



# TURKEY STANDARDS

## 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.

These updates have been approved by our Technical Advisory Committee of farmers and industry experts, and Sector Board, following a public consultation. They will help you meet evolving supply chain demands and new legal requirements.

Find out about the main changes and why we made them in the summary below. The checklist at the end of this document covers all changes and everything a member needs to do differently from November.

#### The Red Tractor Team



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## DOCUMENTS AND PROCEDURES

**Red Tractor's reputation is built on traceable, safe food production that has been farmed with care. Maintaining our reputation is crucial to everyone.**

**DP.1.1**

All turkey farms must now have a farm location reference on their maps, either OS map or What3Words reference, to ensure that the farm can be located easily in the event of an emergency.

**DP.2**

In line with a new standard requiring that farms must be capable of implementing a compulsory housing order (BI.14), additional criteria on welfare planning for housing free range flocks has been added to the avian influenza contingency plan.

## STAFF AND LABOUR

**Your business must have competent people who can do farm tasks properly. We want to help you equip your staff with the skills and knowledge they need.**

**PL.3.1**

The British Poultry Passport is a world leading initiative to provide training and improve professionalism within the industry. Revisions to the standard aim to improve its impact by requiring that all new staff must enrol for the poultry passport within six months of starting their job. Staff who are in the process of obtaining their qualifications must complete at least two modules every 12 months.

**PL.4**

To protect members and workers all labour providers must be licensed as required by law (except where a valid exemption applies). A documented agreement must be in place. This will protect the reputation of members and ensure worker welfare is safeguarded.

**Health and Safety is another key issue.**

**PL.5**

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 which should contain a simple, clear approach to managing Health and Safety which can be independently verified. Given farm injury and fatality figures, this is an important area of focus.

## HOUSING, SHELTER AND HANDLING

**Delivering a safe, comfortable, and hygienic environment for birds is essential on all Red Tractor farms. The revisions across our turkey standards will improve the impact that they have on the outcome for birds.**

HF.2.2

Heat stress continues to be a significant challenge during hot weather. Your heat stress policy must now be demonstrably implemented on the farm. It must be reviewed if there are any bird losses due to heat or cold stress.

HF.5

Adequate lighting on all units is a customer expectation. Once per crop, the lux level in all bird housing must be measured and recorded at bird head height across 80% of the building.

## FEED AND WATER

**Making sure that birds receive a daily diet sufficient to maintain full health is a key objective of Red Tractor standards.**

FW.3

You will now need to monitor the water consumption on your unit and provide a ratio of turkeys : nipple drinkers. This not only demonstrates an adequate water provision but also monitors the health and welfare of the birds.

## HEALTH AND WELFARE

**You will already proactively manage your bird health and welfare through regular planning and reviewing activities. We have revised some key standards in this area.**

AH.2

To ensure that culls at the hatchery are being monitored and address any issues that present themselves you will need to record daily culls.

AH.10.3

We are strengthening our standards on Mycoplasma testing for breeder layers. Testing is in line with the poultry health scheme and a testing record for *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, *Mycoplasma synoviae* and *Mycoplasma Meleagridis* must be retained to ensure bird welfare and the prevention of disease.

## HATCHERY EGGS

**Our standards ensure that hatchery eggs are fit for purpose.**

HC.2

We are aiming to improve health and welfare in hatcheries by avoiding setting eggs from parent flocks who have tested positive from *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, *Mycoplasma Meleagridis* and/or *Mycoplasma synoviae*. If it is unavoidable to set the eggs, then a documented Mycoplasma containment plan must be implemented, which covers a range of parameters to safeguard the welfare of the progeny, parent stock and planned depletion to contain the spread of disease.

HC.12

All vehicles carrying poult must be able to control ventilation to improve welfare in transport.

## BIOSECURITY AND DISEASE CONTROL

**Effective biosecurity measures are essential to prevent the spread of disease and protect food safety and bird health. We are providing extra clarity in this area to strengthen biosecurity.**

BI.2

Access to the farm must be limited to essential visitors only and visitor records must be kept. We have provided clarity on what these records must include.

BI.3

To bring it into line with standards for other poultry species the range area for fixed housing must now have a clearly defined perimeter fence. It can be on the farm map but must ensure that multi-age sites don't mix on the range and be secure enough to stop predation from foxes, etc.

BI.4

Controls on access to all Red Tractor poultry sites must be in place and the risk of disease spread by vehicles must be minimised. Visiting vehicles must now have their wheels cleaned and disinfected if entering the general biosecure area, otherwise parking should always be off-site, unless road safety necessitates parking on site.

BI.7

Hand cleanliness is crucial to disease control. Hands must be washed or sanitised prior to starting work, after handling deadstock, before and after meals and after visits to the toilet.

BI.14

There is a new requirement to implement a compulsory housing order on the day of issue.

BI.14.1

We are recommending that farms only rear a single poultry species at any one time due to the increased challenge of cross contamination.

## MEDICINES AND HUSBANDRY

**Responsible and competent use of medicines and veterinary treatments is the bedrock of good animal welfare across all Red Tractor poultry species.**

**AM.2**

Expired medicines and open medicines not used within specified timescale (in-use shelf life) must not be used. It is illegal to administer expired medicines and medicines past their in-use shelf life may well have compromised efficacy.

**AM.4**

Incorrect storage of medicines can represent a health and safety risk and their efficacy can be affected. Medicines must not be stored in the same fridge as food and drink, plus a temperature check must be carried out and recorded at least once a week whenever medicines are stored.

**AM.6**

Records must be kept of all administered veterinary medicines. We have extended this to cover the length of withdrawal period for eggs, as they can sometimes go into the food supply chain.

**AM.8.1**

Most units will be familiar with our standard that does not allow for the prophylactic administration of antibiotics. The industry is committed to responsible antibiotic use on farm and as such we have extended this to be applicable to breeder replacement and layer units.

**AM.9.1**

Use of macrolides and fluroquinolones are only used as a last resort, under veterinary direction, on most Red Tractor poultry units already. We are extending this requirement to be applicable on breeder replacement and layer units.

## FALLEN STOCK

**Protecting Red Tractors reputation is vital. Activists have been known to go to extraordinary lengths to create images that alarm consumers.**

**FS.2**

Hatchery waste must now always be placed in a container that is locked, or only accessible to removal services and not general waste areas, while culled birds on farm must be stored in a locked container or locked room. For clarity a locked room means an area with four walls and a roof.

# THE ENVIRONMENT

**Pollutants present a serious risk to the environment. We know that you are already storing agrochemicals in a manner that minimizes the risk of contamination and pollution to crops, feedstuffs, animals, soils, groundwater and watercourses. There are revisions which are largely only applicable to those members who are growing their own feed for assured birds or spreading poultry muck on their own land. Plant protection product standards will still apply to those farms controlling vegetation around poultry houses and ranges.**

**EC.1**

A slight revision of our standards will ensure that any spillages of agrochemicals and potential pollutants can be contained appropriately.

**EC.1.1**

Looking after your organic manure is a key part of looking after the environment. Existing requirements have been strengthened to cover temporary field heaps and effluent from manure heaps.

**EC.1.2**

There is a lot of consumer interest and pressure to minimise waste, particularly of plastic. Aimed at minimising waste, farms must now consider opportunities to reuse, recycle and reduce waste.

# CHECKLIST

GF	Grower
BL	Breeder Layers
BR	Breeder Replacement

FR	Free Range
H	Hatchery

<b>DP.1</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Does the farm or hatchery present an acceptable and tidy appearance to the public?	Yes	No	
<b>DPI.1</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Do you have a farm locator reference, either an OS reference, or What3Words reference, on your farm map?	Yes	No	
<b>DP.2</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Have you considered and documented any risks that are uniquely specific to your site, in your contingency /emergency plan?	Yes	No	N/A
	FR	Does your AI contingency plan provide details of how to accommodate free range birds as housed without compromising their welfare?	Yes	No	
<b>PL.3</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Is implementation of refresher training (where required) recorded on training record?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>PL.3.1</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Are all staff enrolled to the Poultry Passport within six months of starting their position? If so, are they progressing through training at a rate of two modules every 12 months? Are all courses in date?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>PL.4</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Are labour providers used? Are they licensed, and do you have a documented agreement in place?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>PL.5</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Do you have a Health and Safety policy in place? Can you demonstrate that you have effectively communicated it to your workers?	Yes	No	
<b>TI.1</b>	GF, BL, FR, H	Can you demonstrate through on-farm paperwork that incoming poult/eggs are RTA? And that catching and transport is also RTA?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>VC.1</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Are you undertaking site surveys for vermin activity on at least a quarterly basis?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>HF.5</b>	GF, FR, BR, BL	Are you measuring and recording lighting intensity at bird eye level and illuminating at least 80% of the useable area at least once per crop? Do you have your lux reduction review in place if you need to lower the light levels below 10 lux?	Yes	No	
<b>FW.3</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR	If using nipple drinkers, are you providing the correct ratio to the number of birds at the right ages?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>AH.1</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR	Is your health plan prepared and reviewed by the vet that has overall responsibility for the care of the animals?	Yes	No	

<b>AH.2</b>	H	Are you recording daily culls in hatcheries?	Yes	No
<b>AH.4.1</b>	GF, FR	Do you have one pecking object for every 500 birds?	Yes	No
<b>AH.10.3</b>	BL	Do you have flock Mycoplasma gallisepticum, Mycoplasma synoviae and Mycoplasma Meleagridis testing records? Are birds being tested at the prescribed intervals? Are these results being retained for five years and communicated to the hatchery?	Yes	No
<b>HC.2</b>	H	Have you received the flock testing records of Mycoplasma gallisepticum, Mycoplasma synoviae and Mycoplasma Meleagridis from the breeder flocks for all incoming eggs? Do you have your Mycoplasma containment plan in place if setting of eggs from positive flocks is unavoidable?	Yes	No
<b>HC.12</b>	H	Can all vehicles carrying poult and eggs control ventilation?	Yes	No
<b>BI.1</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Do you have a farm or hatchery specific biosecurity policy and is it being implemented?	Yes	No
<b>BI.2</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Have you updated your visitor records to ensure you are collecting all the required information?	Yes	No
<b>BI.3</b>	FR	Is the range fence for fixed housing clearly defined?	Yes	No
<b>BI.4</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Is there off-site parking for staff and visitors? If not, do you have facilities to wash and disinfect the wheels of all vehicles entering the general biosecure area?	Yes	No
<b>BI.10</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Do you ensure that staff, including employed and contracted staff, do not keep poultry or any other avian species?	Yes	No
<b>BI.14</b>	FR	Can you implement a compulsory housing order on the day of an issue?	Yes	No
<b>B.14.1 (Rec)</b>	FR	Are you only rearing a single species at a time?	Yes	No
<b>AM.1</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Do you have an approved medicines list covering all categories listed in the standards?	Yes	No
<b>AM.2</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Expired medicines and open medicines not used within specified timescale are not being used.	Yes	No
<b>AM.4</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Medicines are not stored in the same fridge as food and drink. A temperature check is being carried out, and recorded, at least once a week whenever medicines are stored.	Yes	No
<b>AM.6</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Are you keeping records of all administered veterinary medicines which include the length of withdrawal period for both meat and eggs (where applicable)?	Yes	No
<b>AM.7</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Have you ensured that expired and unusable medicines awaiting disposal are stored separately to in-use medicines?	Yes	No

<b>AM.8.I</b>	BL, BR	There is no prophylactic administration of antibiotics.	Yes	No	
<b>AM.9.I</b>	BL, BR	Use of macrolides and fluroquinolones are only used as a last resort.	Yes	No	
<b>FS.2</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Have you ensured that carcases are stored in a locked container or locked room (a room must have four walls and a ceiling)?	Yes	No	
	H	Have you ensured that IMD and other hatchery waste is stored in locked containers or containers which are accessible only to removal services and not in general waste?	Yes	No	
<b>EC.1</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Can any pollutant spills be fully contained?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>EC.1.I</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Is your organic manure stored in a manner that minimises the risk of contamination and pollution?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>EC.2</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Are you aware of how to store any potential pollutants if their packaging breaks?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>EC.4</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Are your plant protection products appropriate for their intended use?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>EC.4.I</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Are your PPPs mixed/ handled in a manner that minimises the risk of contamination and pollution?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>EC.5</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Are you complying with any buffer zone requirements of the PPP being applied?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>EC.7</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Is all your PPP application equipment maintained and tested and do you have the relevant certificates and/or calibration records?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>EC.8</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Do your PPP application records include all of the relevant information?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>EC.8.I</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Do you have an Integrated Pest Management plan if using PPPs on homegrown crops?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>EC.9</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Are your biosolids assured under the Biosolids Assurance Scheme?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>EC.10</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Do you have the calibration records for your manufactured fertiliser application equipment?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>EC.11</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Do your waste transfer notes include the Waste Carrier name and registration number?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>EC.12</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Do you have systems in place to manage waste responsibly?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>EC.11</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Do your waste transfer notes include the Waste Carrier name and registration number?	Yes	No	N/A
<b>EC.12</b>	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Do you have systems in place to manage waste responsibly?	Yes	No	