



Red Tractor Assurance



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News, updates and practical advice from your Red Tractor Assurance team // JULY 2019

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Most pig farms unaffected by new inspection approach

Vast majority of Red Tractor farms have a good level of compliance, plus top tips on how to avoid non-conformances.

Nine months after a new approach to Red Tractor audits was rolled out to pig units, analysis shows 90% of members are seeing no change to their inspection regime.

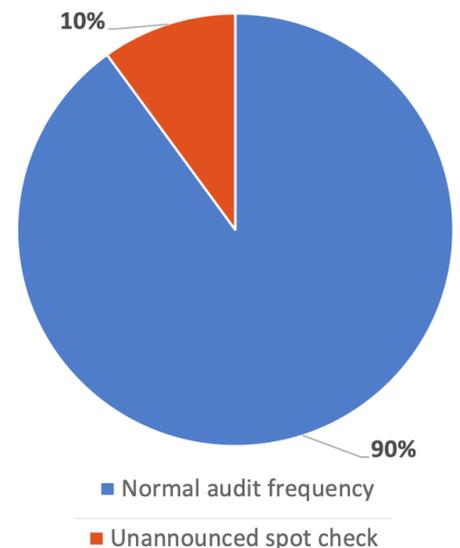
As part of a drive to strengthen Red Tractor's reputation among customers and consumers at home and abroad the new approach involves unannounced spot checks for farms found to have a high number of non-conformances to Red Tractor standards, or serious breaches which could damage the reputation of the scheme.

who require extra checks to ensure they meet our robust standards.

"Our goal is for every member to meet every standard every day, which is a tall order but one we must achieve for Red Tractor to be the flagship for British food and farming."

More than 1,400 pig farm audits have taken place since the new approach was rolled-out.

The reasons for a farm needing a spot check are varied - some due to receiving a high number of non-conformances and others have a small number but serious in nature.



Above: Impact on Red Tractor pig farms from risk-based approach to audits.

The practicalities of spot checks

More than 20 unannounced spot checks have taken place so far and all but one took place successfully.

Initial concerns by members about the practicalities of unannounced spot checks are not being borne out in practice.

Farms identified as requiring an

unannounced spot check are asked to complete a questionnaire outlining biosecurity requirements and any additional info to help the Certification Body ensure that these audits take place at a time that maximises the chance of someone being available.



CEO Jim Moseley said: "Red Tractor's standards have been developed over 20 years to ensure consumers recognise that food produced is traceable, safe and farmed with care.

"We anticipated that the majority of pig farms would not notice any change to the audit regime and this data confirms it is a minority of pig farms

Multiple sites and risk ratings

Pig farms operating one membership across more than one site should be aware that under the risk-based approach to audits the number of non-conformances raised across all the sites will be used to determine whether an unannounced spot check is required.

Additionally, where a member is required to undergo an unannounced spot check, the assessor will visit all sites linked under the same membership as part of the spot check.

Avoiding common non-conformances

Red Tractor has collated a list of the most common non-conformances found on farms which have then required an unannounced spot check.

STANDARD: AH.j

Livestock that do not respond to treatment or require emergency euthanasia must be promptly and humanely euthanised by a trained and competent person

WHAT CAN FARMERS DO TO AVOID A NC?

- Promptly attend to pigs requiring euthanasia
- Anyone carrying out euthanasia must be signed off as competent in the Veterinary Health Plan (VHP) or euthanasia policy

STANDARD: AH.i

Sick or injured livestock must receive prompt attention in order that suffering is not prolonged

WHAT CAN FARMERS DO TO AVOID A NC?

- Consider whether sick/injured pigs would benefit from treatment and/or segregation to a hospital pen, and if so then carry this out promptly

STANDARD: Fs.b

Carcases of fallen and euthanised stock must be stored in a manner that protects them from vermin and other animals

WHAT CAN FARMERS DO TO AVOID A NC?

- Keep dead bins locked and securely sealed

STANDARD: FW.c

Livestock must be provided with adequate access to a supply of fresh, clean drinking water

WHAT CAN FARMERS DO TO AVOID A NC?

- Check there are a sufficient number of drinkers for the number of pigs and the type of feed system

STANDARD: HF.c.1

Where concrete slatted floors are in use current UK legislation on slot and beam widths must be adhered to

WHAT CAN FARMERS DO TO AVOID A NC?

- Repair or replace worn concrete slats to ensure beam and slot widths are within the legal max/min widths as outlined in the standards

STANDARD: HF.a

Housing must be constructed and maintained to provide a safe environment for livestock

WHAT CAN FARMERS DO TO AVOID A NC?

- Check for and repair any sharp edges on pen doors, troughs, etc.
- Ensure pen door hinges are secure

STANDARD: AH.a

A VHP to proactively manage and improve health and welfare of livestock must be established and implemented

WHAT CAN FARMERS DO TO AVOID A NC?

- Ensure all required elements of the VHP are present, including an action plan to tackle vice and a list of persons deemed competent to inject/tail dock/teeth clip
- Go through the VHP with your vet in advance of your audit to ensure everything is accurate and up-to-date

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ Guidance on training and competency

A document has been uploaded to the RT website at <https://tinyurl.com/y5ao3bzz> outlining guidance on how to ensure you are complying with the various and sometimes complicated Red Tractor requirements around demonstrating competency in routine tasks performed on-farm.

■ Bed and breakfast finisher units

For bed and breakfast finisher pig sites that have recently joined Red Tractor, a vet must have visited the site and completed a quarterly

veterinary review at least once before the pigs go to slaughter, even if the animals will not spend one whole quarter on the unit.

■ Pig assessor webinar

Red Tractor recently held a webinar for all assessors that conduct audits on RT pig farms to issue guidance on interpretation of certain standards, in the interest of improving consistency of audits.

More webinars are planned, some of which will be aimed at farmer members as well.



Meet Georgina Crayford, Pig and Poultry Scheme Technical Manager

George joined Red Tractor in February 2019 and is responsible for the day to day running of the pig and poultry schemes, working closely alongside the Technical Advisory Committees.

A former Nuffield Scholar with a PhD completed at the University of Liverpool on salmonella in pigs, George brings a wealth of experience to the role having previously worked at the National Pig Association and AHDB Pork.

In her time in the industry she has represented the pig industry on a variety of issues, specialising in pig health and welfare and has played a leading role in the sector's drive to reduce and refine antibiotic use in the pig sector.

Despite growing up in Kent George does not come from a farming background, but that hasn't stopped her becoming passionate about British food, farming and Red Tractor,

which she believes is vitally important to both the pig and poultry industries.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the NPA, gaining enormous satisfaction representing members' views in Westminster, in Brussels and to retailers – especially when we've succeeded in securing a win," George said.

"During my career I've been closely involved in working on tough issues such as dealing with animal rights activity and pressure on the industry's antibiotic use.

"My role is to work with farmers, colleagues and stakeholders to drive positive change from within Red Tractor, which I firmly believe is vitally important to the pig industry."

George is based at the Red Tractor office in London and can be contacted by telephone, 020 7630 3320 or email georgina.crayford@redtractor.org.uk



CHANGES TO PIG STANDARDS BEING INTRODUCED ON 1 OCTOBER

The wording of standard FW.d.3 regarding permitted maximum levels of copper in pig diets will be amended to reflect changes to EU legislation. It will now state:

- Diets must not exceed a maximum of 150mg total copper per kg feed for piglets up to four weeks post weaning
- A maximum of 100 mg total copper/kg for pigs between five to eight weeks post weaning
- A maximum of 25 mg total copper/kg feed for pigs over eight weeks post weaning.

Standard BI.a.3 requiring foot dips at all visitor entry points will be removed, but BI.a.2 will require that visitors are provided with farm-dedicated clothing/overalls/new disposable overalls and footwear or new robust overshoes, when entering biosecure areas.

Robust overshoes are made of a material that does not tear easily when walking on solid floor and should cover the whole of the shoe and ideally extend over the ankle.

With the continued spread of ASF internationally and swine dysentery domestically, good biosecurity is more important than ever to keep pathogens out of pig farms.

These changes will appear in the next version of the Pigs Standards, which will be available online from October.

