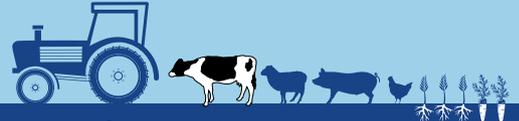




Red Tractor Assurance



Climb aboard



News, updates and practical advice from your Red Tractor Assurance team // JANUARY 2019

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New inspection regime to be rolled out to dairy sector

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

From April 2019, Red Tractor dairy farms will 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.

This follows the rollout of the new regime to the pig sector last year.

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

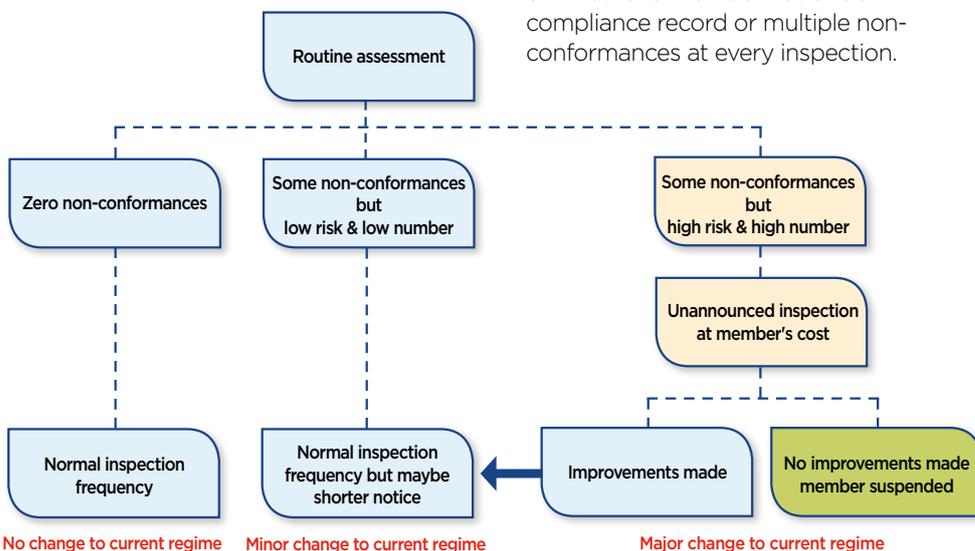
If improvements aren't made, those

poor performers will be suspended or withdrawn from the scheme to protect the reputation of British farming and the Red Tractor logo.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.



Milk with the Red Tractor logo

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



◀ **Continued...**

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, milking times 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 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>

Antibiotic progress made, but more needs to be done

Twelve months after industry-led targets for antibiotic use were identified for all main farm livestock species in the UK, a review of progress has been released.

The Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance (RUMA) said cattle farmers and their vets are working on a range of interventions, although a lack of representative data on antibiotic use across these specific sectors continues

to be a challenge.

Secretary general Chris Lloyd said: "What this review shows is the industry as a whole is committed and making good progress - but also that the sectors are all in very different places.

"Some species have met their targets already but now, with a measure of what's happening in their sector, they know they can go further and are working on new goals."

Have you considered what Red Tractor suspension could mean?

It is recommended as part of the risk-based approach to inspections that producers have a contingency plan in place.

This may cover potential issues arising from a farm losing its assurance status.

Suspension from the Red Tractor Assurance Scheme is just one potential threat, but one which can be avoided by staying 100% compliant.

All Red Tractor farms must have a documented emergency plan, covering the actions to be taken in the event of identified risks, such as

a fire, flood or severe weather.

However most plans don't cover what would happen if a farm loses its assurance status, milk can't be collected or there is a potential stocking, welfare issue.

Farms which maintain Red Tractor standards at all times will not be affected but all producers are being asked to consider how they would deal with such a situation.

Things to consider include alternative markets for unassured milk, other uses on farm or disposal methods.

New dairy board representatives appointed

Red Tractor's Dairy Board has been strengthened with the appointment of two new members.

Ian Harvey, a dairy farmer from Cornwall, has been appointed as a representative from the NFU alongside Michael Masters, the milk supply manager at Somerset cheesemaker Barber's.

Ian is part of a family run enterprise which milks a herd of 180 Holstein Friesians and Pedigree Ayrshires on around 400 acres.

Michael oversees procurement for



Barber's which produces 22,000t of cheese a year with plus 100 product lines sold to more than 200 customers in over 20 countries.

