



Red Tractor Covid-19 Frequently Asked Questions for poultry scheme members.

We understand that the fast-moving Covid-19 situation is creating lots of questions for Red Tractor poultry scheme members. With the possibility of changes to contracts, staff shortages, issues with transport or supplies, we appreciate you may face an extremely challenging few months ahead. Here is a short FAQ, which we hope will address some of these issues.

Q. I farm alone and am too sick to look after my birds. What should I do?

A. You must invoke your contingency plan and ensure your animals are looked after at all times.

You **MUST** inform Red Tractor and/or your Certification Body immediately if the situation becomes an emergency that threatens the welfare of the birds e.g) stocking density breach, food safety or the environment.

Q. I can't be compliant with a standard because I am dependent on a third-party service. What should I do?

A. There are various examples, where to remain compliant, members are dependent on third-party services. During the course of the assessment should there be a standard or an element of a standard that requires a service from a third-party, and you are unable to provide the evidence that this has been undertaken, then a non-conformance will be raised. However, the period for you to demonstrate compliance (normally 28 days) may be extended by your Certification Body, to allow for the current situation.

If you have such non-conformances from a recent assessment that you are unable to rectify within the normal 28-day period, please contact your Certification Body immediately to discuss an extension to the time period for supplying the corrective evidence required.

Q. My suppliers are running out of litter, what should I do?

A. There are significant pressures on the availability of litter during the Covid-19 crisis. Maintaining dry, friable litter is key to bird health and welfare and given the importance of ensuring this, all farms which can demonstrate that they have difficulties in accessing supplies of wood shavings, in order that they can utilise the bales that would otherwise have been used as enrichment, for litter will be permitted a derogation against our bales requirement.

In order to remain compliant, you must Contact your certification body to request and register a derogation where needed, so that they can record and monitor the situation.