



## Guidance for Pig Scheme Members and Veterinary Surgeons on Remote Quarterly Assessments for Red Tractor Assurance during Covid-19 pandemic

In recognition of the fact that many vet practices are no longer undertaking routine work, including quarterly vet visits for Red Tractor, we have put in place alternative arrangements. These arrangements aim to balance the need to maintain social distancing and limit non-essential contact, with the need to ensure a level of the much-valued veterinary oversight of Red Tractor assured pig farms is maintained.

In instances where a quarterly vet visit is due, but cannot go ahead as a physical visit, we now require that a 'visit' be conducted remotely following the detailed protocol:

- The remote visit should involve a telephone conversation between the farmer and their vet, to discuss pig health and welfare on the unit. While not compulsory, the use of video calling/footage may be used to assist where appropriate.
- The vet must then complete a Quarterly Veterinary Visit Report (QVVR) form. A remote QVVR has been created, which includes declarations that can be certified by the vet without the need for physical inspection of the farm. Download the remote QVVR [here](#).
- The remote QVVR includes declarations that rely on the vet having sight of a copy of recent medicine administration records and movement records. These documents can be seen with the use of smart phone cameras, email and/or messaging apps.
- The farmer declaration section has been removed from the remote QVVR template. This decision has been taken to minimise administrative burden on farmers, vets and Certification Bodies (CBs) during this period of high pressure. However, pig producers must ensure all standards continue to be met and they must notify their Certification Body of any prosecutions brought or likely to be brought against them (Scheme Rule 53).
- The 'additional comments' box at the bottom of the remote QVVR form should be used in a similar way to the box in the top right-hand corner of the regular QVVR - Vets are encouraged to make use of this comments box to detail (based on the discussion with the farmer):
  - Action(s) and/or recommendations for the farmer
  - Important information to be brought to the attention of the CB and/or Red Tractor.

Vets should submit their signed and completed remote QVVR to the relevant Certification Body and forward a copy to the farm so that it is available for future Red Tractor assessments.

Remote quarterly vet assessments must be carried out in this way for Q1 visits that weren't able to be carried out before social distancing measures were introduced, and for **all** quarterly visits that are due while these distancing measures remain in place. Once physical quarterly visits can resume, the usual quarterly visit format and QVVR should be reverted to.

If there is no documentary evidence that a quarterly visit (remote or physical) has taken place, a non-conformance will be raised against standard AH.h.

For any queries about the requirements please contact: [pigs@redtractor.org.uk](mailto:pigs@redtractor.org.uk)

Alternatively, please contact the relevant Certification Body:

**Lloyds Register:** 0131 335 6643 / [redtractor-ca@lr.org](mailto:redtractor-ca@lr.org)

**NSF:** 07775 575 836 / [agriculture@nsf.org](mailto:agriculture@nsf.org)