HOW THE RED TRACTOR ASSURANCE SCHEME WORKS
(Incorporating Membership Rules)

This booklet includes everything you need to know about how the Red Tractor Assurance Scheme works and what you as a member have to do.
HOW THE RED TRACTOR ASSURANCE SCHEME WORKS

The Red Tractor Assurance Scheme ("Scheme") includes a series of integrated standards for different farming enterprises and different steps in the food supply chain ("Standards"). As a business operating in the farming or food supply industry you can apply to join our Scheme for a single farming enterprise or food supply chain activity or whatever combination of enterprises or activities fits your business needs.

To become and remain a member you must conform to the Standards and the membership rules at all times.

To join the Scheme you should contact any one of the Certification Bodies who are licensed by us to manage membership. You will find all the enterprises and activities that our Scheme covers listed on the back page. You can apply to join at any time throughout the year and your membership must be renewed annually. Your chosen Certification Body will manage your initial application, assessment and certification throughout the year and your membership must be renewed annually. The same Certification Body will also be your routine point of contact.

Before applying you are advised to carefully read the membership rules (see inside) and the Standards which detail what you have to do and how you will be assessed. RTA may change the Standards from time to time but we will always tell you what the changes are and when you have to implement them.

You may change your chosen Certification Body at any time and still maintain your ‘Assured’ status as long as you have no outstanding non-conformances or obligations. If you are not satisfied with the way your application, assessment or certification decision has been conducted you may lodge an appeal in writing with your Certification Body within 14 days. All complaints will be properly investigated and dealt with fairly in accordance with the Certification Body’s appeals procedure.

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1. For dairy farms your milk first purchaser will choose a Certification Body and arrange your application or transfers as appropriate.

2. With the exception of:
   a) Dairy, where your business has to be assessed and certified for beef too
   b) Beef and lamb, where both have to be assessed and certified if cattle and sheep are farmed.
RED TRACTOR ASSURANCE MEMBERSHIP RULES

We are assured Food Standards, trading as Red Tractor Assurance (RAT or RTA), a not for profit company, owned and funded by the British farming and food industry.

These Rules are a statement of the conditions and principles of membership of the Red Tractor Assurance Scheme (the Scheme) and shall apply to all applicants, members or former members of the Scheme. The Scheme, together with these Rules, govern the terms and conditions of membership of the Red Tractor Assurance Scheme. Accordingly, any person applying for membership of the Scheme are referred to in these Rules as the Applicant Business, all members of the Scheme are referred to as 'Members' and 'you' for membership of the Scheme are referred to in these Rules as the 'Applicant Business'. These Rules (together, ‘these Rules’) govern the terms and conditions for membership of the Scheme. If so you must identify the Certification Body to whom you applied, and the Administrator or Lead Assessor will provide you with a copy of your contract to be terminated at any time unless your membership remains suspended or there are no non-conformances outstanding.

Material Changes
You may review your Certification Body informed of any material changes to your operation that may affect your certification. Examples of material changes include but are not limited to:

- any new subsidiaries or holdings (e.g., crop storage facilities, livestock grazing), not represented in your original application
- a change in management of the Member (to be construed in accordance with the RTA Dairy Standards, you must be able to demonstrate that during assessments, or in any other communication may lead to suspension or certification

Certification

- if you have voluntarily left the Scheme.

- if the site becomes restocked.

- if the site is empty or non-operational.

- if you have been suspended or withdrawn from any reason and relevant legislation, will be deemed to be your responsibility for the purpose of assessing your compliance during assessments, or in any other communication may lead to suspension or certification

- if a member of the Scheme has been deemed to be defrauding the Scheme.

- RTA's liability and that of its officers, employees or agents in respect of all other

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The Red Tractor Assurance Scheme includes the following integrated standards for different farming enterprises and different activities along the food supply chain.

Farm Standards:
- Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet
- Fresh Produce
- Beef and Lamb
- Chicken (Broilers and Poussin, Free Range, Hatchery, Breeder Layers and Breeder Replacements)
- Dairy
- Pigs

Food Supply Chain Standards:
- Livestock Transport
- Livestock Markets
- Livestock Collection Centres
- Chicken Catching & Transport
- Chicken Lairage & Slaughter
- Meat Processing

Details of the Certification Bodies licensed by RTA to manage the application, assessment, certification and membership of the RTA Scheme can be found in the Standards manuals and on www.redtractorassurance.org.uk

Contact details
E: memberhelp@redtractor.org.uk
www.redtractorassurance.org.uk
Details of telephone contacts can be found in the relevant Standards manuals and on the website.