

Summary of October 2017 Standards

We have outlined below some of the key areas strengthened. Not every change is listed here, however there is a checklist detailing all the changes available online at: <http://assurance.redtractor.org.uk/tools-and-library>.

The full version of the standards can be found [here](#).

PIGS

Responsible use of medicines

In addition to the new e-MB requirement vets are required to sign a quarterly declaration to confirm they are prescribing antibiotics in accordance with the PVS Prescribing Principles for Antimicrobials. Class 3 antibiotic use must be justified in the veterinary health plan.

Notching

Routine multiple ear notching is not allowed and the practice can only be used as a last resort in pedigree breeding where pig colouring prevents tattooing and only with recommendation from a vet.

Imported stock and semen testing

Imported stock and semen must be tested in line with the NPA's imports protocols for non-statutory diseases and a statement signed by a vet.

Biosecurity

The farm's biosecure areas must be defined on a map and all visitor entry points must have disinfectant foot dips or boot cleaners. Staff and visitors must wear clean clothes and footwear in biosecure areas of the farm.

Supplementary rearing accommodation

If a piglet has to be removed from the sow for its own welfare at earlier than 21 days, a vet must confirm that the management of any supplementary rearing accommodation is satisfactory.

Feed and water

An action plan needs to be created for dealing with unweaned piglets over two weeks of age where the sow's milk may not satisfy the piglets' water needs where water is not continuously available. In growing and finishing units, drinkers integral to a wet and dry feeding system are not counted as a separate water source. Non-mains water must be independently tested every year.

Environment

The environmental protection section has no significant changes but is now more appropriate for livestock farmers and has been divided in to two areas; the responsible use of agri-chemicals and nutrient management.

Farm map

A map should show the unit's buildings, fields, watercourses and high pollution risk areas.

Rodenticide use

Permanent baiting must not be routinely undertaken and baits can only be sited where evidence shows they are being continuously effective. A site survey and risk assessment of watercourses and populations of non-target species should also be carried out and recorded before treatment. This ensures assured farmers can buy professional rodenticides without further proof of competence.