



Red Tractor Assurance



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

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Red Tractor launches bid to become flagship of British food and farming

Inspection regime strengthened and broader standards announced as first ever TV advert hits screens.

A huge step in Red Tractor's evolution has been announced as the assurance scheme bids to become the flagship of British food and farming.

In what is one of the most significant moves in its 19-year history, Red Tractor has set out how it will create new standards to sit alongside its core offering.

The 'Modular Standards' will expand the breadth of production systems to include, among others, organic production and farms with a focus on higher animal welfare.

The announcement was made on the eve of the scheme's first ever television advert being aired.

The £1.5m campaign has now been broadcast to millions of viewers more than 2,500 times.

Chief Executive Jim Moseley has also detailed how Red Tractor will introduce a risk-based inspection regime targeting poorer-performing farms with more unannounced visits.

Mr Moseley says the three headline changes are vital components in maintaining the trust of

consumers and promoting the high standards of UK farming and food production.

He added that the announcement should be seen by the supply chain as "one of the most exciting in Red Tractor's history" and said it put the scheme in a great position at a time when Brexit posed challenges to British food and farming.

"Red Tractor is already a world-leading assurance scheme; however, we are constantly strengthening our standards in line with scientific advances and consumer demand," he said.

"We know shoppers are increasingly looking for more informed choice and simple signposts to traceable, safe and responsibly produced food, which is why we are looking to grow our reputation and increase the breadth of what we offer.

"Increasing confidence in Red Tractor and the entire UK food industry is vital, particularly as we approach Brexit."

A stronger farm inspection programme



with more unannounced visits was introduced to the pig sector in November and will be rolled out across the industry in 2019.

With the goal of every member meeting every standard 365 days of the year, the risk-based approach will trigger more inspections without warning for farmers with a poor record of compliance during their farm assessment.

The strengthened inspection regime is designed to reinforce trust in the logo at a time when consumers are being told, via a large-scale advertising campaign, that food produced by assured farms is safe, traceable and farmed with care.



"Our vision is that Red Tractor is seen by shoppers, farmers and the food industry as the flagship of British food and farming."



Importance of vehicle wash-down for pig hauliers

With the pig industry on heightened state of alert over the risk of African Swine Fever, hauliers, processing plants and farmers are being reminded of the importance of cleaning and disinfecting vehicles after delivering animals to abattoirs and before they leave the site.

Infected pigs and anything contaminated with infected faeces are sources of virus which include, among others, Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea and Classical Swine Fever.

Vehicles delivering pigs must

be washed down after use and before they leave the site – this is a requirement under the Red Tractor Livestock Transport Scheme, the Red Tractor Meat Processing Scheme and the British Quality Assured Pork Scheme.

Any farmer delivering pigs to an assured abattoir direct is also required to wash down to maintain their Red Tractor assurance status. It is vital all hauliers recognise the importance of cleansing and disinfecting, regardless of species.



Staying compliant

The standards where Red Tractor commonly finds non-conformances, and tips on staying compliant.

Biosecurity

Standard BI.4 requires full records of cleansing and disinfecting be kept for each vehicle and wash facility used detailing when and where each vehicle was last cleansed and disinfected.

Where facilities are not available at the haulier's yard and external wash facilities are used, a written agreement must be in place. The external facility agreement must outline to the user times that the facility can be used, the washing equipment and disinfectant provided.

A tip for staying compliant is to ensure adequate cleaning equipment is available at all wash facilities - brushes, scrapers, Defra-approved disinfectants and cleaning fluid.

Checklist

Using a checklist at each collection point to ensure you have all the relevant licences, authorisations and certificates for all livestock transport vehicles will help you to stay compliant.

Training & people

Red Tractor standards demand livestock is only transported by trained staff. A good tip is to have training records and relevant species-specific certificates of competence readily available for an assessor to see.

Contact sheets of key people and phone numbers must be kept in each vehicle and must include business owners or managers, a vet and roadside recovery.

Vehicles

A defect book and repair log should show all defects and the action taken to rectify.

Vehicles must be effectively ventilated, so regularly check fans and ventilation flaps are working correctly.



Electric goads and public perception

Red Tractor is reminding members of its Livestock Transport Scheme that electric goads must only be used as a last resort by trained staff.

For use on mature pigs, permission must be given by the farmer and use of goads must be supervised.

Aids which administer electric

shocks can be used on mature cattle, sows and boars refusing to move and becoming stressed or agitated after all other means have been exhausted.

Standard AH4.2 requires a documented procedure for electric goads and a record of farmer permission.

Dealing with activists: best practice

For the past couple of months Red Tractor has been made aware of increased activist activity around abattoirs causing disruptions to hauliers. Best practice guidance exists for dealing with protesters.

- If protesters are harassing you or causing you or the livestock alarm and distress, call 999 immediately.

- Do not engage with protesters and be aware that they may be filming the situation.

- Regardless of whether you are a member or not, always report the incident to the Road Haulage Association.

- Report any incidents to Ray Engley at rengley@rha.uk.net with the date, time and details of incident.