



Red Tractor Assurance

8 March 2019

UNANNOUNCED INSPECTIONS ON RED TRACTOR PIG FARMS BEGIN

The first unannounced inspections of Red Tractor pig farms under the new risk-based regime in place since November took place in February.

Pig units categorised as high risk following routine assessments will now receive a follow-up visit from an assessor without prior warning to ensure the scheme's standards are being upheld.

Farmers are informed of their risk rating and that they will receive an unannounced inspection which takes the form of a spot check rather than full audit. Red Tractor Assurance Chief Executive Jim Moseley said he understood businesses would be disappointed and concerned to be categorised as high risk.

"A pig unit classified as high risk does not mean it is a bad farm," he said.

"It means extra work is required to ensure compliance with standards. This is vital to protect the reputation of the scheme and all its members."

Red Tractor calculates the risk rating of a business through an internal system based on the nature and number of non-conformances found during routine inspections.

"The criteria is not known by the assessor who remains completely independent," Mr Moseley added. "As an assurance body we have weighted our standards against the reputational risk they pose to Red Tractor if they are not complied with. We do this calculation in-house and the risk score is kept confidential but depending on the non-conformances identified, farms will be notified by their certification body of the next steps they must take to continue to be a certified member of the Red Tractor scheme."

Addressing non-conformances found during a routine inspection, either at the time of the inspection or within 28 days, will not change the farm's risk rating, something all producers should be aware of.

The usual appeals process to certification bodies with regards to audits and non-conformances remains. If members wish to appeal their risk rating, this can be done to Red Tractor directly.