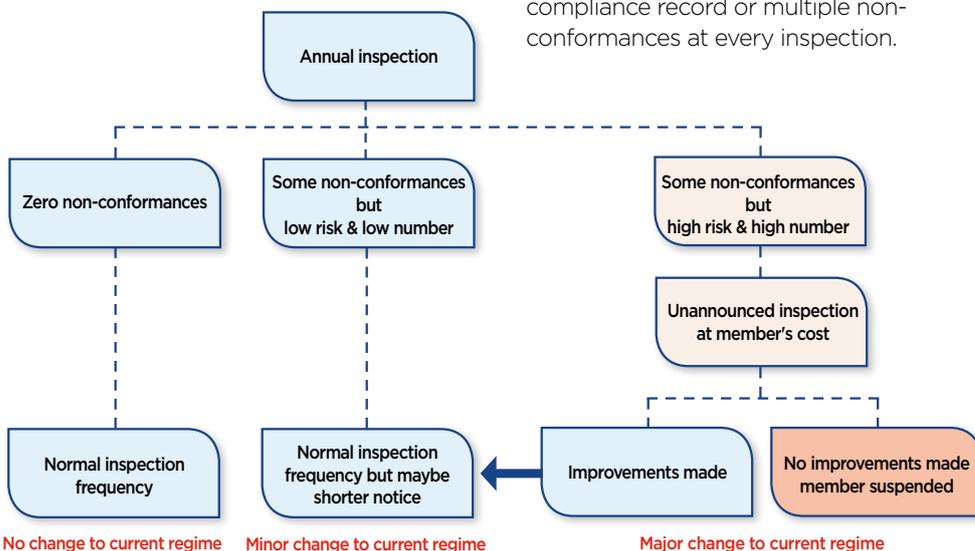
This is an internal system which uses the nature and number of non-conformances to categorise each member according to reputational risk.

All standards have been weighted according to reputational risk, for example the standard requiring livestock to be handled in a way that avoids injury and minimises stress has been given greater weighting than having a farm map.

However, all standards are important and must be complied with at all times.

For most members, there will be no noticeable change; a routine inspection will take place and reported back to Red Tractor by the certification body.

If after the result of an inspection a member is classified by Red Tractor as higher risk, an additional unannounced inspection will be triggered at the



Continued...

farmer's cost and they will be notified by their certification body.

Unannounced inspections

The inspection will take the form of a spot check and no notice will be given to the farm.

To avoid logistical and practical issues, members who require an unannounced visit will be asked to provide information to reduce the chance of no-one being available to carry out the inspection.

This will include contact telephone numbers, any known de-stocking dates and biosecurity requirements.

The assessor will wait for a minimum time period but if no-one is available and the assessor hasn't been able to speak to anyone after calling the contact numbers, a failed inspection card will be left.

The member will be charged for a failed inspection and will have to pay for a rescheduled unannounced inspection.

If improvement can be demonstrated, members are no longer categorised as higher risk and will be informed by their certification body.

They will then continue with the normal inspection frequency, albeit possibly at shorter notice.

If no improvement has been made, membership will be suspended. When a member is suspended, no products from the farm can be marketed as assured.

A member who has been suspended and has been re-instated back into the scheme after successfully correcting all non-conformances will be subject to a further unannounced inspection at their cost.

If there is no improvement after this inspection, membership will be withdrawn.

Upholding the reputation of Red Tractor

Red Tractor is working towards 100% compliance from every member on every standard every day.

It is vital that consumers have complete trust in the assurance scheme if they are to continue to buy food and drink bearing the logo.

Member rules on the new risk-based approach to inspections can be found here <https://tinyurl.com/y74uz4tf>

Ensure disaster recovery plans cover any interruptions to pig movements

Pig producers are being urged to update their disaster recovery plans to ensure they are prepared for being unable to move pigs off farm.

A shortage of CO2 during the summer and, more recently, the growing threat of African Swine Fever – discovered in Belgium – have served as warnings to producers that there may be instances where stock has to stand still.

As part of Red Tractor standards, all farms must have a documented disaster recovery or emergency plan covering the actions to be taken in the event of identified risks, such as a fire, flood or severe weather.

But most plans don't cover what happens if movements are interrupted.

This is a potential eventuality if there is an abattoir breakdown or the farm becomes suspended from the Red Tractor scheme.

Farmers are now being advised, as a matter of urgency, to consider the impact such a disruption could have on their business.

Producers need to think about how they would cope; what buildings or land are available for temporary accommodation, how will food, water and thermal comfort be provided for stock?

Practical guidance from Red Tractor on how to deal with

movement interruptions can be found here <https://tinyurl.com/yd7qhxln>

More details on African Swine Fever can be found via the AHDB here <https://tinyurl.com/ycuwtqmk>



Guidance issued on pig balconies

Red Tractor has issued guidance for producers who are considering installing balcony systems in their pig accommodation.

The move follows a growing interest in the systems which are already used in other European countries including the Netherlands and parts of Scandinavia.

As a relatively new housing design,

the Red Tractor team has been working with the industry to agree a set of standards and guidance has now been issued after the assurance scheme's technical advisory committee considered the suitability of the system.

Members who install balcony systems must obtain a declaration from the building manufacturer confirming that the balcony system meets the structural integrity set out in the Red Tractor standards.

A statement from the ventilation specialist or specialist supplier must also be available to confirm the balcony system is compatible with the ventilation design and pig welfare will not be compromised.

Producers can read guidance from Red Tractor here <https://tinyurl.com/y8q9ppex>



A pig balcony system (CREDIT: AHDB Pork)

