

July 2014



Red Tractor Assurance



FARM STANDARDS

IMPORTANT CHANGES FROM 1st OCTOBER 2014

As a member of the Red Tractor Farm Assurance scheme we are delighted to send you this pack. It contains important information relevant to your certification so please take the time to read this introductory leaflet and all the enclosures.

We promised you last year that we would review our standards to make them less complicated and remove duplication. This work has now been completed. We have made some improvements to the format of our Standards Manuals and introduced a few revisions which will come into force on 1st October 2014.

Why do the standards look different?

Our main objective has been to make the standards easier to understand. To do this we have:

- Made the standards less wordy (you will notice this manual is a lot slimmer than the previous version)
- Used simpler language
- Given clear reasons for the standards (outlined in the AIM)
- Put all the information in one place

Why have the standards changed?

Every three years we review all of our standards to ensure that they are up-to-date and cover key reputational risks. The revised standards have been written by our Technical Advisory Committees made up of experts from within the industry in consultation with farmer representative organisations, stakeholders, retailers, our Certification Bodies and other interested parties.

We have had unprecedented engagement from across the whole industry demonstrating the importance that everyone places on the Red Tractor Standards. We have spent time getting the balance right to ensure our standards meet the requirements of your customers as well as being practical and achievable to deliver on-farm.

INCLUDED IN THIS PACK

We promised you last year that we would communicate clearly with you in future. This pack has everything relevant to your Red Tractor Assurance membership.

- **Standards manual(s)** – a manual is enclosed for each farming enterprise for which you are assured. (See overleaf for more information)
- **What has changed** – a leaflet summarising what you will need to do differently from 1st October 2014 and why
- **How the Red Tractor Assurance Scheme Works (incorporating Membership Rules)** – a leaflet explaining everything you need to know about how the Red Tractor Assurance Scheme works and what you as a member have to do

Note: We have done all that we can to ensure that you only get one mailing. If you have received more than one, it is likely to be because you are a member using more than one Certification Body.



GUIDE TO YOUR NEW MANUAL

To help you understand the new format below is an example of a page with a key to indicate the different references and symbols which are important. Further information can also be found inside the Standards Manual.

Standard Code: Two letter prefix indicates the section to which it relates (e.g. EC for Environmental Protection and Contamination Control). Assessors will use the standard code together with the farming enterprise code (e.g. B, L or CR for beef, lamb or crops) on their report to identify any non-conformances

Standard – all text including the column 'How you will be measured' form part of the standard

AIM – clearly summarises the aim of each group of standards

Changes: shows the standard has 'Revised' or is 'New', highlighting that you have to do something different. (See the enclosed What has Changed leaflet for more information as it is really important you are aware of these changes)

Key: a non-conformance against a key standard may lead to immediate suspension

Recommendation: type of standard which is not compulsory

STANDARDS	HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED
AIM: Fertilisers/ soil improvement products are legal, suitable for their intended use and applied in a manner that prevents contamination and pollution	
<p>EC.I Key Only appropriate, safe and suitable fertilisers and soil improvement products must be applied to land (Revised)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil improvement products include, but are not limited to, manure, composts, anaerobic digestate (biofertiliser), treated sewage sludge Any materials originating outside the holding, including waste materials, that are applied to land have agricultural benefit and are permitted for use Exemptions/ permits to use waste materials are held and Waste Transfer Notes kept No untreated abattoir or catering derived animal by-products are spread to land
<p>EC.m Key Fertilisers and soil improvement products must be applied to land in a manner which minimises the risk of contamination or pollution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil improvement products applied in accordance with Appendices (Safe Applications to Land & Manure Management Plan) Before application, factors including NVZ restrictions, soil type, soil conditions, crop requirements, slope, weather conditions, surface water, water supplies and abstraction points, even on neighbouring land, are considered Grazing and planting intervals in the Appendix (Safe Applications to Land) are adhered to Staff and contractors have knowledge of high risk areas on-farm
<p>EC.m.1 Recommendation It is recommended that all equipment used for applying manufactured fertilisers is checked to ensure accurate application</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applications relate to, but are not limited to, grazing, forage, conservation land, land producing crops for consumption on the farm
<p>Where to find help </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Defra guidance document Protecting our Water, Soil & Air – A Code of Good Agricultural Practice for farmers, growers and land managers; the DARD Code of GAP for the prevention of pollution of water, air & soil; the Code of GAP for the Protection of Water, Soil and Air for Wales 2011 Guidance to the Environmental Permitting Regulations can be found at www.gov.uk The Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products For a list of approved pesticides visit www.pesticides.gov.uk For a template IPM plan and more information on biobeds visit www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk HSE Guidance on storing pesticides for farmers and other professional users Information on sprayer certificates of competency can be found at www.cityandguilds.com Details of NSTS approved test centres can be found at www.nsts.org.uk For information on the importance of fertiliser security visit www.secureyourfertiliser.gov.uk For guidance on fertiliser use see Defra Fertiliser Manual RB209 To find out the environmental state of water bodies around and through your land use the Environment Agency's What's in your Backyard Tool which can be found on the Environment Agency website

R – symbol highlights clearly where a record is required. (Blank record templates will be available on-line)

Appendix: indicates that additional information relevant to this standard is included at the back of the Manual

Help: indicates where you can get extra guidance if you need it

There are a few standards which have been changed from a Recommendation or upgraded to a Key standard. These are highlighted with the word **Upgraded** at the end of the standard.

COMING SOON – Watch out on our website www.redtractorassurance.org.uk for our new interactive version of the Standards Manuals which will automatically include links to record templates and sources of more help. They will be available by 1st October 2014.

CONTACT

If you have any questions about your Red Tractor membership then contact your Certification Body (contact details can be found in the back of the Standards Manual).

