



Clarification on timescales for new Red Tractor contract farming rules

As previously communicated, Red Tractor has created new membership rules which will affect contract farmers who do all the day to day farm management on behalf of a landowner/ farm business. This will ensure:

- all assessments are credible and robust focussing on all aspects of the day to day management of the crop production
- assessments are carried out efficiently and without duplication whilst maintaining the integrity of the Red Tractor scheme
- transparent identification of all Red Tractor certified businesses for the whole supply chain

The new rules are being phased in over the course of the next year and are effective for applicable members at the point of their next Red Tractor renewal. Certification bodies will be highlighting the new rules to all members in their renewal communication and those members affected will be asked to change their memberships accordingly. If members have any questions they should contact their certification body who will be able to help them.

Red Tractor understands that some members whose renewal is due in October 2018 may have missed the communication on the new rules and already renewed their membership for another year. It is vital to Red Tractor, our members and the trade that these rules are implemented smoothly. We are therefore extending the dates of the new rules by 1 month to 1st November 2018. As renewals come up over the next 12 months members will at that point transition to the new rules so that by 1st December 2019 all members will be operating on the new rules. This will ensure that all members are given the appropriate opportunity to make the changes to their membership at the time of their next renewal.

For the trade between now and 1 December 2019 it is important to remember that there may still be members operating under the old membership format. Therefore, the new rules should only be implemented for farm suppliers who have an expiry date from 1 December 2019 onwards. All suppliers who have an expiry date before 1 December 2019 should be permitted to continue to sell grain and sugar beet as they have done in the past.

Red Tractor is continuing to work closely with Certification Bodies to ensure a smooth transitional period with full transparency for both the industry and Red Tractor members. More detailed guidance can be found [here](#) together with an FAQ document [here](#).