



BEEF AND LAMB

WHAT'S CHANGED AND WHY

VERSION 5

WHAT'S CHANGED?

We've reviewed our Farm Standards and these changes will apply from 1 November 2021. Our Technical Advisory Committee of farmers and industry experts, and Sector Board, approved these updates following a public consultation. The aim is to help you meet evolving supply chain demands and new legal requirements.

Here are the main changes and why we made them.

The Red Tractor Team



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STAFF

PL.1.1

Your business needs competent people who understand their role. New personnel must be introduced to the farm and have their tasks fully explained to them. The documented induction should also cover your Health and Safety policies (see below) and management reporting lines.

PL.5

Health and Safety is another key issue. By law, you must have a Health and Safety policy in writing if you have more than five employees. The new standard requires all farms with workers to have a written Health and Safety policy. All Red Tractor farms should have a simple, clear approach to managing Health and Safety which can be independently verified. Given farm fatality figures, this is an important area of focus.

HOUSING

HF.6.1

Tethering restricts normal animal behaviour, such as self-grooming and exercise. Following recommendations from the Farm Animal Welfare Council and EFSA, we will no longer allow tethering housing systems on our farms. In the short-term, we will offer derogations to the small number of members who tether their cattle. We want to find out how many farmers will be affected, why this practice is used and whether systems can be changed.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

Animal health and welfare is a core principle of Red Tractor. Efficient and meaningful health planning is built on generic management techniques to deliver continuous improvement through a proactive management system. An effective way to health plan is by setting targets and good planning then by monitoring and reviewing at the end of the cycle based on the results recorded throughout the year. The revisions are:

AH.1/
AH.1.1

We've reworded and re-ordered the standard and How You Will Be Measured. This now better reflects the fact that the health plan and health and performance (H&P) review are closely linked. The vet's annual H&P review should now document key issues and what actions to take to reduce or control them. In addition, the vet must sign, date and review the health plan every year.

AH.1.2

Disease control is vital to livestock health. Assessors will now ask what action you are taking to eradicate BVD in your herd. This must be documented in the health plan and implemented. For example, you may be in a national scheme or doing regular testing. This recommendation will become a full standard in October 2022.

AH.3

The industry's fragmented nature makes it hard for vets to get a clear picture of the medicines used on the farm. We want vets and farmers to have a closer working relationship. Your nominated vet must now visit the farm at least once a year to see the livestock. This will enable better oversight, flexibility and accountability to help protect the industry's reputation.

AH.6

How livestock is moved and handled is important for both welfare and industry reputation. Stress and poor handling also affects the quality of meat. We've also added a new appendix which sets out what is and is not acceptable in livestock handling.

MEDICINES

Human antibiotic resistance is a real problem so the agriculture industry must show that medicines are used responsibly.

AM 3.1

We know education is key. That's why we now require that at least one person has done recent (after October 2016) medicine training. This will increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of antimicrobial resistance and encourage consistent best practice across UK farms. It also supports Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance and Targets Task Force policy and helps deliver the UK's five-year antimicrobial resistance strategy.

AM.8

You must provide an annual collation of total antibiotics used on your farm. Your vet will use these records to advise you on how to use antibiotics responsibly without compromising welfare.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Reducing the pain caused by routine animal husbandry procedures is vital to maintaining farm animal welfare.

HP.1.1

With specific reference to calves, the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) recommends using analgesia. We know it isn't always possible to replace or reduce the need for some routine husbandry procedures on farms. However, animal welfare is a core Red Tractor principle, so we support the use of analgesia in cattle and sheep to manage pain in these circumstances. Cauterising paste can only be used on animals under one week of age and we now recommend that analgesia is used. We recommend analgesia in all cases.

ENVIRONMENT

Pollutants are a serious risk to the environment. We know that you already store agrochemicals as safely as possible.

EC.1

Our standard now requires that liquid feed spillages can be contained appropriately.

EC1.1

You must store organic manure properly. We've strengthened our existing requirements to cover temporary field heaps, effluent from manure heaps and capacity of slurry storage. You require a documented up-to-date calculation of your slurry storage requirements.

EC.3

We've also introduced a new standard to ensure that nitrogenous fertilisers are stored in a way that minimises the risk of theft.

CHECKLIST

This checklist shows at a glance what you need to do differently. It only covers the changes within each standard. It does not include those standards that have been revised for clarity. You should refer to the full standard to ensure you comply fully.

Record templates will be available before 1 November on:
www.redtractorassurance.org.uk

PL.1	Have you considered what to cover in your new starter induction?	Yes	No	N/A
PL.5	Do you have a Health and Safety policy in place? Can you demonstrate that you have effectively communicated it to your workers?	Yes	No	N/A
TI.4	If other farm assured members are transporting your stock have you completed a declaration?	Yes	No	N/A
VC.1	Has a site survey been completed at least annually while the stock are housed or feed storage areas in use?	Yes	No	N/A
HF.6.1	Have you applied for the derogation to allow you to carry on using a tethered housing system?	Yes	No	N/A
AH.1	Has your vet reviewed, signed and dated the health plan?	Yes	No	N/A
FW.1.1	Has the colostrum policy been documented in the Health Plan?	Yes	No	N/A
AH.3	Has your nominated vet/vet practice visited the farm at least once in the past year?	Yes	No	N/A
AH.1.2	Does the Health Plan detail how BVD is managed?	Yes	No	N/A
AH.6	Have you read and understood Red Tractor's appendix defining unacceptable behavior with regards to livestock handling?	Yes	No	N/A
AM.3.1	Does at least one person who is responsible for administering medicines have a certificate of competence/attendance from training undertaken since October 2016?	Yes	No	N/A
AM.8	Have you collated all the antibiotics used on the farm in the past year?	Yes	No	N/A
EC.1	Does your agrochemical store allow for containment of any spillages?	Yes	No	N/A
EC.1.1	Have you got an up-to-date calculation of your slurry storage requirements?	Yes	No	N/A
EC.3	Are your nitrogen-based fertilisers stored in a way that reduces the risk of theft?	Yes	No	N/A