



DUCK 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 duck 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 (Bl.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 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. We have revised several standards across our duck standards to 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.

HF.5.5

The installation of windows in poultry sheds satisfies customer and consumer expectations of how birds should be reared. It is recommended that ducks are provided with natural daylight via the provision of windows at 3% equivalency of the floor area.

HF.5.1

Evidence shows that transitions between light and dark over a 30-minute period reduces fearfulness in ducks. As such we have introduced a dawn/dusk transition period within the lighting schedule requirements.

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 need to meet the ducks:nipple ratio stipulated in the standards if you are using nipple drinkers.

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.7.1

Aligning all Red Tractor poultry standards, there is a new requirement for a named welfare officer to coordinate welfare at the hatchery and on the farm. Their name and contact number must be displayed on farm/in the hatchery. There are specific areas of responsibility for the welfare officer, such as monitoring welfare policies and procedures.

HATCHERY EGGS

Our standards ensure that hatchery eggs are fit for purpose. We are bringing some duck standards in line with the standards for other poultry species.

HC.12

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

HC.14

Injured or sick ducklings must not be transported, they should be humanely culled immediately as required by law.

HC.15

In line with legislation the time between hatch and unloading at the farm must not exceed 72 hours.

HC.16

Ducklings must be placed in clean, dry, ventilated containers that ensures contamination and disease is minimised and that temperature and air flow in transport is optimal.

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

The range area for fixed housing must now have a clearly defined perimeter fence, bringing it into line with standards for other poultry species. It can be on the farm map but must ensure that multi-age sites don't mix on the range and it must 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 on 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 apply to breeder replacement and layer units.

FALLEN STOCK

Protecting Red Tractor's 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 minimises 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.12

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.

DEPOPULATION

During depopulation, the health and welfare of birds and site biosecurity is at risk.

DE.5

There must be a system in place for a designated person to inspect forklifts and other catching equipment, including catchers' transport, for cleanliness prior to entry to the biosecure area. This now applies to catching frames that are not site specific which are to be cleaned and disinfected before arrival onto the farm.

DE.31

Water must be provided for layer birds up to transfer and must be available in the destination house prior to unloading the birds.

CHECKLIST

GF	Grower	FR	Free Range
BL	Breeder Layers	H	Hatchery
BR	Breeder Replacement		

DP.1	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Does the farm or hatchery present an acceptable and tidy appearance to the public?	Yes	No	
DPI.1	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	
DP.2	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	
PL.3	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Is implementation of refresher training (where required) recorded on training record?	Yes	No	N/A
PL.3.1	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Are all staff enrolled to the Poultry Passport within 6 months of starting their position? If so, are they progressing through training at a rate of 2 modules every 12 months? Are all course in date?	Yes	No	N/A
PL.4	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
PL.5	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	
TI.1	GF, BL, FR, H	Can you demonstrate through on-farm paperwork that incoming ducklings/ eggs are RTA? And that catching and transport is also RTA?	Yes	No	
VC.1	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Are you undertaking site surveys for vermin activity on at least a quarterly basis?	Yes	No	
HF.5	GF, FR, BL, BR	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?	Yes	No	
HF.5.1	GF, FR, BR, BL	Are you making sure the transition period between light and dark occurs over 30 mins?	Yes	No	
HF.5.5 (Rec)	GF, FR	Do your buildings have windows at 3% of the equivalent floor area?	Yes	No	N/A
FW.3	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

AH.1	H	Is your health plan prepared and reviewed by the vet that has overall responsibility for the care of the animals?	Yes	No	
AH.2	GF, FR	Are you recording daily culls in hatcheries?	Yes	No	
AH.4.1	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Are you familiar with the guidance to ensure that birds have adequate access to bathing water?	Yes	No	N/A
AH.7.1	H	Do you have a named welfare officer? Are their details displayed on farm/in the hatchery?	Yes	No	
HC.12	H	Can all vehicles carrying ducklings and eggs control ventilation?	Yes	No	
HC.14	H	Are Injured/sick ducklings not transported? Are they humanely culled in line with legislation?	Yes	No	
HC.15	H	Do you have policies in place to ensure that the time between hatch and unloading at the farm does not exceed 72 hours?	Yes	No	
HC.16	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Are ducklings always placed in clean, dry, ventilated containers?	Yes	No	
BI.1	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Do you have a farm or hatchery specific biosecurity policy and is it being implemented?	Yes	No	
BI.2	FR	Have up updated your visitor records to ensure you are collecting all the required information?	Yes	No	
BI.3	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Is the range fence for fixed housing clearly defined?	Yes	No	
BI.4	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	
BI.10	FR	Do you ensure that staff, including employed and contracted staff, do not keep poultry or any other avian species?	Yes	No	
BI.14	FR	Can you implement a compulsory housing order on the day of an issue?	Yes	No	
B.14.1 (Rec)	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Are you only rearing a single species at a time?	Yes	No	N/A
AM.1	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Do you have an approve medicines list covering all categories listed in the standards?	Yes	No	

AM.2	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Expired medicines and open medicines not used within specified timescale are not being used.	Yes	No	
AM.4	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	
AM.6	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	
AM.7	BL, BR	Have you ensured that expired and unusable medicines awaiting disposal are stored separately to in-use medicines?	Yes	No	
AM.8.1	BL, BR	There is no prophylactic administration of antibiotics.	Yes	No	
AM.9.1	BL, BR	Use of macrolides and fluoroquinolones are only used as a last resort.	Yes	No	
FS.2	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Have you ensured that carcasses 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	
EC.1	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Can any pollutant spills be fully contained?	Yes	No	N/A
EC.1.1	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
EC.2	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Are you aware of how to store any potential pollutants if their packaging breaks?	Yes	No	N/A
EC.4	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Are your plant protection products appropriate for their intended use?	Yes	No	N/A
EC.4.1	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Are your PPPs are mixed/ handled in a manner that minimises the risk of contamination and pollution?	Yes	No	N/A
EC.5	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Are you complying with any buffer zone requirements of the PPP being applied?	Yes	No	N/A
EC.7	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
EC.8	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Do your PPP application records include all of the relevant information?	Yes	No	N/A

EC.8.1	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Do you have an Integrated Pest Management plan if using PPPs on homegrown crops?	Yes	No	N/A
EC.9	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Are your biosolids assured under the Biosolids Assurance Scheme?	Yes	No	N/A
EC.10	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Do you have the calibration records for your manufactured fertilizer application equipment?	Yes	No	N/A
EC.11	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Do your waste transfer notes include the Waste Carrier name and registration number?	Yes	No	N/A
EC.12	GF, BL, BR, FR, H	Do you have systems in place to manage waste responsibly?	Yes	No	
DE.3.1	BL, BR	Is water being provided up to transfer and it is able in the destination house prior to unloading?	Yes	No	
DE.5	GF, BL, BR, FR	Are catching frames, that are not site specific, cleaned and disinfected before arrival onto the farm?	Yes	No	N/A