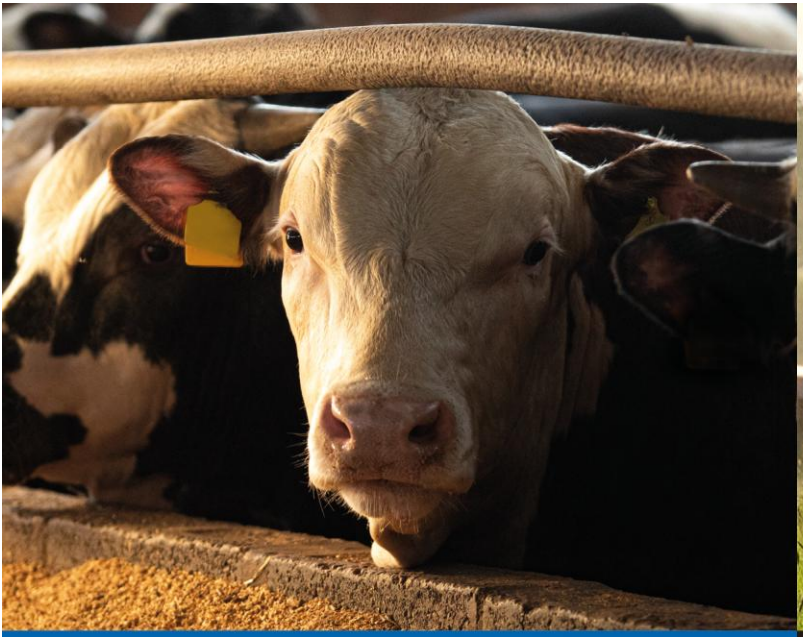





Beef & Lamb
Dairy
Goat

Consultation on proposed standards

September 2026

Introduction

Dear stakeholder

Over recent months, Red Tractor's Board and Sector Boards have been listening carefully to farmers and the wider industry about what you need from Red Tractor. One message has come through clearly: standards need to be robust, but they must also be practical, proportionate and reflect the realities of farming today.

We are listening, and this review is an important opportunity to make sure your experience, and views help shape what comes next.

Technical Advisory Committees and Sector Boards have been working through the standards line by line, challenging every requirement: does it need to be there, is it clear, can it be justified, and does it reflect how farms actually work? This work has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of requirements, around a third for Beef & Lamb and almost a quarter for Dairy. That means fewer individual points to assess, while maintaining the same robust standards and credibility of assurance.

The proposed new standards for Beef & Lamb and Dairy are now open for consultation, and we want to hear from you.

You will work with these standards every day. You know what will work, what could be clearer and where unnecessary complexity can be removed. That insight is invaluable.

Your standards. Your say.

This document sets out the proposed changes, which are also summarised on the Red Tractor website at redtractor.org.uk/bld-consultation. **All feedback must be submitted via the consultation portal, accessible via this link.** You'll find the questions asked on the portal below.

You can comment on as many sections as you like. You can also save your feedback and return to complete the survey later. There's an option to give general feedback at the end.

The consultation closes on 3 November 2026.

We know that listening only matters if it leads to action. Every response will help inform the next stage of the review and the decisions we make about the future standards. Thank you for taking the time to have your say, and for being part of Red Tractor.

Best wishes,



Alistair Mackintosh
Chair, Red Tractor

Scan the QR code to have your say

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How the proposals are presented

The proposals are presented in16 sections, one for each area of the standards, each with a set of questions for you to consider. You do not have to complete every section. Go to the areas that matter to your enterprise and skip the rest. If a section only applies to dairy, for example, and you run a beef unit, you are welcome to move past it.

What you'll find in each section

Every section follows the same order:

- Aim – why the standards in this area exist and what they are there to protect
- Summary of proposed changes – a short overview of what is changing, and why
- Proposed standards – the full detail, set out in tables
- Your feedback – the questions we would like you to answer

Reading the tables

The proposed standards are set out in tables. Each table sets out one row per standard or audit point. The columns tell you:

- Standard and Audit point – the reference code, so you can quote it in your feedback
- Sector – which enterprises the requirement applies to
- Documents required – the record or document an assessor would ask to see
- Template available – (T) means Red Tractor provides a template you can use
- Regulatory / legal requirement – (L) means this is already required by law
- Standard / audit point status – what is happening to this requirement

Where a column does not apply to a particular row, it shows N/A.

What the status labels mean

- New - a requirement that does not exist in the current standards
- Revised - the requirement itself has changed
- Upgraded - the requirement now carries more weight, such as a recommendation becoming a full standard
- Editorial change - the wording has been clarified, with no change to what is required
- Moved - the same requirement, relocated to a different section
- Retained - no change

Two types of question

Each section asks for feedback in two ways:

- Specific feedback – on a particular proposed change we would especially like your view on
- Overarching feedback – on the section as a whole, and anything else you want to raise

Both are optional, and every scored question has a free-text box beneath it. The comments are as valuable to us as the ratings.

Understanding what's required

Standards, audit points and recommendations set different levels of requirements.

- Standards: Detail the requirements that Red Tractor members must demonstrate. All standards must be met.
- Key Standards: A standard of elevated or particular significance. A major non-conformance raised against a Key Standard (indicating total disregard for the requirements) will result in a suspension of certification until the non-conformance has been addressed or can be legitimately downgraded to a minor non-conformance, allowing 28 days for corrective action. Donated by (Key) alongside the Standard reference e.g. XX.1 (Key)
- Audit Points: Provide additional detail about how the Standard will be assessed. Annotated by a lower-case letter following the Standard reference e.g. XX.1.a
- Recommendations: Provide guidance on best practice and are assessed to aid industry knowledge and understanding, but do not require compliance. Recommendations do not pre-empt future standards. Some recommendations have remained recommendations since the scheme began.

Unless otherwise stated, the number coding of Standards and Audit Points is consistent with that in version 5 of the Standards. Coding may be modified in final standards.

How to give feedback

Only feedback submitted via the consultation portal on Red Tractor's website can be considered.

Visit: redtractor.org.uk/bld-consultation or scan the QR code below.

- Your answers save as you go, and Save and continue later at the foot of each page lets you return and finish another time
- On a phone or tablet, the tables scroll sideways so you can see all the columns
- If you have a question about the consultation, contact enquiries@redtractor.org.uk

The consultation closes at midnight on 3 November 2026.

Scan the QR code to have your say

Proposed changes to standards

Documents and Procedures (DP)

Aim

To enable farmers to give assurance to customers and consumers that effective records and procedures are in place to manage issues relating to food safety, animal welfare and farm management.
Producers record and respond to complaints where relevant, supporting traceability, accountability and continuous improvement on the farm.

Summary of proposed changes:

These requirements have been moved out of Documents and Procedures (DP) into a new section to better reflect the requirements and align with devolved nations. Additional wording has been added to provide clarity on why external areas should be kept clear, including to ensure animal health and food safety and prevent vermin. Ensuring livestock are separated from hazardous materials has also been upgraded to a standard as this sits outside of farm appearance and is a distinct issue.

Changes in detail

- DP 1.1 and DP.1.1.a were merged into a standard
- DP.1.b was made a standard for greater emphasis

Proposed Standards

Farm Maps

A map of the farm is needed to ensure clear ownership and responsibilities for farm management, along with identifying specific risks that may need to be considered.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
DP.2		A farm map must be present and detail: – all buildings – all fields, including area (hectares/acres) To identify areas of specific risk which includes: – watercourses including ditches and ponds – boreholes, springs and wells, including any on neighbouring land, within 50m of the boundary – any areas of high pollution risk	Goat Cattle Sheep	Farm map	L	Retained

proposals

GUIDANCE:

One or more maps may be used. Map may be held as a hard copy or as electronic documents.

Include all land you farm and manage, whether owned or rented, including long-term lets and grazing agreements, if you are responsible for inputs or environmental management.

Do not include land where you have no control over how it is farmed.

Emergency Procedures

Livestock farms operate in environments where events outside normal day-to-day control can arise quickly and have serious consequences. A clear, documented contingency plan helps ensure that appropriate actions can be taken promptly and consistently.

The standard has been updated to reflect the increased reliance on mobile phones to access contact information.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
DP.3		The persons with primary responsibility for the daily running of the farm must have details of emergency contacts (electronic or paper based) and ensure that relevant personnel have access to them. The required contacts are: • Vet • Electricity supplier • Environment Agency (or equivalent) • Secondary contact and, • if appropriate, feed and water suppliers	Goat Cattle Sheep	Emergency contacts (T)	L	Revised
	DP.3.a	A documented plan which is accessible to all staff of the actions to be taken in the event of: • extreme weather for animal welfare and access to farm for milk collection (drought, flooding, snow) • power cuts that could impact milking or milk cooling • pollution incident e.g. slurry spillages or leaks • loss of assurance • non collection of milk	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific	Emergency plan (T)	L	Revised

proposals

		• malicious activity e.g. activists or cyber attacks • absence of person with primary responsibility				

GUIDANCE:
Livestock farms operate in environments where events outside normal day-to-day control can arise quickly and have serious consequences for animal welfare, milk quality, environmental protection and business continuity. A clear, documented contingency plan helps ensure that appropriate actions can be taken promptly and consistently when unexpected situations occur.

Making the plan accessible to all staff ensures that responsibilities and actions are understood, even when key individuals are unavailable or when decisions need to be taken urgently.

Complaints Record

A record of complaints will enable the farmer and assessor to identify any persistent issues that need to be resolved. This is a requirement for earned recognition for food and feed hygiene with the Food Standards Agency.

This standard has been reworded, and the standard and audit point merged, to better reflect when a record should be kept.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
DP.4		In the event of a complaint which is relevant to Red Tractor standards a complaints/sample record must be completed which includes: • complaint • investigation result • action taken to prevent/stop the issue happening again	Goat Cattle Sheep	Complaints record (T)	L	Editorial Change

GUIDANCE:

Record complaints made by a local authority, general public, customers (e.g. abattoir feedback) or other. Complaints include, but are not limited to, medicine residue levels; milk test fails; dirty stock; welfare; and environmental issues.

Antibiotic Fails

Antibiotic residues can cause antibiotic resistance which makes it harder to treat bacterial diseases in humans and animals, presenting a significant health threat. This standard has been updated to require all antibiotics fails to have an industry investigation form and training for repeat fails.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
DP.5		All antibiotic milk test fails must be reported to the nominated vet within 1	Dairy Specific		L	Revised

Proposals

		week of the farmer being made aware and evidenced to Red Tractor	Dairy Goat Specific			
	DP.5.a	The failure is recorded in the complaints record	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific	Complaints record (T)		Retained
	DP.5.b	The industry investigation form is completed and signed by the vet within 28 days; includes recommendations to prevent the issue happening again	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific	Industry investigation form (T)		Revised
	DP.5.c	If there are two or more antibiotic fails within an 18-month rolling period, approved medicine training is undertaken by relevant persons	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific			Revised
GUIDANCE: For more information about best practice to prevent medicine residues in milk, visit the RUMA website: https://www.ruma.org.uk/avoiding-milk-antibiotic-residues/						

Give feedback

Specific feedback: Emergency Procedures, Beef & Lamb – Regarding DP.3. emergency plans, do you agree with the changes that have been proposed for Beef & lamb to take into account the demographic of the sector typically being family farms and the diverse nature of the sector?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific feedback: Emergency Procedures, Dairy – Regarding DP.3 emergency plans, do you agree with the changes that have been proposed for Dairy requiring an emergency plan specific to issues that could impact milk production?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific feedback: Antibiotic Fails – Regarding DP.5, do you agree that an industry investigation form should be completed for every antibiotic fail and that anyone with two or more fails in a rolling 18-month period should retake medicines training?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

proposals

Overarching feedback: Documents and Procedures – Which of the following best describes your view of the proposed Documents and Procedures standards?
Please also share any other comments.

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Share feedback at
redtractor.org.uk/bld-consultation

Farm Appearance (FA)

Aim

A well-maintained farm helps to uphold confidence in farming standards, and decreases risks related to animal welfare, staff safety and the reputation the British farming industry.

Summary of proposed changes

These requirements have been moved out of Documents and Procedures (DP) into a new section to better reflect the requirements and align with devolved nations. Additional wording has been added to provide clarity on why external areas should be kept clear, including to ensure animal health and food safety and prevent vermin. Ensuring livestock are separated from hazardous materials has also been upgraded to a standard as this sits outside of farm appearance and is a distinct issue.

Changes in detail

- DP 1.1 and DP.1.1.a were merged into a standard
- DP.1.b was made a standard for greater emphasis

Proposed Standards

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
FA.1 (was DP.1)		The farm, as a whole, must present an acceptable and tidy appearance to the general public. The site management must not present a food safety, animal welfare or environmental risk.	Cattle Sheep Goat			Moved
	FA.1.a	The external areas around buildings and farm entrances are kept clear of rubbish, non-essential equipment and other debris to ensure animal health and food safety and prevent vermin harbourage.	Cattle Sheep Goat			Moved Editorial change
FA.1.1 (was DP.1.b)		Livestock must be kept separate from dangerous or hazardous materials which may cause injury or harm e.g. loose wire/net, silage wrap and scrap machinery/ jagged metal.	Cattle Sheep Goat			Editorial Change

proposals

GUIDANCE:
Any waste awaiting collection or disposal is stored appropriately i.e. in a dedicated area away from livestock. Old machinery, tyres, wire and silage wrap are stored neatly. External areas around buildings should be kept clear to discourage vermin.

Give feedback

Overarching feedback: Farm Appearance – To what extent do you agree with the proposals for Farm Appearance, and do you have anything else to add?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Share feedback at
redtractor.org.uk/bld-consultation

Animal Traceability (TI)

Aim

To maintain consumer confidence and the reputation of British food and farming through credible claims about the origins and traceability of Red Tractor assured produce, from farms to pack. These requirements also provide assurance that produce meets UK legislation in relation to animal identification and movement records.

Summary of proposed changes

There are minimal changes proposed in this section. Two standards and two audit points have been removed, improving the auditability of the standards and removing unnecessary requirements. Other changes are minor editorial improvements.

Changes in detail

- TI.3 and TI.3.b were removed
- TI.5.a was merged into a standard
- TI.4.1 was removed as it was felt unnecessary until lifetime assurance can be implemented

Proposed Standards

Traceability is fundamental to maintaining consumer confidence and the reputation of assurance schemes and the wider industry. Farmers must be able to demonstrate that products are fully traceable to their origin. Reliable identification and movement records support accountability and a timely response to potential risks.

Producers should ensure systems are in place to identify animals and record movements in accordance with current UK legislation. While robust traceability remains the immediate priority, Red Tractor's longer-term ambition is to support a framework that could enable lifetime assurance, when the necessary industry infrastructure, data integrity and market conditions are in place.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
TI.1 (Key)		Cattle must be identified in accordance with legislation.	Cattle		L	Retained
	TI.1.a	Calves are double tagged within 20 days of birth (in the case of a dairy herd the first tag within 36 hours of birth).	Cattle		L	Retained
	TI.1.b	Imported livestock are tagged and recorded in accordance with legislation.	Cattle		L	Retained
TI.2 (Key)		Sheep and goats must be identified in accordance with legislation.	Goat Sheep		L	Retained
TI.3 (Key)		Records of cattle movements must be accurately kept to maintain traceability.	Cattle	Cattle movement records	L	Retained
	TI.3.a	A holding register is kept for the cattle, which can be paper/computer based or a combination of both detailing births, deaths and movements.	Cattle	Holding register	L	Retained
GUIDANCE: This register should be farm specific and cannot be held only in the relevant national database unless in Northern Ireland.						
	TI.3.b	The national database is notified within the required timeframe: - within 27 days of birth - 7 days of death - 3 days of movement	Cattle		L	Retained
	TI.3.c	Passports or proof of application are available for all cattle on site.	Cattle	Cattle passports	L	Retained
TI.4 (Key)		Records of sheep and goat movements must be accurately kept to maintain traceability.	Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	TI.4.a	A holding register which can be paper or computer based or a combination of both is kept up to date and covers: - holding details - tag replacements - movements - deaths - annual inventory (on holding as at 1st December each year) - individual records of sheep born	Goat Sheep	Holding register	L	Retained

proposals

		or identified as required by legislation.				
	TI.4.b	Movements are reported within the required timeframe.	Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	TI.4.c	Received paper movement documentation is kept for 3 years.	Goat Sheep	Movement documentation	L	Retained
TI.5		Controls must be in place to ensure assurance status of livestock being sold as assured.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Retained
	TI.5.a	Only livestock that meet the following criteria are sold as farm assured: - Livestock sent to slaughter meet the minimum required residency period (i.e. 90 days for cattle, 60 days for sheep) During the residency period: - Livestock stay on the farm for the whole time period or checks are made that the previous owner was farm assured - If livestock are purchased from a market, the market is assured - If livestock passes through a collection centre, the collection centre is assured	Goat Cattle Sheep			Retained
	TI.5.b	Vehicles used to transport livestock are assured: - assessed under the farm scheme if transporting the farm's own livestock OR - Transport of other members' stock is permitted when all parties are farm assured, not for hire and reward, and with a completed declaration OR - Red Tractor Livestock Transport scheme (or equivalent) and hauliers' membership numbers are known	Goat Cattle Sheep	Transport declaration where applicable		Retained
TI.6 (Key)		If livestock from multiple holdings are collected onsite the site must hold an Animal Gatherings Order.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Animal Gatherings Order	L	Editorial Change

proposals

Give feedback

Overarching feedback: Animal Traceability – To what extent do you agree with the proposed standards for Animal Traceability, and do you have anything else to add?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Share feedback at
redtractor.org.uk/bld-consultation

Vermin Control (VC)

Aim

Vermin and other pests can be a source of contamination and pose a risk to food and feed safety. Pests also carry diseases that present a biosecurity or human health risk and may cause damage to buildings and equipment. Strategies and practices to manage these risks should be context based and proportionate to the level of risk present. Effective management of vermin control protects food safety and protects industry reputation.

Summary of proposed changes:

One standard and nine audit points have been removed, leaving one standard and one audit point. Following amendments to the requirements set by the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticides Use (CRRU), farmers using or buying professional rodenticides now need to complete CRRU approved training, with rodenticide use being 'managed' by rodenticide suppliers. Therefore, there is no need to duplicate CRRU requirements. The risk of vermin causing a food safety issue in this sector is low. The remaining requirement is a legal requirement under the Feed Hygiene Regulations EU 183/2005.

Changes in detail

- VC.1 has been re-worded to be more descriptive where effective control of vermin needs to be
- VC.1.a is incorporated into the VC.1 standard
- VC.1.b and c have been removed
- VC.1.b has been re-purposed into VC.1.a so that records are kept to detail what action has been taken in case of an infestation
- VC.2 and VC.2.a-VC.2.h has been removed

Proposed Standards

To ensure farm buildings and feed storage areas are kept free from vermin, protecting animal and human health, feed quality and the condition of buildings.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
VC.1		There must be effective control of vermin (rodents, birds and flies) in and around farm buildings and feed storage areas.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Revised

	VC.1.a	Any infestation is managed with records kept to detail what action has been taken.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Inspection records (T)		New

GUIDANCE:

Effective vermin control means keeping pests under control, with no evidence of vermin present. To help prevent disease, protect feed and milk, and keep buildings in good condition.

An infestation of vermin is generally defined as a persistent or widespread presence of pests (such as rats, mice, birds, or insects) evidenced by repeated sightings or clear signs of activity, indicating that normal control measures are not effectively managing the problem.

Resources:

Due to the legal changes that came into force on 1st January 2026 anyone that purchases or uses professional rodenticides needs to have completed approved training - more information can be found at https://www.thinkwildlife.org/certification-changes-affecting-rodenticide-buyers/

Give feedback

Overarching feedback: Vermin Control – Which of the following describes your feedback on the proposed standards for Vermin Control which take into account the risk to the sector, and do you have anything else to add?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Share feedback at
redtractor.org.uk/bld-consultation

Fallen Stock (FS)

Aim

To ensure fallen stock is managed, stored and disposed of in a safe, secure and responsible manner, reducing the risk of spreading disease, contamination and attracting pests, while protecting animal health, public health, biosecurity and the environment.

Summary of proposed changes:

The fallen stock standards have been streamlined to reduce duplication by merging overlapping standards and audit points while maintaining the same assurance outcomes. Requirements for the prompt removal, secure storage and visibility of fallen stock have been consolidated into clearer standards, with key details retained in the standard wording. The disposal standard has been reworded to better reflect current legislation, with permitted disposal methods moved to the audit point. This does not change the outcome of the requirement and continues to accommodate legal regional variations, such as on-farm burial where permitted in parts of Scotland.

Changes in detail

- FS.1 and FS.1.a has been merged into a standard
- FS.2, FS.2.a and FS.2.b have been merged into one standard

- FS.3.a removed as covered in FS.2
- FS.3.c removed as covered by the standard and can still bury in places e.g. Orkney

Proposed Standards

Effective fallen stock management is essential to maintaining biosecurity and preventing the spread of disease. Prompt, safe storage and disposal of fallen stock help reduce the risks of contamination, pest attraction and environmental harm, while protecting animal health, public health and consumer confidence.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
FS.1		Fallen stock must be promptly removed from housing/pens/fields.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Editorial change
FS.2 (Key)		Carcasses of fallen stock, while awaiting collection, must be kept away from other animals either in an enclosed space or covered over and therefore not visible to members of the public.	Cattle Sheep Goat			Editorial change
	FS.2.a	Carcasses must be kept away from milk production and collection areas.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific			Retained
FS.3		Carcasses must be disposed of in accordance with legislation.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Editorial change
	FS.3.a	Evidence carcasses collected by or taken to a licensed fallen stock collector.	Cattle Sheep Goat	Collection tickets or invoice	L	Retained
	FS.3.b	On-farm incinerators are covered by a species approval document issued by the relevant competent authority.	Cattle Sheep Goat	Incinerator approval	L	Retained
	FS.3.c	Records are kept for 2 years.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Retained
GUIDANCE: Evidence could be an annual NFsCO compliance statement.						

proposals

Give feedback

Overarching feedback: Fallen Stock – To what extent do you agree with the proposed standards for Fallen Stock, and do you have anything else to add?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Share feedback at
redtractor.org.uk/bld-consultation

Youngstock (YS)

Aim

To ensure artificially reared calves, lambs and goats are managed in a way that promotes good health, welfare and development by providing appropriate colostrum management, nutrition, housing and daily care, in line with UK legislation and DEFRA Welfare Codes, while reassuring consumers and customers that youngstock are reared to high welfare standards.

Summary of proposed changes:

Limited changes have been made to this section. Existing requirements remain largely unchanged, with proposals focused on improving clarity and reducing duplication. Related audit points have been merged, visual and tactile contact has been separated out as a standalone welfare requirement, and additional guidance has been added on milk feeding to support youngstock growth and development.

Changes in detail

- CR.1.a merged into the standard
- Merged CR.1.c and CR.1.g into a single audit point
- CR.1.i and CR.1.J have been merged based on NC rate
- CR.2.d and CR.2.d removed as repeated in other audit points
- CR.2.f and CR.2.g removed as merged into other audit points (YS.3.d) to better reflect legislation
- CR.1.e made into a standard to emphasis importance

Proposed Standards

These standards are legally grounded in The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 and the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which mandate that livestock housing and nutrition prevent suffering and promote natural behaviours. The updates streamline compliance by merging overlapping audit points (such as feeding equipment cleanliness and tethering restrictions) to eliminate complexity, while moving social contact to its own dedicated standard to elevate herd welfare. Furthermore, the updated milk volume guidelines (15–20% of bodyweight) align the framework with modern veterinary consensus, ensuring youngstock receive optimal planes of nutrition for immune health and growth.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
YS.1		The housing area and pens must be constructed and maintained to provide a safe, comfortable and hygienic environment.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Editorial Change

	YS.1.a	Effectively ventilated and housing lit during normal day light hours normally 09:00-17:00.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Retained
	YS.1.b	Of sufficient size to allow livestock to lie down simultaneously, rise without difficulty, stretch and move freely without injury.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Retained
	YS.1.c	Flooring is non-slip and maintained with clean, dry, bedding and have a non-slatted lying area.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Editorial Change
	YS.1.d	Youngstock are not housed in individual hutches/pens after eight weeks of age but in groups of two or more unless under veterinary advice.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Retained
	YS.1.e	Calves are not muzzled and are not tethered except for group housed feeding and then only for a maximum of 1 hour. Tethers do not cause pain and allow calves to lie down, rise without difficulty, stand in a natural position and groom without hindrance.	Cattle		L	Editorial Change
YS.2		Youngstock have visual and tactile contact with other calves/lamb/kids (where there are two or more) unless under veterinary advice.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Upgraded
YS.3 (Key)		Youngstock must receive a daily diet to maintain their health and welfare.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Retained
	YS.3.a	Youngstock provided with at least two milk feeds a day until 28 days and calves not weaned before 5 weeks of age.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Retained
	YS.3.b	Manufacturers' instructions followed for artificial milk replacers where used.	Cattle Sheep Goat			Retained
	YS.3.c	At the latest youngstock are given dry, fresh, clean feed including forage from 14 days of age (calves)/eight days (lambs/kids).	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Retained
	YS.3.d	All feeding equipment must be kept in a clean, hygienic and in a safe condition.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Editorial Change

proposals

GUIDANCE: After the colostrum period, calves should be fed sufficient milk or milk replacer to support growth and development. As a guide, milk should be offered at around 15–20% of bodyweight per day, typically equating to 6–8 litres or more for dairy calves, depending on size and system. Milk should be fed at a consistent temperature (38–40°C) and concentration.						
YS.4 (Key)		Youngstock must be provided with unrestricted access to clean fresh drinking water from birth.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Editorial Change

Give feedback

Specific feedback: Youngstock having tactile and visual contact – Regarding YS.2, to what extent do you agree with the proposed changes, that greater importance is placed on youngstock having visual and tactile contact with others? This allows better expression of natural behaviours and better reflects the legislation (Council Directive 2008/118/EC).

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Overarching feedback: Youngstock – To what extent do you agree with the proposed standards for Youngstock and do you have anything else to add?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Share feedback at
redtractor.org.uk/bld-consultation

Livestock Transport (LT)

Aim

To ensure livestock are transported responsibly by competent, trained personnel in a manner that minimises stress, injury, and suffering. To ensure that only fit animals are moved to protect welfare and mitigate industry reputational risk, while requiring strict compliance with UK legislation through rigorous pre-travel assessments and optimised journey planning. To establish consistent management practices that safeguard animal welfare, food safety, and product quality, while protecting the health and safety of workers and visitors through secure site and traffic controls.

Summary of proposed changes:

The livestock transport standards have been streamlined for better clarity and auditability on the farm. Multiple specific sub-clauses regarding vehicle condition have been removed and re-worded to focus strictly on the required outcome: maintaining vehicles and trailers in good physical condition to prevent animal injury. To improve assessment efficiency, some operational rules have been removed

proposals

because they are functionally unauditable unless witnessed directly on the day of inspection, while overlapping clauses are merged or relocated to the production livestock section to reduce duplication.

Changes in detail

- LT.1.a, b, e, f, g, h, I, j, k and m were removed and the standard re-worded so that it's clear what the outcome of the standard is that vehicles inc. trailers are kept in good condition to avoid injury and suffering. This allows the assessor to raise an issue if one was identified, the NC data shows this is a low level non conformance
- LT.3.b and c have been removed as the standard outlines the requirements plus it is unauditable unless seen on the day
- LT.4.a has been merged into LT.4.b
- LT.5 and LT.7 have been moved to PL section
- LT.6 was deemed unnecessary as most farmers will not be travelling over 8 hours and will have a mobile phone
- LT.8 was removed as deemed unnecessary for RT to be checking when typically, this is a commercial haulage that would be doing over 8 hours not a farmer

Proposed Standards

Own Transport

These standards are legally required to safeguard livestock welfare and maintain national biosecurity. Keeping vehicles hazard-free and leak-proof prevents animal injuries and stops environmental road contamination.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
LT.1 (Key)		Vehicles inc. trailers must be fit for purpose, kept in a good condition to avoid injury and suffering to ensure the health and welfare of livestock.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Editorial Change
	LT.1.a	A system that prevents the leakage of faeces and urine (as far as practicable) is in place.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Retained
GUIDANCE: A system such as absorbent bedding, sealed flooring with a drainage sump, or a leak-proof slurry tank is in place to prevent any leakage of faeces or urine in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.						
	LT.1.b	No sharp edges, projections or other hazards which may cause injury	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Retained
LT.2		A valid transporter authorisation is held for the journeys undertaken - a short journey (Type 1) authorisation for journeys over 65km and up to 8 hours - a long journey (Type 2)	Cattle Sheep Goat	Transport authorisation	L	Retained

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		authorisation for journeys over 8 hours				
LT.3		Vehicles inc. trailers are cleaned and disinfected after every load and within 24 hours of delivery unless vehicles are used to make repeat journeys between the same two points in a single day.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Retained
	LT.3.a	Vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected using DEFRA approved disinfectants.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Retained

All Transport Off Farm

These standards are legally required to ensure that only livestock fit to endure travel without suffering are approved for transport. Prohibiting the transit of heavily pregnant, newborn, severely injured, or unshackled animals protects vulnerable livestock from extreme distress and permanent injury. Managing youngstock transit limits, stocking densities, and bedding is legally required to provide essential thermal comfort and prevent crush injuries. Beyond animal fitness, farmers must maintain clear yard access, monitor ground conditions, and communicate loading challenges in advance, as efficient haulier collection plans are vital to prevent delays that compromise animal welfare.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
LT.4 (Key)		Livestock transported off the farm must be fit for the intended journey.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Retained
GUIDANCE: Animals that are slightly ill or injured may only be transported under very limited circumstances including transport within keepership, only if it does not cause any unnecessary suffering.						
	LT.4.a	The following livestock are not transported: - Livestock that are unable to bear weight on all four legs and walk onto the vehicle unaided - Sick or injured livestock where moving them would cause additional suffering - Shorn sheep (with less than 7mm of staple growth) during extremely cold weather - Heavily pregnant females (where more than 90% of the gestation period has passed), unless being transported for veterinary treatment - Females who have given birth during the last 7 days - Newborns with unhealed navels	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Retained

proposed

GUIDANCE:

It is permitted for a farmer or a haulier, if appointed, to transport heavily pregnant females (past 90% gestation) short distances under 50km e.g. between or within farm premises if the journey is for the purposes of improving conditions of birth.

Cattle that need shackles are not considered fit for transport. Those that suffer an injury where the use of shackles aids management and supports recovery should remain on farm until they are fully recovered and fit for assisted transport. If not, on farm culling should be considered.

	LT.4.b	Restrictions on youngstock are adhered to as outlined below: • Calves less than 10 days: Not transported more than 100km unless accompanied by their dam. • Calves 11-14 days: Not transported more than 8 hours unless accompanied by their dam. • Lambs of less than 7 days: Not transported more than 100km.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Retained
LT.5		Where bedding is used it must be clean, safe and suitable.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Editorial Change
	LT.5.a	Young calves and lambs provided with bedding during transport to maintain thermal comfort.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Editorial Change
LT.6		Legally required stocking densities must be followed in order to minimise stress and risk of injury. *Refer to Appendix for stocking densities.*	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Retained
	LT.6.a	Adjustments made when required to allow for current weather conditions, type of vehicle and size and category of livestock.	Cattle Sheep Goat		L	Retained

Proposals

Give feedback

Overarching feedback: Livestock Transport - Which of the following describes your feedback on the proposed standards for Livestock Transport and do you have anything else to add?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Share feedback at
redtractor.org.uk/bld-consultation

Housing and Facilities (HF)

Aim

To be able to demonstrate to consumers and customers that products originate from farms that safeguard animal welfare through suitable, well-maintained environments. By aligning housing design, space, ventilation, and handling facilities with UK legislation and DEFRA Welfare Codes, standards promote safety, cleanliness, and comfort while minimising livestock stress and injury. To deliver a high-quality, hygienic environment on farms that directly supports animal productivity, reduces disease risks, and enables effective daily inspection, handling, and care.

Summary of proposed changes:

The section has been restructured to group related standards and audit points together, making assessments easier to conduct and providing greater clarity for members on what is expected. The standards and audit points have also been streamlined where appropriate. In addition, new recommendations have been introduced for dairy cattle to reflect the sector's direction of travel towards improved animal welfare. These have been included as recommendations, rather than mandatory standards, because the supporting evidence and practical implementation are still evolving, and the sector is not yet in a position where consistent mandatory requirements can be justified or applied.

Changes in detail

- HF.1.a has been removed as this element is covered in the standard wording
- HF.1.c has been merged into HF.1.a
- HF.1.d has moved to another section 'lighting'
- HF.2 is now an audit point under HF.1
- HF.3.b has been separated into a standard HF.3 and audit point HF.3.a
- HF.4.1.b has been moved under standard HF.3 so that all flooring topics are together
- HF.4 and 4.a have been merged into a standard HF.4
- HF.4.b (HF.5) is now a standard showing the importance of clean livestock and an audit point added for clarity between animals being kept in a hygienic condition and those being sent to slaughter
- HF.4.1 and HF.4.1.a have been merged into a standard
- HF.6 has been made into a KEY standard
- HF.6.b has been merged with HF.6.a
- HF.8 and HF.8.a have been merged into a standard
- HF.8.1 a recommendation has been added to give more cubicles than cows
- HF.8b and 8c have been removed as they are deemed unnecessary

- HF.9.d has been removed as the standard includes all the required information and each farm is different
- HF.10.a Adequate lighting comes under safe movement of livestock
- HF.10.b Adequate lighting comes under safe movement of livestock
- HF.10.d has been removed because it is unauditable as depends on where you load
- HF.10.e has been removed because it is unauditable
- HF.17 has been added about enrichment for dairy cows
- HF.8.1 a recommendation has been added to give more cubicles than cows

Proposed Standards

The proposed standards for Housing and Facilities are presented in 11 subsections – Construction, Flooring, Management, Bedding, Lighting, Space, Grouping, Handling Facilities, Outdoor, Sick and Injured Facilities and Enrichment. Click on the bars below to view each subsection.

Construction

To ensure that livestock housing is designed, constructed and maintained to provide a safe, secure and comfortable environment that protects animal welfare, minimises the risk of injury, and safeguards Health and Safety.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
HF.1 (Key)		Housing must be constructed and maintained to provide a safe and secure environment for livestock.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Editorial Change
	HF.1.a	There are no sharp edges, projections that could cause injury to livestock or other features presenting a hazard to livestock e.g. electrical installations.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Editorial Change
	HF.1.b	Effective ventilation of housing to minimise high humidity, build-up of odours and maintains a comfortable temperature is provided.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Editorial Change
	HF.1.c	No unmanaged welfare outcomes in relation to hair loss, lesions and swellings.	Dairy Specific			New

Flooring

To ensure flooring surfaces are safe, suitable and well maintained, providing secure footing, reducing the risk of slips and injuries, and supporting the comfort, health and welfare of livestock.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
HF.2		Floor surfaces are sound, well-constructed and maintained and livestock can walk at ease without slipping or risk of injury.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Editorial Change

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	HF.2.a	Floors are designed and maintained to minimise the risk of slips and injuries, with suitable drainage and surfaces appropriate for the livestock housed.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
	HF.2.b	Slatted floors are appropriate for the size and type of livestock and maintained in a safe condition.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained

Management

To ensure livestock accommodation is managed and maintained in a clean and hygienic condition that supports animal welfare, reduces disease risk, and helps prevent contamination that could impact food safety.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
HF.4		Housing is managed to provide a dry lying area with systems in place to ensure they are re bedded as required.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Editorial Change
HF.5		Livestock must be kept in a clean and hygienic condition that does not compromise food safety or animal welfare.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Editorial Change
	HF.5.a	There are systems in place to ensure livestock sent to slaughter meet abattoir cleanliness specifications.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Editorial Change
GUIDANCE: Clean livestock are essential to protect food safety, animal welfare and the reputation of the industry. Dirty animals increase the risk of harmful bacteria transferring to the carcase during slaughter, posing a risk to human health. Presenting clean livestock reduces contamination risks, supports safe meat production and shelf life, and helps avoid losses from trimming, rejection or reduced value. Farmers therefore play a key role in ensuring animals are clean and dry before leaving the farm.						
	HF.5.b	Slurry and manure from loafing areas/areas are scraped as often as needed to keep cattle clean and ensure good hygiene	Dairy Specific			Editorial Change
	HF.5.c	No unmanaged welfare outcome issues in relation to cleanliness	Dairy Specific			Editorial Change

proposals

GUIDANCE:

Dairy specific
The member is aware of outcomes, the incidence within the herd and any issues identified are actively managed.

Bedding

To ensure bedding materials are safe, suitable and properly maintained, providing a comfortable, clean and hygienic resting area for livestock.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
HF.6		All bedding materials used for all livestock must be safe, legal and suitable for use.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Editorial Change
	HF.6.a	Delivery records of waste materials used for bedding are kept e.g. recycled woodchip, paper.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Feed delivery records/ invoice	L	Retained
	HF.6.b	Waste exemptions to use such materials are registered with the Environment Agency and kept.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Waste exemption records	L	Retained

GUIDANCE:

Only Grade A wood may be used for animal bedding. This is:

- Virgin (unused) wood
- Chemically untreated
- Clean and free from contamination

Treated wood of any kind is not permitted, including:

- Wood that has been coated, preserved, or chemically processed
- Manufactured wood products such as MDF, chipboard, particle board, and plywood, e.g. kitchen cabinets

All wood used must also be free from non-wood materials, (e.g. nails, screws, fixings). This requirement is in place to protect animal health and welfare, human health, and the environment.

HF.6.1		Lying areas provide comfort.	Dairy Specific			Retained
	HF.6.1.a	Comfort provided through provision of bedding, mattresses, and/or matting.	Dairy Specific			Retained
	HF.6.1.b	No unmanaged welfare outcomes in relation to lesions caused by lying comfort.	Dairy Specific			Retained

proposals

GUIDANCE: Dairy Specific

The comfort of dairy cows is of paramount importance to ensure high productivity and to meet animal welfare needs. The design of cubicles and lying surface material should provide a sufficiently comfortable environment to encourage cows to lie down.

Where to find help:

The Cow Comfort Index (CCI) is a welfare measure that reflects how many cows are lying down. It is measured by counting the number of cows in cubicles and determining what proportion of them are actually lying down, calculated as the number of lying cows divided by the total number of cows in the cubicles, then multiplied by 100%. A well-designed, comfortable housing system should achieve a CCI of at least 85%, meaning most cows choose to lie down rather than remain standing.

Lighting

To ensure livestock housing is adequately lit to support normal behaviour, allow effective inspection and management of animals, and promote their health, welfare and safety.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
HF.7		Housing must be lit throughout the hours of daylight (natural or artificial) to allow normal behaviours.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
	HF.7.a	Adequate lighting (whether fixed or portable) is available to enable inspection of stock at any time.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
	HF.7.b	During housing a period of low intensity lighting OR lights off is provided to promote resting behaviour.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Editorial Change
	HF.7.c	Lights over feed and water troughs are shatterproof/protected to prevent the contamination of feed and risk of injury to livestock.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained

Space

To ensure livestock are provided with sufficient space to move freely, rest comfortably, express normal behaviours, and minimise stress, injury and competition.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
HF.8 (Key)		Livestock housing must meet the space requirements outlined in the appendix.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Upgraded
	HF.8.a	Cubicle housing systems allow at least one cubicle per animal and are suitable for	Cattle		L	Retained

proposals

		the size and breed of animals.				
	HF.8.b	Group yards and loose housing systems allow space for them all to lie down simultaneously, rise without difficulty, turn around and stretch.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
	HF.8.c	Passageways must be wide enough to facilitate cow movement so they can turn around easily.	Dairy Specific		L	Retained
	HF.8.d	No unmanaged welfare outcomes in relation to housing size.	Dairy Specific			Retained
GUIDANCE: Dairy Specific Cows need sufficient space in their housing environment to move freely, lie down, rise without risk of injury, and express normal behaviours, all of which are essential for maintaining good welfare. Adequate space allowances - both in terms of stall dimensions and additional living or loafing space - help reduce stress, improve lying time, support healthy social interactions, and minimise welfare issues such as lameness or injuries.						
HF.8.1 (Recommendation)		It is recommended that the housing system provides a greater number of cubicles than the number of cows in the group, ensuring that all cows have unrestricted access to a suitable lying area and genuine choice of resting location	Dairy Specific			New
HF.9		Tethered housing systems are not permitted	Goat Cattle Sheep			Retained
GUIDANCE: Definition of tethered housing: a housing practice used throughout the housed period whereby the stock is fed, watered and sleeps within the area defined by the reach of its restraining method						

Where to find help:

The Herd Health Toolkit is a structured set of resources and assessment tools designed to help farmers monitor key welfare indicators, identify emerging health risks, and implement proactive management strategies. It supports regular evaluation of housing, nutrition, behaviour, and overall herd performance, enabling early intervention and continuous improvement in cow welfare and productivity: https://herdhealth.shinyapps.io/toolkit/

More information about housing design can be found at AHDB: https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/dairy-housing

proposals

Grouping

To ensure livestock are grouped appropriately according to their age, size, sex and production status, supporting good welfare, reducing stress and injury, and enabling effective management.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
HF.10		Livestock must be managed in appropriate groups at all times based on age, size and production status.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
	HF.10.a	Livestock (including stock bulls and bucks) allowed the sound and view of other livestock (except where segregated/isolated).	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
	HF.10.b	Fractious or fully horned cattle are not mixed with unfamiliar groups or are removed from the group if there is evidence of injury.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
	HF.10.c	Sexually mature male and female livestock kept apart (unless breeding is planned).	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained

Handling Facilities

To ensure suitable handling facilities are available and maintained to enable the safe, efficient and low-stress movement, treatment and management of livestock, while protecting both animal welfare and handler safety.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
HF.11		Handling facilities (fixed or portable systems) must be in place or easily accessible that allow for the safe handling and movement of livestock and prevent injury to livestock or handlers.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Editorial Change
HF.12		There must be appropriate facilities for livestock to give birth which are maintained in accordance with scheme standards.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
HF.13		Loading and unloading systems on the farm must allow for the safe movement of livestock with the minimum risk of injury and stress to livestock and handlers.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained

Outdoor

To ensure livestock kept outdoors have access to suitable shelter, shade and lying areas, and are

managed in a way that protects their welfare, health and comfort while minimising environmental damage.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
HF.14		Livestock have access to shade or shelter (natural or man-made; hedges, trees, walls) during periods of extreme weather and well-drained lying areas.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Revised
GUIDANCE: It is not necessary for all animals to be able to use shaded areas at the same time; however, there should be sufficient opportunity for animals to access shade as needed to reduce the risk of heat stress.						
HF.15		There must be controls in place to minimise overgrazing and poaching.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
	HF.15.a	Outdoor feeding areas are situated so that they do not become excessively poached or allow a large build-up of dung.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
	HF.15.b	Tracks and gateways are maintained to reduce the risk of foot damage or injury.	Dairy Goat Specific Dairy Specific			Retained

Sick and Injured Facilities

To ensure appropriate facilities are available for the segregation, treatment and care of sick or injured livestock, supporting recovery, protecting animal welfare, and reducing the risk of disease transmission.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
HF.16		Appropriate facilities must be provided for the segregation of sick and injured livestock, that are managed and maintained in accordance with scheme standards for housing and facilities, feed and water.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Moved

Enrichment

To ensure livestock have access to appropriate enrichment that encourages natural behaviours, promotes positive welfare, and helps reduce boredom, stress and undesirable behaviours.

Proposals

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
HF.17 (Recommendation)		It is recommended that all animals in the milking herd including dry cows have access to environmental enrichment during the housed period.	Dairy Specific			New
GUIDANCE: Dairy Specific Environmental enrichment for dairy cows involves providing opportunities that encourage natural behaviours such as social interaction, exploration, movement, and comfort. This can include access to pasture or loafing areas, sufficient space, comfortable bedding, scratching or grooming brushes, varied feeding areas, and changes in environment that reduce boredom and stress. Effective enrichment supports positive welfare by improving physical health, reducing abnormal behaviours, and promoting calm, settled cattle.						
HF.18		Goats must be provided with environmental enrichment.	Goat Dairy Goat Specific			Retained

Give feedback

Specific feedback: Stocking Density - Regarding HF.8, space requirements, do you agree with the changes that have been proposed, that the standard has been upgraded to a KEY standard?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific feedback: Greater Space - Regarding HF.8.1, space requirements, do you agree with the changes that have been proposed, that the housing systems provides greater number of cubicles than cows? This helps reduce competition for resting space, supports resting behaviour and can helps reduce stress, lameness and hygiene related issues.

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific feedback: Shade - Regarding HF.14, inclusion of shade, do you agree with the changes that have been proposed, that shade should be included within the standards during periods of extreme weather?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Proposal

Specific feedback: Enrichment - Regarding HF.17, inclusion of enrichment, do you agree with the changes that have been proposed, that all animals in the milking herd including dry cows have access to environmental enrichment? Enrichment allows cows opportunities to express natural behaviours, promotes positive welfare experiences reduces boredom and supports healthier more resilient animals during periods of housing.

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Overarching feedback: Housing and Facilities - Which of the following describes your feedback on the proposed standards for Housing and Facilities, and do you have anything else to add?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Share feedback at
redtractor.org.uk/bld-consultation

Feed and Water (FW)

Aim

Consumers are increasingly conscious of animal welfare issues and require greater assurance that livestock are cared for appropriately on farm. Correct nutrition of the animal is vital to good performance, animal health and food safety. Whilst beef and lamb are largely fed on grass or grass silage, it is common practice to supplement with both home-produced and purchased feedstuffs during winter, lambing and weaning.

Summary of proposed changes:

The section has been re-ordered, with related standards and audit points grouped together to make assessment easier and clarify what is expected. This section is aligned with feed and food hygiene legislation, ensuring the standards provide earned recognition with the Food Standards Agency.

Changes in detail

- FW.1 has been re-worded and simplified as rumen function was removed from the standard as we may be talking about animals that have not yet developed a rumen and it was hard to assess.
- FW.2 has been merged into FW.1.
- FW.2.a is now a standard (FW.2)
- FW.2.1 has been moved to FW.1 as an audit point
- FW.3.a, b and c have been re-worded into the standard FW.3 as the standard wording covers access, cleanliness and access during peak times - based on NC levels the additional audit points did not add anything
- FW.4 and FW.4.a have been removed, with elements included in FW.1 that feed must be suitable
- FW.4.f has been made into a standard and FW.4.b and d have been incorporated into the standard

- FW.4.e has been removed
- FW.5, a, b and c have been merged
- FW.5.b has been added due to the increasing trend of using co-products of food manufacturing
- FW.5.d has been made into a standard as it is specifically talking about warranty declarations
- FW.6 and FW.6.a have been merged into the standard
- FW.7 is now more detailed to be clear about what the record should include
- FW.8 is now clearer about when samples need to be kept and the associated requirements that sit alongside it
- FW.9.1 has been added to align with the Feed Hygiene Regulations 183/2005, as requested by the FSA
- FW.10 and FW.10.a have been merged into a standard
- FW.12 has been re-worded to better reflect the requirements for feed storage, so the expectation is clearer
- FW.1.1 has been upgraded to a standard to place greater importance on feed plans
- FW.1.3 has been upgraded to a standard, as best practice is for milk containing antibiotic residues not to be fed to youngstock; research shows there are residue risks

Proposed Standards

The proposed standards for Feed and Water are presented in seven subsections – Feeding, Watering, Purchased Feeds, Feed Records, Mixing of Feed, Feed Equipment and Feed Storage. Click on the bars below to view each subsection.

Feeding

To ensure livestock receive sufficient, safe and appropriate nutrition to support health, welfare, growth and productivity throughout all stages of production.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
FW.1 (Key)		Livestock must be provided with safe, suitable and sufficient feed.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Editorial change
	FW.1.a	Feeding systems, including automatic feeders, are checked at least daily to ensure they are working and clean.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Retained
FW.1.1		A documented feed plan is in place for the milking herd, dry cows, heifers and calves, which is updated as required and retained for 2 years.	Dairy Specific	Documented feed plan		Upgraded
FW.1.1		A documented feed plan is in place for the milking herd, dry goats and kids, which is updated as required and retained for 2 years.	Dairy Goat Specific	Documented feed plan		Upgraded
	FW.1.1.a	No unmanaged welfare outcomes in relation to Body Condition Score of the milking herd – see Appendix.	Dairy Specific			Retained

GUIDANCE: The member is aware of outcomes, the incidence within the herd and any issues identified are actively managed.						
FW.1.1.1		It is recommended that body condition scoring is carried out at regular intervals to identify trends.	Dairy Specific			Moved
GUIDANCE: Body condition scoring (BCS) is important because it helps farmers assess whether dairy cows have the right body reserves to support good health, welfare, fertility and productivity throughout lactation. By implementing a consistent BCS system, farmers can make informed management decisions, with regular assessments helping to adjust feeding strategies and manage health risks effectively.						
FW.1.1		A system is in place to ensure newborn animals receive sufficient, suitable colostrum within 6 hours.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Retained
	FW.1.1.a	Alternative sources of colostrum (fresh/frozen/artificial) are available in the event of the dam not being able to produce.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Retained
FW.1.2		Colostrum or milk from Johne's positive cows must not be fed to calves.	Dairy Specific			Retained
	FW.1.2.b	ID of known Johne's positive animals recorded and available.	Dairy Specific			Retained
FW.1.2		Colostrum or milk from Johne's positive goats must not be fed to youngstock (suckling of dams permissible).	Dairy Goat Specific			Retained
	FW.1.2.b	ID of known Johne's positive animals recorded and available.	Dairy Goat Specific			Retained
FW.1.3		Milk (excluding colostrum) from cows under the statutory withdrawal period for antibiotics is not fed to youngstock.	Dairy Specific			Upgraded
GUIDANCE: Feeding milk containing antibiotic residues to calves increases the risk of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which can make future treatments less effective and pose a risk to public health.						
FW.1.4		It is recommended that the quality of colostrum is tested.	Dairy Specific			Retained
FW.2		There is enough feeding space per animal, dependent on the system of feeding. See Appendix for recommended space allowances.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Retained

Proposals

Where to find help:

AHDB: Body conditioning: https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/body-condition-scoring

RUMA: Feeding Waste Milk to Calves: https://www.ruma.org.uk/feeding-waste-milk-to-calves/

AHDB: Dairy Calf Management: https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/dairy-calf-management

Watering

To ensure livestock have access to a sufficient supply of clean, safe water to support health, welfare and productivity.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
FW.3 (Key)		All livestock must be provided with adequate access to a supply of fresh, clean drinking water that is sufficient to cover times of peak demand e.g. during hot weather/lactation.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Editorial change
	FW.3.a	Provision is made to ensure an emergency supply of suitable drinking water can be supplied if normal supplies were to fail.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Editorial change
	FW.3.b	10% of the herd can drink at any one time.	Dairy Specific			Retained
GUIDANCE: Emergency water supply is an alternative source of water i.e. tankers, fire service, natural etc.						

Purchased Feeds

To ensure purchased feed is sourced from safe, approved and traceable suppliers, helping to protect animal health, food safety and supply chain integrity.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
FW.4		Only feed materials and additives permitted by the Scheme and UK law are used. No non-permitted materials are used specifically: - no antibiotic or hormonal growth promoters - no animal products or by-products (mammalian, avian or fish) with the exception of fish oils and milk products - no rejected food that contain meats or have been in contact with meat (including bakery) - no catering waste, including used cooking oils - materials produced by Anaerobic Digesters are prohibited	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Editorial change

Proposals

	FW.4.a	The composition of all purchased and home mixed feed is known.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Feed tickets	L	Retained
FW.5		All purchased compound feeds, blended feeds, feed materials (straights) and mineral/vitamin supplements, including milk replacers, must be sourced from a merchant/manufacturer who is a member of the UFAS/FEMAS or equivalent scheme.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Editorial change
	FW.5.a	Co-products of food manufacturing and surplus bakery products are suitable, safe and sourced from premises that are registered as a feed business with their local authority.	Goat Cattle Sheep			New
FW.5.1		The following materials are sourced with a completed warranty declaration: - farm-to-farm supplies of any feeds unexpectedly in surplus - hay and/or silage supplied via forage merchants - roots and vegetable/fruit which have not been processed beyond basic grading and washing	Goat Cattle Sheep	Warranty declaration (T)		Upgraded
GUIDANCE: Details of equivalent schemes are given in the relevant Appendix. Red Tractor warranty declaration template provides details of what information should be included. Imported feed has a GB representative where appropriate, see guidance for more details in the link below.						

Where to find help:

Imported feed - https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/imports-exports-and-third-country-representation-for-animal-feed-businesses

Feed Records

To ensure accurate feed records are maintained, providing traceability and supporting the management of feed safety, animal health and food integrity.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
FW.6		Records for all purchased feedstuffs are kept detailing: - supplier name - feed type including ingredient composition - date of delivery - quantity - load or batch number	Goat Cattle Sheep	Purchased feed records		Editorial change

proposals

	FW.6.a	Records are kept for 2 years.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Purchased feed records		Retained

Mixing of Feed

To ensure feed mixed on farm is produced safely, consistently and in compliance with feed hygiene requirements.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
This section applies to MIXING OF FEED (Annex 1 Farmers mixing feed for their own animals without additives) e.g Grass silage + maize silage + blend, Dry barley + dry dairy nut, Silage + wholecrop + brewers' grains. Any TMR made only from feed materials and compound feeds (no added premix)						
FW.7		When mixing two or more feed materials together records must be kept detailing: - Ingredients - Quantities - Livestock group being fed to - Date of mixing	Goat Cattle Sheep	Feed mixing records	L	Editorial change
GUIDANCE: For TMR ration it does not have to be recorded daily - only updated when the mix changes. Forage only, (forage top-dressed with concentrates) or single feeds mixed with water do not require records.						
This section applies to MIXING OF FEED (Annex II Anyone mixing feed with additives or pre-mixtures) If the farmer adds ANY of the following, the mix becomes Annex II: Vitamin or mineral premix - this excludes products labelled as Minerals feedstuffs Yeast-based additives Enzymes Acidifiers Mycotoxin binders Protected fats that are legally classified as additives Any approved feed additive under Reg. 183/2005 Examples: Adding a mineral premix into the TMR Adding a yeast product to improve rumen function Adding a powdered binder into dry calf starter Adding a premix to blend barley + protein blend						
FW.8		When mixing feed with additives or pre-mixtures a representative sample of each batch of ingredients and finished feed produced must be retained.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Samples	L	Editorial change
GUIDANCE:						

Proposals

Not applicable to the inclusion of bought in mineral feeding stuffs (labelled as such) used in TMRs. Feed additives are substances such as vitamins, trace elements (e.g. copper and zinc) and preservatives. Pre-mixtures are mixtures of additives at high concentrations.						
	FW.8.a	Samples are: - retained in sealed bags/containers - approximately 500g - Labelled to identify the specific sample (feed details and date) - Retained for a minimum of 3 months - Stored in a cool/dry area	Goat Cattle Sheep	Samples	L	Editorial change
GUIDANCE: A representative sample is a well-mixed, combined sample made up of several smaller samples from around the batch, giving a true reflection of the whole feed mix.						
FW.9		When mixing 'pre-mixtures', 'additives' or medicated feeds you must have Local Authority Registration (R10) and meet any associated obligations.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Local Authority Registration	L	Editorial change
	FW.9.a	The site has Local Authority Registration.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Local Authority Registration	L	Retained
	FW.9.b	There is a HACCP system in place.	Goat Cattle Sheep	HACCP system	L	Retained
	FW.9.c	There is a Quality Control Plan in place which details the designated person, laboratory used and equipment.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Quality Control Plan	L	Retained
	FW.9.d	Additional approval from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) is in place if medicated feeds are being incorporated.	Goat Cattle Sheep	VMD approval	L	Retained
FW.9.1		Mixing facilities and water used within the mix are suitable for purpose to minimise contamination of feed.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	New
FW.10		Mobile feed mixing contractors must be suitably certified to the NAAC Assured Land Based Contractor Mobile Feed Mixing and Processing scheme, or a scheme deemed equivalent by Red Tractor.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Contractor certification		Editorial change

Where to find help:

Starting an animal feed business | Food Standards Agency https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/starting-an-animal-feed-business

Feed Equipment

Proposals

To ensure feed mixing equipment is maintained, clean and fit for purpose, supporting the accurate production of safe and consistent feed.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
FW.11		All feeding and mixing equipment including lorries/trailers/feed boxes/buckets used for transporting feed are maintained in a clean condition and are suitable for purpose to minimise the contamination of feed.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Editorial change

Feed Storage

To ensure feed is stored in a manner that maintains its safety, quality and integrity, protecting it from contamination, deterioration and pest damage and supporting animal health.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
FW.12 (Key)		Feed must be stored in a manner which minimises the risk of contamination e.g. free from mud, hazardous substances and contamination from deterioration.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Editorial change
	FW.12.a	Manufacturer instructions are followed for compound feed.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Manufacturer instructions		New
	FW.12.b	Storage facilities are clean, dry and well maintained.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Editorial change
	FW.12.c	In loose feed storage areas lighting is covered unless shatterproof bulbs are used.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Editorial change
	FW.12.d	Risk of cross-contamination is minimised by ensuring feed is readily identifiable and keeping different feeds separate.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Editorial change
GUIDANCE: Check AHDB storage requirements (link below). Identified means it could be labelled or known by staff what the feed is i.e. feed bin numbering is acceptable.						

Where to find help:

AHDB: Grain storage guide: https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/grain-storage-guide

Give feedback

Specific feedback: Antibiotic Milk - Regarding FW.1.3, do you agree that waste milk (excluding colostrum) from cows under the statutory withdrawal period for antibiotics should not be fed to youngstock and should be upgraded to a full standard, as this increases the risk of developing antimicrobial resistance?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Overarching feedback: Feed and Water - Which of the following describes your feedback on the proposed standards for Feed and Water, and do you have anything else to add?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Share feedback at
redtractor.org.uk/bld-consultation

Animal Medicines (AM)

Aim

To enable farmers to demonstrate to customers and consumers that livestock are maintained in a healthy condition to support the production of safe livestock.
Animals must be kept in good health, with medicines and treatments used responsibly to safeguard animal health and food safety. Withdrawal periods must be observed to ensure residues do not enter the food chain. Accurate records must be maintained to support traceability and demonstrate compliance.

Summary of proposed changes:

The majority of this section has been streamlined and re-ordered for clarity and ease of assessment. Medicated feed has been grouped together so that it can be marked N/A and the expectations are clear where it is used. A new standard around drying off cows has been added, reflecting the Veterinary Medicines Regulations.

Changes in detail

- AM.1 - the standard and audit points have been merged into the standard to simplify
- AM.2 - the standard and audit points have been merged into the standard to simplify
- AM.3 and AM.3.1 have been moved into the PL section so all training requirements are in the same place
- AM.4, AM.4.a and AM.4.b have been merged into the standard to simplify
- AM.5 and AM.5.b have been merged into the standard
- AM.6 and AM.6.b have been merged into the standard
- AM.7.a has been removed as it is covered elsewhere that only authorised medicines are used and under storage
- AM.9.a has been merged into the standard AM.9
- AM.11 has been removed from this section and is under Health Policies

- Medicated feed has been grouped together under one standard so it can be marked N/A and to add clarity
- AM.2.2.2 has been added as it better reflects the legislation

Proposed Standards

The proposed standards for Animal Medicines are presented in one subsection. Click on the bar below to view the proposed requirements.

Animal Medicines

Animals must be kept in good health, with medicines and treatments used responsibly to safeguard animal health and food safety. Withdrawal periods must be observed to ensure residues do not enter the food chain. Accurate records must be maintained to support traceability and demonstrate compliance.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
AM.1 (Key)		Only authorised veterinary medicines are used, which are prescribed by the appropriate person.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Editorial change
GUIDANCE: Veterinary medicinal products used to treat and prevent disease in farm animals include, but are not limited to, vaccines, ecto- and endoparasiticides, antibiotics, anti-inflammatories and anaesthetics. POM-V stands for 'Prescription Only Medicine – Veterinarian' and these veterinary products may only be supplied upon prescription by a veterinary surgeon for animals under their care. All antibiotics for food-producing animals are classified as POM-V. POM-VPS stands for 'Prescription-Only Medicine – Veterinarian, Pharmacist, Suitably Qualified Person' and these products may be prescribed by registered qualified persons.						
AM.2 (Key)		Veterinary medicines must be used according to the prescription or manufacturers or veterinary instructions.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Editorial change
	AM.2.a	Footbaths with antibiotics must not be used for any class of livestock.	Dairy Specific			Editorial change
GUIDANCE: Antibiotic footbaths are not to be used because of the risk of antimicrobial resistance and udder contamination or milk residues if used on milking animals.						
AM.2.1		Expired medicines are not used and are disposed of appropriately.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
AM.2.2		Prophylactic administration of antibiotics is only permitted in exceptional circumstances.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained

Proposals

	AM.2.2.a	The rationale for prescribing a product for prophylaxis is clearly recorded by the vet.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Veterinary record	L	Retained
	AM.2.2.b	When an antibiotic is prescribed for administration to a group of animals for prophylaxis a management review is carried out by the vet to identify factors and implement measures for the purpose of eliminating the need for any future such administration.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Veterinary management review	L	Retained
GUIDANCE: Use of oral antibiotics in calves must not be routine or used as a substitute for good calf management. They should only be used under veterinary direction, for a clearly defined need and for the shortest effective duration.						
AM.2.2.2		Cows must not be dried off using antibiotics without individual risk assessment being conducted first, as this would constitute routine use.	Dairy Specific	Individual risk assessment	L	New
GUIDANCE: Blanket dry cow therapy refers to situations where all dairy cattle in a group are administered antibiotics at drying off without an individual risk assessment. This constitutes routine antibiotic use. See further guidance in the resources linked below.						
AM.2.3		Udder and hoof care products must not contain quaternary ammonium compounds (QACs).	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific			Retained
	AM.2.3.a	Either the chemical data sheet or a warranty declaration from the supplier confirms product does not contain QACs.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific	Chemical data sheet or warranty declaration		Retained
AM.3		Medicated feeds must only be used under veterinary direction and managed in a way that ensures correct use, traceability, and protection of animal	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Upgraded

proposals

		health, food safety, and antimicrobial stewardship.				
	AM.3.a	Prescriptions for medicated feed detail all legally required information, including: the species of animal, the number of animals and their ID; the diagnosed disease to be treated or prevented; name, active substance and amount of product prescribed and inclusion rates (medicinal premix and active ingredient); overall amount of feed to be supplied under the prescription.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Medicated feed prescriptions	L	Retained
	AM.3.b	Medicated feed is kept in separate clearly labelled bulk storage or bags.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
	AM.3.c	Medicated Feeding Stuff Prescriptions (MFSPs) are kept for 5 years.	Goat Cattle Sheep	MFSPs	L	Retained
AM.4		Veterinary medicines must be stored as per the manufacturer's instructions and kept in a locked storage facility/room.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
	AM.4.a	Medicines that require refrigeration and are stored in a domestic fridge are stored in a labelled container.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Retained
AM.5		Purchase records for all veterinary medicines must be kept for 5 years.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Medicine purchase records	L	Editorial change
	AM.5.a	Records detail: - identity of medicine - quantity - date of purchase - supplier name and address - expiry date(s) - batch number(s)	Goat Cattle Sheep	Medicine purchase records	L	Retained

proposals

AM.6		Records must be kept of all administered veterinary medicines (paper and/or electronic) for 5 years	Goat Cattle Sheep	Medicine administration records	L	Editorial change
	AM.6.a	Records detail: - identity of medicine - date of administration - quantity administered - length of withdrawal period for meat - identification of the animal or group of animals administered - batch number - number of animals treated - date treatment finished - date animal becomes fit for human consumption - name of person administering medicine - reason for treatment	Goat Cattle Sheep	Medicine administration records	L	Retained
GUIDANCE: The required information does not need to be in a single location (e.g. a medicine book); it can be stored in a combination of documents. However, a farm must be able to demonstrate how the information can be collated to correlate administration of particular medicines to specific groups of cattle and lambs so as to ensure the food chain is protected and any use of medicines is traceable. For example, medicines administered routinely to groups of animals, such as vaccines, need not be individually entered in the medicine book – a list in the VHP covering the necessary information will suffice.						
AM.7		Veterinary medicines, their containers and administration equipment must be disposed of responsibly.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
	AM.7.a	Used needles and blades are stored in a dedicated sharps container pending disposal.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
	AM.7.b	Records of medicine disposal are kept, detailing: - identity of medicine - batch Number - quantity - date of disposal - route of disposal	Goat Cattle Sheep	Medicine disposal records	L	Retained

proposals

	AM.7.c	Medicines, their containers and administration equipment are disposed of through the supplier, a registered waste disposal contractor or local authority, referring to the product literature for further guidance.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
GUIDANCE: Doesn't have to be annually - disposed of when the sharps box is full or systems of disposal is in place.						
AM.8.1 (Recommendation)		It is recommended total annual antibiotics used should be collated and uploaded onto AHDB medicine hub or Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers AMU Calculator or equivalent.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Retained
AM.9 (Key)		Use of HP-CIA antibiotics (i.e. those belonging to Category B "Restrict", as defined by the European Medicines Agency), must only be as a last resort, under veterinary direction and supported by a veterinary statement justifying the use	Goat Cattle Sheep	Veterinary statement		Retained
GUIDANCE: This can be sensitivity testing and/or diagnostics which can occur in parallel with treatment.						
AM.10 (Key)		Prescribed withdrawal periods must be correct and complied with.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
	AM.10.a	Treated livestock are identifiable for the entire withdrawal period.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
	AM.10.b	For farm to farm sales, animals under statutory withdrawal periods are accompanied by a withdrawal period declaration.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Withdrawal period declaration		Retained
GUIDANCE: Ensuring treated livestock are 'identifiable' may be achieved in different ways. It is not a specific requirement that treated animals are physically marked, although this is one way of ensuring animals						

Proposals

are identifiable. The key is that it is possible, through systems employed on the farm, to identify treated animals to protect the food supply chain.

Where to find help:

Blanket dry cow therapy: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/antimicrobial-resistance-clarification-of-new-elements-applied-from-the-vmr#blanket-dry-cow-therapy

EMA Antibiotic Categories: https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/report/infographic-categorisation-antibiotics-use-animals-prudent-responsible-use_en.pdf

Give feedback

Specific feedback: Dry Cow Therapy - Regarding AM.2.2.2, do you agree with the proposed change that cows must not be dried off using antibiotics without an individual risk assessment being conducted first? This reflects the Veterinary Medicines Regulations, which were updated in May 2024.

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Overarching feedback: Animal Medicines - Which of the following describes your feedback on the proposed standards for Animal Medicines, and do you have anything else to add?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Overarching feedback: Animal Medicines - Do you have any further comments about the changes in this section, or potential future developments?

Share feedback at
redtractor.org.uk/bld-consultation

proposals

Personnel (PL)

Aim

For farmers to provide assurance to consumers and customers that livestock are cared for by suitably trained and competent personnel, ensuring products they purchase come from animals that are managed responsibly and to high standards of welfare on farm.
These standards ensure that all individuals involved in livestock care have the appropriate skills, knowledge and training to carry out their duties effectively, in accordance with current UK legislation and DEFRA Welfare Codes. Producers will ensure that staff are competent in handling livestock, recognising signs of ill health and maintaining good standards of husbandry. The producer will be aware that competent stockmanship is fundamental to animal welfare, food safety and productivity. Ongoing training and supervision will be in place to support continuous improvement and ensure that tasks are carried out safely, consistently and responsibly.

Summary of proposed changes:

The section has been re-ordered, with related standards and audit points grouped together to make assessments easier and clarify what is expected of members, including internal and external training. All training requirements have also been brought together in one section for clarity.

Changes in detail

- PL.1.b has moved from HP
- PL.1.c has moved from AM
- PL.1.d is new for dairy
- PL.1.e moved from EC
- PL.1.f moved from AM for Beef & Lamb
- PL.1.f moved from AM for Dairy and revised to apply to all persons
- PL.1.g moved from EC
- PL.1.h moved from EC
- PL.1.1 is a new recommendation
- PL.4.a has been changed to reflect the Fair Work Agency rather than the GLAA
- PL.5 has been reworded to make clear that it applies to all farms and that the plan should be documented and updated as required

Proposed Standards

Internal Training

This training is designed to ensure all personnel understand their responsibilities and can apply policies, procedures and standards consistently to support compliance and continual improvement.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
PL.1 (Key)		Systems must be in place to ensure all personnel are effectively trained to carry out the activities they are required to do.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
GUIDANCE: Records of induction and training may be recorded on separate or consolidated records, provided that compliance with all relevant requirements can be demonstrated.						
	PL.1.a	All new starters since November 2021 have a documented induction covering at least the following: • an explanation of the tasks they will undertake • Health and Safety information • reporting lines	Goat Cattle Sheep	Documented induction		Retained
	PL.1.b	Staff carrying out husbandry procedures have received training – see Appendix.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Training record		Moved
	PL.1.c	Veterinary medicines are administered only by trained persons.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Training record		Moved
GUIDANCE: Any staff administering medicines are expected to have received internal training; only one person responsible for administering medicines is required to receive external training.						

proposals

	PL.1.d	The Red Tractor Code of Conduct must, as a minimum, be completed and signed by each person interacting with animals.	Dairy Specific	Red Tractor Code of Conduct (T)		New

GUIDANCE:

The template provides the minimum information required; other elements can be added to suit each farm.

External Training

The purpose of external training is to ensure that all personnel have accurate, consistent and up-to-date information that supports understanding of programme requirements, promotes best practice and maintains confidence in the organisation. Historical training does not need to be backdated.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
	PL.1.e	Those using sheep dip hold an NPTC Certificate of Competence in the Safe Use of Sheep Dips or are working under the supervision and in the presence of a person who holds the certificate.	Sheep	Certificate of Competence	L	Moved
	PL.1.f	Any person who is administering medicines has undertaken training within the last 5 years and holds a certificate of competence/attendance. Training courses cover at least: • medicine types • medicine handling • administration • medicine storage • recording requirements • avoiding residues	Dairy Specific	Certificate of competence/attendance		Revised

GUIDANCE:

Any member with 2 or more fails in an 18-month period is required to complete an approved medicine course as per DP.5.d.

	PL.1.f	At least one person, who is responsible for administering medicines has undertaken training and holds a certificate of competence/attendance from training undertaken since October 2016.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Certificate of competence/attendance		Moved

Proposals

		Training courses cover at least: • medicine types • medicine handling • administration • medicine storage • recording requirements • avoiding residues				
	PL.1.g	NPTC Pesticide Application Certificates/Lantra Awards Level 2 Pesticides qualification.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Certificate/qualification	L	Moved
	PL.1.h	Drivers hold the relevant Species Specific Certificate of Competence for the journeys they undertake: • journeys over 65km and less than 8 hours – Species Specific Certificate of Competence for Short Journeys • journeys over 8 hours – Species Specific Certificate of Competence for Long Journeys	Goat Cattle Sheep	Species Specific Certificate of Competence	L	Moved
PL.1.1 Recommendation		It is recommended that any persons trimming cows' feet are trained and competent.	Dairy Specific			New
GUIDANCE: A competent person may include a trained member of the farm who has completed recognised training in cattle foot care (e.g. First Aid for Feet), or an external person who is registered with the National Association of Cattle Foot Trimmers (NACFT) or the Cattle Hoofcare Standards Board (CHCSB) and has achieved at least the Dutch Diploma, NPTC Level 3.						

Proposals

Training Records

Training records are retained to provide evidence that personnel have received appropriate training to carry out their role safely and effectively, supporting compliance, due diligence and consistency.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
PL.2		A training record is available for all, including: • name • start date (where applicable)	Goat Cattle Sheep	Training record		Retained

		• induction date (where applicable) • details of training/events attended • date of training • who provided the training (in-house or external provider)				
	PL.2.a	Records kept for 2 years after person has left the business.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Training record		Retained

Labour Providers

The purpose of using licensed labour providers is to ensure workers are employed legally, treated fairly and provided with appropriate protections, while supporting legal compliance, reducing the risk of labour exploitation and modern slavery, and maintaining confidence in the supply chain.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
PL.4		Where labour providers are used, they are licensed and a documented agreement is in place.	Goat Cattle Sheep	FWA gangmaster's licence	L	Retained
	PL.4.a	All labour providers used hold a valid Fair Work Agency (FWA) gangmaster's licence.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Editorial change
	PL.4.b	A Service Level Agreement is in place between the business and the labour provider.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Service Level Agreement		Retained
	PL.4.c	The agreement confirms that any workers provided are suitably competent.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Retained
	PL.4.d	The agreement confirms any training completed by the labour provider as an alternative to the businesses' own training systems.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Retained
	PL.4.e	The agreement confirms that all workers are legally permitted to work within the UK.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
	PL.4.f	The agreement defines allocation of Health & Safety responsibilities between labour provider and labour user.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
GUIDANCE: Please note the Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) was absorbed into the Fair Work Agency (FWA) in April 2026.						

Where to find help:

The Fair Work Agency licensing standards for gangmasters: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-fair-work-agency-licensing-standards-for-gangmasters

A labour provider's current licence status can be checked at www.glass.gla.gov.uk/public/s/.

Health and Safety

The aim of requiring a Health and Safety Policy within the Red Tractor Standards is to promote a safe working environment by ensuring health and safety responsibilities, arrangements and risk controls are clearly defined, communicated and implemented. This helps reduce the risk of accidents, protect people working on the farm and support legal compliance.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
PL.5		A documented Health and Safety Policy is in place for all farms and is current.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Health and Safety Policy		Editorial change
	PL.5.a	Policy is effectively communicated to all relevant workers.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Retained
	PL.5.b	Language and learning style is given due consideration to ensure all workers understand information.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Retained
GUIDANCE: Red Tractor recognises that farms differ in size, workforce and enterprise. Health and safety measures should therefore be appropriate, proportionate and suited to the farm operation. Simple steps, such as maintaining equipment, keeping work areas tidy, reviewing working practices and providing clear instructions, can significantly reduce risk without adding unnecessary burden. Managing health and safety well is part of good farming practice and supports the long-term sustainability of the farm business.						

Where to find help:

How to write your Health & Safety Policy, including an example template:
https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/policy/how-to-write-your-policy.htm

Give feedback

Specific feedback: Medicine Administration - Regarding PL.1.f, do you agree that in Dairy any persons administering medicines should undertake an approved training course within the last five years? This helps safeguard animal health and welfare, supports responsible medicine use and reduces the risk of residues entering the food chain.

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific feedback: Foot Trimming - Regarding PL.1.1, do you agree that in Dairy any persons trimming cows' feet are trained and competent? This includes farm personnel and external providers. This helps ensure cattle receive safe, effective foot care, reducing the risk of injury and supporting good mobility, health and welfare. (Reference: Dairy Cow Lameness Manifesto - Ruminant Health & Welfare)

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree

Proposals

- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Overarching feedback: Personnel - To what extent do you agree with the proposals for Personnel, and do you have anything else to add?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Share feedback at
redtractor.org.uk/bld-consultation

Animal Health (AH)

Aim

To provide consumers and customers with assurance that livestock is maintained in a healthy condition, ensuring that the beef and lamb they purchase is safe to eat and cared for appropriately on farm.
These standards ensure that animals are well managed by competent stockmen to good standards of husbandry and welfare in accordance with current UK legislation and DEFRA Welfare Codes. The producer will be aware that the health of the animals is crucial, both to food safety and productivity on the farm. Producers will have a close relationship with their veterinary surgeon and will be conscious of the need to try to prevent animal health problems specific to the farm. The importance of recording animal health data is key to ensuring effective and timely decisions can be made.

Summary of proposed changes:

The requirements for a health plan and health and performance review have been redeveloped to better reflect the requirements of the sector. Prescriptive elements have been removed, allowing for more farm-specific discussions between the member and vet based on issues that are impacting the farm. Additionally, following the consultation on the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway Review, the proposed standards align more closely with legislation, reducing duplication and recognising work that is ongoing within the industry to improve the health of farm animals.

The section has also been re-ordered for clarity to show what is expected of members. Static documents within the health plan have been moved into a subsection, as these documents only need updating when changes in practice occur rather than every year. These requirements fulfil legislation within the DEFRA Codes of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock for sheep and cattle.

Changes in detail

- AH.1 and AH.1.a–AH.1.e have been removed
- AH.1.1 is now the Health Review, AH.3
- AH.1.1.a has been streamlined to better reflect the vet and member having a discussion about issues relevant to the farm rather than using a prescriptive list that may not apply to all farms
- AH.1.1.b has been reworded as an Action Plan rather than a Health Plan. It will detail vaccination and parasite control specific to the farm, infectious diseases that may need consideration and routine testing carried out
- AH.1.2 and AH.1.2.a have been removed

- AH.2 and AH.2.a have been merged, with the specific elements streamlined and reduced
- The static documents within the health plan have moved into a separate subsection, as these elements may not need updating annually
- AH.4 has been moved to AH.1
- AH.4 was within AH.8; specific details about what is required in the document have now been included
- AH.5 remains the same
- AH.6 remains the same
- AH.7 remains the same, with details about what is required added
- AH.8 remains the same
- AH.9 is new
- The biosecurity and husbandry procedures have been moved to the Animal Health section
- A new recommendation has been included relating to the use of pain relief

Proposed Standards

Personnel

Everyone involved in the care and management of livestock, including contractors, must have the skills and knowledge needed to deliver high standards of animal health and welfare. This helps protect the reputation of the farm and maintain confidence in assured British farming.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
AH.1 (Key)		All personnel, including contractors involved with the health and welfare of livestock, have appropriate skills and knowledge.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
GUIDANCE: A list of unacceptable behaviours is in the appendix.						

Health Records

Keeping accurate health records is essential for tracking disease, monitoring treatments and ensuring animals receive timely and appropriate care. They also help farmers make informed management decisions, improve productivity and demonstrate compliance with welfare and regulatory standards.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
AH.2		Records of health are maintained throughout the year, including: • mortality records, including animals culled and reasons for culling • disease occurrence and incidence • health metrics specific to the farm, e.g. lameness, mastitis and survivability	Goat Cattle Sheep	Health records (T)		Editorial Change

Health Review

The purpose of a health review is to evaluate the overall health, productivity and performance of livestock operations. It helps identify bottlenecks and opportunities for improvement, ensuring livestock are healthy, productive and efficient in resource use. The review involves collecting herd or

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flock information, assembling health and disease records, evaluating productivity measures, and assessing mortality and culling data.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
AH.3		An annual livestock health review which is farm specific must be undertaken by the nominated vet or a vet from the nominated vet practice and a report produced.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Annual health review (T)		Editorial Change
	AH.3.a	The report should cover: • regularly occurring problems and key disease issues • review of medicine records and use, including anthelmintic use • total antibiotics prescribed • prophylactic antibiotic use, if practised • HPCIAs, if used • cascade use, if practised It should also make recommendations on managing the risk of: • disease incidence • antibiotic resistance, including prophylactic use • anthelmintic resistance	Goat Cattle Sheep			Revised
	AH.3.b	An agreed and documented Action Plan is produced, including where appropriate: • vaccination policy • parasite control • infectious disease deemed high risk or high prevalence • any routine testing, e.g. faecal egg counts	Goat Cattle Sheep			Revised
AH.3.1		An annual collation of calf birth/deaths must be maintained, detailing - number of cows calved - number of calves born dead or die <24 hours old - number of calves die >1 and <42 days old - number of calves sold off farm <42 days (including those under TB orders)	Dairy Specific			Retained
	AH.3.1.a	Trends to be observed and actions arising noted in the Health Review	Dairy Specific			Retained
AH.3.2		A Johne's Management Plan Declaration completed every 12 months and implemented in line with the National	Dairy Specific			Editorial Change

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		Johne's Plan this includes the control strategy developed in consultation with an accredited Johne's Veterinary Advisor				
		Johne's disease must be managed with the vet as detailed in the Health Review	Dairy Goat specific			Retained

Biosecurity

The aim of biosecurity standards is to minimise the risk of disease entering and spreading on farm, protecting animal health and welfare, safeguarding food safety, supporting responsible medicine use, and maintaining confidence in Red Tractor assured British livestock products.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
AH.4 (Key)		A documented Biosecurity Policy must be in place, implemented and updated annually. The policy details controls on-farm to manage biosecurity risks to the farm including risks from: - incoming stock (bought-in and returning livestock) -infectious disease - equipment inc. husbandry contractors' equipment and clothing - vehicles that have access to the farm - farm visitors that have access to livestock areas	Goat Cattle Sheep	Biosecurity policy (T)		Retained
AH.4.1		Cleaning and disinfecting facilities must be available for use on the farm	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
	AH.4.1.a	DEFRA approved disinfectants and cleaning equipment available for use on boots, clothing and facilities	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained

Static Health Procedures

Static documents within the health plan provide a permanent record of key farm-specific information that does not require regular updating. They support continuity of management, inform decision-making, and ensure that essential procedures, risk factors and baseline information are clearly documented and readily available. Together, they demonstrate a structured approach to animal health planning and provide assurance that the fundamental elements of herd or flock health management are understood, maintained and effectively controlled over time.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
AH.5		A broken needle policy must be in place which outlines how to deal appropriately with needles or part needles	Goat Cattle Sheep	Broken Needle Policy (T)		Retained but moved

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		remaining in livestock, including: - how the animal should be identified - procedures for informing the abattoir if sent for slaughter - records to be kept				from AM section
AH.6		A documented plan on husbandry procedures that are carried out on farm, covering the ages at which procedures are carried out, the method used, analgesic or anaesthetic used, and justification for use.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Husbandry procedure plan (T)		Retained
AH.7		Identification of Treated Animals procedure/document detailing: - the identification of treated animals - how they will be identified -ensuring the mark lasts the entire withdrawal period	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific	Identification of treated animals (T)		Retained
AH.8		Where disease risks have been identified in the Health Review, a contingency plan for disease outbreaks must be in place. This includes how livestock numbers and stocking density will be managed during lockdowns or movement restrictions so animal health and welfare is not compromised.	Goat Cattle Sheep	Disease outbreak contingency plan (T)		New
GUIDANCE: To ensure that animal welfare and disease control are maintained during exceptional circumstances, including disease outbreaks and movement bans, and that any temporary increase in stocking density is managed responsibly, proportionately and with appropriate veterinary oversight.						
AH.9		You must have a written breeding and management policy in place and implemented	Dairy Specific	Breeding and Management Policy (T)		Retained

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		so there is no routine euthanasia of calves.				
	AH.9.a	Policy covers breeding and management decision processes, including: Breeding: • semen usage and breeding management decisions • tools used to determine replacement rates, etc. (can be N/A if a true flying herd) Management: • provision of rearing facilities to cover the number of youngstock (see Appendix for how the calculation should be undertaken; provision must cover 100% of expected births over a 10-day period) • identified market for breed of calf produced • provision/plan for TB breakdown	Dairy Specific			Retained
AH.10 (Recommendation)		*It is recommended you have a written breeding and management policy in place and implemented so there is minimal euthanasia of kids.*	*Dairy Goat Specific*	*Breeding and management policy (T)*		*Retained*
	AH.10.a	The policy covers breeding and management decision processes, including: Breeding: • breeding management decisions Management: • provision of rearing facilities to cover the number of youngstock	Dairy Goat Specific			Retained

proposals

		• provision/plan for TB breakdown				
AH.11		A documented Lameness Policy is in place, implemented and updated as required. The policy covers: • persons with responsibility for footcare/lameness management • identification of lame animals • treatment of lame animals • prevention actions, e.g. foot trimming and foot bathing • strategies to reduce prevalence • updating as required	Dairy Specific	Lameness Policy (T)		Retained
AH.11.1		A documented Pain Relief Use Procedure is in place, implemented and updated as required, covering: • when it is used, e.g. procedure or injury • what products are used • quantity of product to be used	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific	Pain Relief Procedure (T)		Retained
AH.12		A documented Mastitis Policy is in place, implemented and updated as required. The policy covers: • methods of detection • preventative measures • treatment of clinical mastitis • strategies to reduce prevalence	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific	Mastitis Policy (T)		Retained
AH.13		A documented Shackles/Hobbles Policy is in place, implemented and updated as required. The policy includes: • when used, e.g. calving or following the splits • application	Dairy Specific	Shackles/Hobbles Policy (T)		Retained

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		• monitoring • duration of use • veterinary involvement • euthanasia decision tree				
AH.14		A documented Downer Cow Policy is in place, implemented and updated as required. The policy includes: • movement to an appropriate area, e.g. dry, bedded area or outside with shade and shelter • how they are moved • feed/water provision • inspection and intervention frequency • veterinary intervention • euthanasia decision	Dairy Specific	Downer Cow Policy (T)		Retained
AH.15		A drying off procedure is in place, implemented and updated as required, which includes: • identification of treatment groups, e.g. high SCC and milk yield • measures to be taken • hygiene and administration • products used	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific	Drying Off Procedure (T)		Retained

Euthanasia

Prompt and appropriate action is essential where an animal's condition deteriorates and recovery is unlikely. Farmers and stockpersons should be able to recognise signs of severe injury, illness or distress, and make timely decisions to prevent avoidable suffering. Competent personnel should be readily available and trained in the use of approved euthanasia methods. Animals requiring euthanasia should be handled calmly and humanely, ensuring stress is minimised. Confirmation of death is carried out, and carcases disposed of in accordance with legal requirements.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
AH.16		A documented euthanasia policy is available detailing: • competent person • acceptable methods • the competent person is available as soon as possible (normally within 60 minutes) in	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific			Retained

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		order to deal with emergency cases promptly and prevent unnecessary suffering				
AH.16.1		Where euthanasia is required, a competent person is available as soon as possible (usually within 60 minutes), using acceptable methods to prevent unnecessary suffering.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained

Inspection of Livestock

Ensuring livestock are regularly inspected means that health, welfare and behavioural issues are identified promptly. This enables timely action to prevent unnecessary suffering and maintain animal health and welfare.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
AH.17		The nominated vet/vet practice must visit the farm at least annually and see the livestock to check for signs of disease.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
AH.18		The health and welfare of livestock must be checked regularly for signs of illness, injury and stress. Livestock checks as follows: • at least minimum daily checks for livestock outside, twice daily inside • increased checks for newborns and those about to give birth • flock inspection frequency in extensive, upland areas appropriate to need	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
AH.19 (Key)		Livestock are handled in a manner to minimise stress and without excessive force and not in a way that causes pain and suffering.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
GUIDANCE: Refer to Red Tractor Appendix for definition of unacceptable behaviour with regards to livestock handling.						
	AH.19.a	No electric goads.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Retained
	AH.19.b	Dogs kept under control.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained

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	AH.19.c	No electrified backing gates are used.	Dairy Specific			Retained
AH.19.1 (Recommendation)		It is recommended that CCTV is in operation in the parlour and handling areas and is used to monitor animal welfare.	Dairy Goat Specific			Retained
	AH.19.1.a	Footage is recorded and kept for a minimum of 30 days.	Dairy Goat Specific			Retained
	AH.19.1.b	A documented procedure is followed with regards to review of the footage and staff training.	Dairy Goat Specific			Retained
	AH.19.1.c	Signage is displayed to inform personnel and visitors that CCTV is in use and its purpose.	Dairy Goat Specific			Retained
	AH.19.1.d	CCTV footage is made available for assessment purposes on request.	Dairy Goat Specific			Retained
AH.20		Sick or injured livestock must receive prompt attention in order that suffering is not prolonged. Where required they are treated and/or moved to segregation facilities or humanely euthanised.	Goat Cattle Sheep		L	Retained
	AH.20.a	If appropriate a vet has been involved.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Retained
	AH.20.b	Lame cows identified, treated and managed in accordance with the Lameness policy.	Dairy Specific			Retained

Husbandry Procedures

Standards are in place to ensure husbandry procedures are carried out safely and humanely, using permitted methods, at the appropriate age, by trained and competent persons, and with appropriate pain control where required. Procedures covered include castration, tail docking, disbudding, dehorning and the removal of supernumerary teats.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
AH.21		Husbandry procedures must be carried out in accordance with the Appendix.	Goat Cattle Sheep			Editorial Change

proposals

AH.22		Cauterising paste is only used on animals less than one week of age and the calf must receive analgesia.	Cattle		L	Retained

Pain Relief

The use of pain relief in livestock reflects a commitment to higher welfare by minimising pain following painful procedures and conditions outside those husbandry procedures defined by Red Tractor.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
AH.23 (Recommendation)		*It is recommended that pain relief is used following painful procedures and for conditions likely to cause pain, including but not limited to calving, lameness or mastitis.*	*Goat Cattle Sheep*			*New*
GUIDANCE: Painful procedures and conditions include, but are not limited to, difficult lambing or calving, lameness or mastitis. In line with Veterinary Medicines Regulations, any pain relief (NSAIDs) used should be recorded in the medicine administration records, even if it has zero withdrawal days or is used under the cascade.						

Give feedback

Specific feedback: Health Review - Regarding AH.3, do you agree with the proposed changes to re-imagine the Health Review so it is farm-specific and vet-led? The intention is to shift the focus from completing generic paperwork to delivering meaningful improvements in animal health, welfare and performance. It supports continuous improvement, responsible medicine use and informed management decisions, while providing evidence of proactive health planning.

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific feedback: Contingency Planning - Regarding AH.8, do you agree with the changes that have been proposed, that there is a documented contingency plan in place where disease risks have been identified in the Health Review? Contingency planning helps ensure that risks to animal welfare, food safety, the environment and business continuity can be managed effectively during unexpected events, enabling prompt action and minimising the impact on the farm.

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific feedback: Pain Relief - Regarding AH.23, do you agree with the proposed recommendation that pain relief is used following painful procedures or for conditions likely to cause pain? Appropriate pain relief helps protect animal welfare by reducing unnecessary pain and suffering associated with

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disease, injury and other conditions. It supports prompt treatment, responsible livestock management and demonstrates a commitment to high welfare standards.

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Overarching feedback: Animal Health - To what extent do you agree with the proposed standards for Animal Health, and do you have anything else to add?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Share feedback at
redtractor.org.uk/bld-consultation

Milk Production (MP)

Aim

The aim of milk production standards is to ensure milk is produced safely, hygienically and to a high quality. Producers are responsible for implementing effective milking, storage and hygiene practices that minimise contamination, protect animal health and welfare, and ensure milk meets food safety and quality requirements throughout the production process. Maintaining these standards also supports compliance with dairy hygiene legislation and Red Tractor's earned recognition with the Food Standards Agency.

Summary of proposed changes:

This section has been reordered to better reflect the legislation and make it clearer what the member should be doing and what the assessor is looking for. Like-for-like items have been grouped together and subheadings created to split the section into manageable parts.

Changes in detail

- MP.23 and MP.23.a were merged into a standard as no NCs have been raised against this in V5
- MP.23.b and MP.23.c were removed as they are covered in other sections
- MP.24 has been reworded to better reflect the legislative requirements
- MP.24.b has been made into a standard to emphasise its importance for food safety
- MP.24.c has been made into its own standard to emphasise its importance for food safety and reworded to better reflect the legal requirements
- Brucellosis has been added to MP.25.a to better reflect the legal requirements
- MP.25 and MP.26 have been merged, and MP.26.a and MP.26.b now sit under a different standard (MP.4)
- MP.9 and MP.9.a have been merged into a new standard (MP.5)
- MP.9.b has been moved to a different standard (MP.6)
- MP.9.c has been reworded to better reflect the legislation and clarify that feed hoppers should be lidded
- MP.11.a was removed as it was deemed unnecessary and replaced with MP.9.c
- MP.13.a was removed because the standard includes the required information and the additional detail was deemed unnecessary
- MP.27.b has been removed as this is included in the Health Plan

- MP.28.d has been removed as the standard was deemed to cover this requirement
- MP.29.b was reworded to better reflect the expectations
- MP.30.a and MP.30.b have been merged into the standard
- MP.10 and MP.10.a were merged
- MP.10.b was made into its own standard to emphasise the importance of cleaning protocols (MP.30)
- MP.15 and MP.15.a have been merged
- MP.16 and MP.16.a have been merged
- MP.19.a has been reworded and annual water testing is now required
- MP.3 has been simplified to make the wording shorter and more focused
- MP.19 (previously MP.3) now includes dairy washrooms, as discussed with the FSA
- MP.20.f (V2027) has been added to better reflect the legal requirements
- MP.5 was reworded so there is one standard and one audit point
- MP.6.a has been reworded to include the area around the tank being clean
- MP.22.d (V2027) has been added to cover external tanks and the associated requirements
- MP.6.b has been reworded
- MP.6.d has been moved to the cleaning section
- MP.7.b was simplified to make it auditable
- MP.8.a–MP.8.c have been reworded
- MP.1 and MP.2 have been merged
- MP.27 (V2027), previously MP.24.c, has been made into a standard
- MP.22.a has been removed and some elements have been moved into guidance
- MP.7 has been added and its audit point was previously MP.6.d, keeping common themes together
- MP.8 has been added from audit point MP.10.b to emphasise the importance of tank cleaning, with additional detail about the final rinse
- VC.3.b was removed as it is covered in other areas
- MP.32 was added after it was identified as a mapping gap by the FSA

Proposed Standards

Animal Health and Cleanliness

To ensure livestock are healthy and maintained in a clean condition, reducing the risk of disease, contamination and poor welfare. Good health and cleanliness help protect food safety, support milk quality, and minimise the transfer of harmful bacteria from animals to the final product.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
MP.1		All lactating cows must be milked daily at regular intervals, including those in isolation.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
MP.2		Procedures must be in place to reduce the risk of contaminating milk by ensuring teats, udders and adjacent parts are clean before milking.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.2.a	A means of cleaning soiled udders is available and used as necessary.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change

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	MP.2.b	Udder cloths, if used, are single use or sanitised between animals.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
MP.3		Animals have their milk individually inspected at the start of milking for the presence of blood, clots and discolouration.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
GUIDANCE: Methods of inspection include foremilking, a conductivity meter or colour detection system, transparent claws, long milk tube filters or recording jars.						
MP.4		Processes are in place to ensure that milk unfit for human consumption does not enter the milk storage tank.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.4.a	Milk is unsuitable and discarded appropriately if: • it is from a TB reactor, from the point of veterinary diagnosis • it is from an animal positive for Brucellosis, from the point of veterinary diagnosis • inspection or detection identifies abnormalities in the milk • the animal shows signs of disease, infection, udder inflammation or wounds and is being treated • the animal is under a medicine withdrawal period	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.4.b	Animals whose milk is unfit for human consumption are: • clearly identified for the full withdrawal period • milked last or into a separate bucket unit system • recorded on the controlling computer where automatic milking units are used • managed so the system automatically discards the milk and clears the unit before the next animal is milked	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
GUIDANCE: Animals are in a good state of health and show no sign of disease that might contaminate milk. In particular, they are not suffering from an infection of the genital tract with discharge, enteritis with diarrhoea and fever, an udder wound likely to affect the milk or colostrum, or recognisable inflammation of the udder.						

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Milking Area

To provide a clean, hygienic and well-maintained environment that minimises the risk of milk contamination during milking, supports effective cleaning and disinfection, and helps ensure the production of safe, high-quality milk for human consumption.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
MP.5		The milking area must be kept clean and tidy, and free from accumulated dirt, dung, dust and rubbish. This includes milking point control units and other touch points.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.5.a	Feed hoppers and troughs are free from mould and a build-up of old feed material. Feed hoppers are lidded.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.5.b	Ceilings, beams and girders directly over the milking area are free from rust and accumulated dust to prevent contamination of milk.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.5.c	The milking area is kept tidy and clear of products, chemicals and items not in constant use.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
MP.6		A supply of water and suitable means of washing must be available to the milking area.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.6.a	The milking area walls, doors, gates and collecting yard close to the entrance are washed and cleaned down after each milking.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
MP.7		Structures within the milking area must be sound, maintained and suitable.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.7.a	Walls, to a washable height of 2.5m or the whole wall, and doors are undamaged with a sealed, washable finish.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.7.b	Floors are impervious, free draining with no standing water, and complete, with any cracks unable to hold dirt or water.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.7.c	Ceilings, beams and roof linings are complete and maintained. False ceilings are fully sealed.	Dairy Specific		L	No change

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			Dairy Goat Specific			
MP.8		The milking area must be well lit to provide good visibility for all milking and cleaning operations.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.8.a	Lights are shatterproof or covered.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.8.b	Light covers are free from accumulated dead flies and cobwebs.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change

Milking Operations and Staff Hygiene

To ensure milking is carried out hygienically by trained personnel, reducing the risk of contamination and protecting milk quality. Good milking practices, effective identification of abnormal milk, clean equipment and high standards of personal hygiene help safeguard animal health, food safety and the production of safe milk for human consumption.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
MP.9		Milking personnel are aware of relevant procedures that prevent contaminated milk from entering the milk storage tank.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.9.a	All milking personnel, including relief milkers, are aware of the identification of treated animals, e.g. whiteboards or tail tapes.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
MP.10		Milking personnel must follow good hygiene practices to avoid contaminating raw milk.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.10.a	Wellingtons and milking aprons or suits are clean at the start of milking and cleaned or changed when soiled during milking.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.10.b	Hands, forearms and gloves, if used, are kept clean during milking.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.10.c	Cuts, wounds and sores are covered.	Dairy Specific		L	No change

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			Dairy Goat Specific			
MP.11		Dedicated and accessible hand- and arm-washing and drying facilities must be provided.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.11.a	Facilities are located within the dairy or an adjacent room which is also accessible to the tanker driver.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.11.b	Facilities include: • a designated sink or basin • plumbed cold water • accessible hot water • soap	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.11.c	Paper towels with a bin that is emptied regularly, or another hygienic method of hand drying, are available.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.11.d	Hand basins discharge into a drain or well-drained floor.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
GUIDANCE: Sinks should not be used as storage units.						
MP.12		Smoking and vaping are not permitted in any areas used for milking, milk storage or plant washing, and appropriate signage is in place.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change

Milking Equipment

To ensure milking equipment is clean, well maintained and fit for purpose, reducing the risk of contamination and bacterial growth. Effective cleaning, disinfection and maintenance of milk contact surfaces help protect milk quality, animal health and food safety throughout the milking process.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
MP.13		Equipment in the milking area must be visually clean both internally and externally - this applies to ducts, jars, clusters and pipework.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
MP.14		The milking machine and all associated equipment, fixtures and fittings must be maintained and suitable.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change

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	MP.14.a	Fixtures and fittings are of sound construction with a washable finish.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.14.b	No signs of perishing rubber ware.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.14.c	Automatic dipping and flushing systems are maintained and functioning to ensure milk contamination is avoided.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.14.d	Automatic milking units (robots) are inspected at least daily to make sure they are operating correctly	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
MP.15		The milking machine has teat cup liners that are changed in accordance with manufacturers' instructions for number of milkings/hours of use.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.15.a	Records of liner changes are kept for 12 months	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
MP.16		The milking machine must be tested at least annually, to latest standards relevant to machine or installation date (currently ISO6690:2007).	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.16.a	Any faults identified are rectified	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.16.b	Copies of certificate or test report available to assessor.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific			No change
MP.17		*It is recommended that milking machine testing is undertaken by a competent engineer or technician.*	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific			No change
	MP.17.a	*Technician/engineer holds accreditation through the Milking Equipment Association or similar.*	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific			No change
MP.18		Water used in the milk production area that is in contact with teats/udders and	Dairy Specific		L	Editorial change

proposals

		internal equipment surfaces must be safe.	Dairy Goat Specific			
	MP.18.a	Non mains water is independently tested annually or as soon as any changes to smell, colour, or taste are noted	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Revised
GUIDANCE: Header tanks are kept clean and securely lidded to protect water quality, reduce contamination risks, and maintain high hygiene standards.						

Milk Storage

To ensure milk is stored, cooled and protected in a clean, dedicated environment that minimises the risk of contamination. Effective milk storage facilities and management help maintain milk quality, food safety and suitability for human consumption.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
MP.19		The milk storage area must be managed to ensure satisfactory hygienic conditions and minimise contamination.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.19.a	The milk storage room is not used for purposes other than cooling and storing milk, and cleaning and storing milking equipment.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	New
	MP.19.b	The milk storage area is enclosed and separated from the milking area by a door that is closed when not in use.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.19.c	Where applicable, dairy washrooms are kept clean and tidy and constructed to limit contamination and aid effective cleaning.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	New
GUIDANCE: The milk storage area should be free from a build-up of dust, cobwebs, mould, rust and equipment not in use.						
MP.20		Structures within the dairy and milk storage area must be sound, maintained and suitable.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.20.a	Walls are smooth, impervious and easy to clean.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change

proposals

	MP.20.b	Floors are impervious, free-draining with no standing water, and complete; drains are covered.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.20.c	Ceilings, beams and roof linings are complete and maintained. False ceilings are fully sealed.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.20.d	Windows are complete and well fitting, and are permanently secured shut or fitted with fly screens.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.20.e	The area is well lit and lights are shatterproof or covered.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.20.f	Other fittings within the area are smooth and impervious, and free from flaking paint and rust.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	New
MP.21		All external doors can be locked when no one is on site.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.21.a	Internal doors are kept closed when not in use.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
MP.22		Milk storage tanks are managed to reduce the risk of milk contamination.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.22.a	The area around external bulk milk tanks is maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	New
	MP.22.b	Milk can be checked for contamination; for example, tanks have lids or sampling points and sufficient space for sampling and visual inspection.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	New
	MP.22.c	Exterior requirements: • tanks or silos, pipelines, rubber seals, motor casings, outlets and hoses or pressure washers are free from accumulated dirt, dust, rust and bird droppings • water heaters and agitator motors are	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change

proposals

		free from rust • milk silo air inlets are fitted with a filter • milk silos are located on a drained concrete pad				
	MP.22.d	External bulk milk tanks are tamperproof and designed for outdoor use, fitted with agitation equipment, and designed to facilitate inspection and sampling.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	New
MP.23		Milk is cooled immediately after milking to at least the legal maximum temperatures. For everyday collection, milk is cooled and maintained at 8°C or lower; for alternate-day collection, 6°C or lower.	Dairy Specific		L	Editorial change
MP.23		Milk is cooled immediately after milking to at least the legal maximum temperatures.	Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.23.a	Tanks are fitted with functioning temperature gauges.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
GUIDANCE: While milking is in progress, milk held in the storage tank is not required to meet the legal quality parameters; these standards apply at the point of collection.						
MP.24		Milk cooling systems and storage tanks must be maintained to ensure effective cooling and washing, and serviced annually.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.24.a	Any faults identified are rectified.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.24.b	Relevant gauges are maintained and calibrated, and leakage testing is completed as required by legislation.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.24.c	Copies of test reports are available to the assessor.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific			Editorial change

Milk Collection

To ensure milk is collected, transferred and transported under hygienic conditions that protect it from contamination and maintain its quality and safety.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status

proposals

MP.25		The milk collection area must be kept clean and tidy and externally lit to facilitate the safe collection of milk in darkness.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.25.a	The area from the back axle of the tanker to the storage tank access is made of concrete or a similar surface, complete and drained.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific			No change
	MP.25.b	The walkway from the driver's door to the back axle of the tanker and storage tank access provides clean, hard-standing access for the tanker driver.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific			No change
	MP.25.c	The area is kept sufficiently clean that the tanker hose is not soiled when in use.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific			No change

Cleaning Procedures/Processes

To ensure all milk contact surfaces, equipment and storage facilities are effectively cleaned, disinfected and maintained to minimise contamination risks. Robust cleaning procedures help control bacteria, protect milk quality and support the production of safe milk for human consumption.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
MP.26		Chemicals and cleaning agents used for milk contact surfaces must be authorised for the intended use, stored and used in accordance with manufacturers' instructions.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.26.a	Products used are within date, not phenolic-based, not known to cause taint in milk and not harmful to livestock if in contact with the udder.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.26.b	Cleaning chemicals do not contain quaternary ammonium compounds (QACs), as stated on the chemical data sheet or confirmed by a warranty from the supplier.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.26.c	Correct quantities are used, using a measuring jug or regular checks on automatic dosing systems.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
GUIDANCE: This applies to the milking area and milk storage area.						
MP.27		Teat dips or sprays are used only in accordance with the procedures laid	Dairy Specific		L	New

proposals

		down in Directive 98/8/EC (BPR) or Veterinary Medicinal Products requirements, and in a manner that does not produce unacceptable residue levels in the milk.	Dairy Goat Specific			
GUIDANCE: Teat dips or sprays are used only after authorisation or registration in accordance with the procedures laid down in Directive 98/8/EC. See links to resources below.						
MP.28		Current safety data sheets for all chemicals and cleaning agents, including disinfectants, used within the milk production area must be available.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
GUIDANCE: Safety data sheets may be printed or downloaded and saved on an electronic device accessible to all relevant personnel.						
MP.29		Milking equipment, including the bulk tank, is cleaned internally on all milk contact surfaces to reduce the risk of contamination and chemical residues, including chlorates, in accordance with legislation.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
	MP.29.a	Interior cleaning requirements: • cleaning is completed after every complete milk collection • outlet pipes, dipsticks, lids, caps, bungs, internal ladders, external valves and sampling points are clean	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	Editorial change
GUIDANCE: Effective cleaning and disinfection of milk processing equipment is vital to prevent foodborne illness and safeguard the integrity of the dairy industry. The chlorate maximum residue limit for liquid milk is 0.1 mg/kg. See links to resources below.						
MP.30		A detailed plant cleaning protocol for the milking area, plant and tank is available, displayed and implemented.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific	Cleaning protocol (T)		Editorial change
	MP.30.a	The protocol includes: • products used • water temperature • stages of the wash • a final rinse with a chlorate-free chemical or potable water	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific			Editorial change
	MP.30.b	If an automatic wash is used, the stages are detailed along with the frequency of checks undertaken.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific			Editorial change

Proposals

Resources

UK authorised biocidal products

- UK authorised biocidal products webpage
- UK authorised biocidal products spreadsheet
- Chlorate residue limit: New chlorate residue limit introduced in UK milk

Pest Control

To prevent contamination of milk and milking facilities by insects, rodents, birds and other pests. Effective pest control helps maintain hygienic conditions, protect milk quality and support the production of safe milk for human consumption.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
MP.31		Systems must be in place to control vermin across milk production and storage areas.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.31.a	In the milk storage facility, doors are kept closed.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.31.b	There is no evidence of accumulated dirt from nesting birds.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.31.c	Insect elimination measures, such as screens, strips or electric fly killers, are positioned and managed so they cannot contaminate the product.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change
	MP.31.d	Vermin access points are eliminated where possible.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	No change

Traceability

To ensure accurate records are maintained for animals, feed, veterinary medicines, disease events and milk production activities, enabling products to be traced throughout the production process.

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
MP.32		Members must be able to identify where milk is sold, for example the first purchaser and any additional purchasers.	Dairy Specific Dairy Goat Specific		L	New
GUIDANCE:						

proposals

This may be demonstrated using documents that identify the milk purchaser, for example milk collection tickets, monthly milk statements or milk contracts.

Give feedback

Specific feedback: Non-mains Water - Regarding MP.18.a, do you agree with the proposal that non-mains water is tested annually? Annual testing helps ensure that water used in milk production remains safe and suitable for contact with teats, udders and milking equipment, reducing the risk of contamination and protecting milk quality and food safety.

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific feedback: Milk Storage - Regarding the additions to MP.19 and MP.20, do you agree with the proposed changes providing greater clarity around the requirements for external bulk milk tanks and dairy washrooms? These changes have been made to better reflect legislation.

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Specific feedback: Teat Dips and Traceability - Regarding the additions to MP.27 and MP.32, do you agree with the new standards relating to teat dips and traceability? These changes have been made to better reflect legislation.

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Overarching feedback: Milk Production - Which of the following describes your feedback on the proposed standards for Milk Production, and do you have anything else to add?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Share feedback at
redtractor.org.uk/bld-consultation

proposals

Environmental Protection (EC)

Aim

Environmental protection aims to minimise the impact of farming activities on the environment by preventing pollution, protecting soil and water resources, managing waste responsibly and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. Effective environmental management helps safeguard ecosystems and maintain farm productivity. A nutrient management plan supports soil health, reduces water pollution risk and reflects the direction of regulation.

Summary of proposed changes:

The majority of requirements in this section have been maintained. The key change is the replacement of a manure management plan with a nutrient management plan, identifying where and how much manure and fertiliser can be spread based on crop need and soil type. The proposed standards go further than previous requirements by requiring farmers to identify where they should and should not spread and to match applications to crop need and soil type. These standards apply to members in England only. Members in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland comply with their own local requirements, which the standard recognises explicitly.

Changes in detail

- New audit points: EC.9.c, EC.9.d, EC.9.e and EC.9.j
- All other standards and audit points have been retained

Proposed Standards

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
EC.1		Potential pollutants must be stored in a manner that minimises the risk of contamination and pollution to crops, feedstuffs, animals, soils, groundwater and watercourses.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.1.a	Fuel tanks are bunded where required by legislation (see Appendix).	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.1.b	Agrochemicals are kept in a well-maintained store which allows for containment of any spillages.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.1.c	Manufactured fertiliser is stored on a hard, dry surface.	Cattle Goat Sheep			Retained
	EC.1.d	Fertilisers that pose a combustion or oxidiser hazard are stored in accordance with the Safety Data Sheet.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
EC.1.1		Organic manures must be stored in a manner that minimises the risk of contamination and pollution to	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained

proposals

		crops, feedstuffs, animals, soils, groundwater and watercourses.				
	EC.1.1.a	Organic manures (not including storage within a building) are not stored: - within 10m of inland freshwaters or coastal waters - within 50m of a spring, well or borehole - where there is significant risk of runoff entering watercourses	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.1.1.b	Manure heap (not including field heaps) effluent runoff does not enter a watercourse, either directly or through land drains, roads, tracks or other pathways.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.1.1.c	Where manure is stored in temporary field heaps, these must be moved at least every 12 months.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.1.1.d	Slurry tanks, reception pits, pipes and channels are impermeable.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.1.1.e	Above ground slurry stores with a pipe for emptying are fitted with at least two functioning valves (one of which can be the nozzle), locked when not in use.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.1.1.f	Reception pits can hold 48 hour's production including likely rainfall on all surfaces draining into the pit.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.1.1.g	The combined available capacity of slurry tanks, pits, compounds and lagoons have sufficient capacity for slurry storage of: - at least 4 months in non-NVZ areas - at least 5 months in NVZ areas	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.1.1.h	There is a documented up-to-date calculation of slurry storage requirements.	Cattle Goat Sheep			Retained
EC.1.2		Silage must be stored in a manner that minimises the risk of contamination and pollution.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.1.2.a	Silage is made and stored at least 10m from watercourses and at least	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained

proposals

		50m from springs, wells and boreholes.				
	EC.1.2.b	Silos have an effluent collection system.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.1.2.c	Effluent from baled silage does not leak into water source.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.1.2.d	Field silage effluent is contained.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
EC.1.3		Slurry pits/lagoons must be fenced for animal and personnel safety	Cattle Goat Sheep			Retained
EC.2		In the case of packaging breakages potential pollutants must be transferred to a suitable container.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.2.a	Container has an appropriate safe closure cap or bag tie.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.2.b	The original label information is displayed.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
EC.3		Nitrogen based fertilisers must be stored in a way that minimises the risk of theft.	Cattle Goat Sheep			Retained
	EC.3.a	Is stored where there is no public access.	Cattle Goat Sheep			Retained
	EC.3.b	Product is either not stored close to, or is not visible from, a public highway (covering or sheeting is an acceptable way of ensuring the product is not visible).	Cattle Goat Sheep			Retained
	EC.3.c	Checks are made to ensure manufactured fertiliser has not been tampered with, moved or stolen.	Cattle Goat Sheep			Retained
	EC.3.d	Any theft or losses are reported to the police immediately (Tel: 101) as detailed in the Appendix.	Cattle Goat Sheep			

proposals

EC.4		PPPs must be appropriate for their intended use.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.4.a	PPPs must be appropriate for their intended use.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.4.b	PPPs are approved for use.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.4.c	Unapproved product is kept in a segregated area of the pesticide store, pending collection for disposal at the earliest opportunity; clearly marked with signs/labels stating that it must not be used.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
EC.5		PPPs must be applied in a manner that minimises the risk of contamination and pollution.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.5.a	PPP application does not occur in areas of high pollution risk, as identified on farm map.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.5.b	PPP application does not occur in unsuitable conditions e.g. when there is a risk of drift or where soil conditions are unsuitable e.g. waterlogged, flooded or snow-covered soil or where the soil has been frozen for more than 12 hours in the previous 24 hours.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.5.c	Buffer zone requirements of the PPP being applied are complied with.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
EC.7		All PPP application equipment must be maintained and tested.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.7.a	Frequency of testing is carried out as follows: - all new trailed/mounted/self-propelled sprayers are NSTS tested before they are 5 years old - subsequently trailed/mounted/self-propelled sprayers with a boom width over 3m are NSTS tested once every 3 years - subsequently	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained

proposals

		trailed/mounted/self-propelled sprays with a boom width of 3m or under and other application equipment (slug pellet, micro-granular applicators, weed wipers) are NSTS tested once every 6 years - knapsack, handheld and pedestrian equipment does not require an NSTS test but should be checked by the operator at least annually.				
	EC.7.b	Equipment calibration occurs at least annually.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
EC.8		Records must be kept of all PPP applications.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.8.a	Records include: - field identifier - crop/variety - date and time applied - justification/target for application - product name and active ingredient - rate of application - water volume - name of sprayer operator - grazing/harvest interval - total area - wind direction and speed - first permissible harvest date	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.8.c	Records are kept for at least 3 years.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
EC.8.1		*It is recommended where PPPs are used on crops an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan is completed*	Cattle Goat Sheep			Retained
EC.9		Manufactured fertilisers and organic manures must be applied in a manner that minimises the risk of contamination and pollution.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.9.a	Any materials, including waste materials, that are applied to land should have agricultural benefit.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained

Proposals

	EC.9.b	Exemptions/permits to use waste materials are held.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.9.c	A Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) is established and implemented where applications are made to land in England and in Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland as per relevant legislation	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	New
	EC.9.d	NMP includes the following: - identification of any areas where particular applications cannot be made - nutrient content of organic manures and fertilisers - plans to minimise nutrient loss (including incorporation of organic manures into soils unless there are appropriate agronomic, environmental, or practical reasons not to.) - Calculations of total area required to apply volume of organic manure produced by stock at legal application rate (not relevant to all sectors) - details of Total Spreadable Area available and outlets for any excess organic manure (not relevant to all sectors)	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	New
	EC.9.e	Before application, the following factors are considered: - NVZ restrictions - soil type - soil condition - slope - weather conditions - location of watercourses - water supplies and abstraction points (including on neighbouring land)	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	New
	EC.9.f	Applications are not carried out during high-risk times e.g. on waterlogged, flooded or snow-covered soil or where the soil has	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained

Proposals

		been frozen for more than 12 hours in the previous 24 hours.				
	EC.9.g	Biosolids are assured under the Biosolids Assurance Scheme.	Cattle Goat Sheep			Retained
	EC.9.h	Untreated sewage sludge, untreated abattoir or catering derived animal by-products are not applied.	Cattle Goat Sheep			Retained
	EC.9.i	Applications are made in accordance with Appendix.	Cattle Goat Sheep			Retained
	EC.9.j	Applications of fertilisers and organic manures are justified and planned to not exceed soil and crop nutrient needs	Cattle Goat Sheep			New
EC.10		All manufactured fertiliser application equipment must be maintained and calibrated at least annually.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
EC.11		All wastes which cannot be utilised are disposed of in a manner that minimises the risk of contamination and pollution.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.11.a	Wastes are disposed of by a registered waste carrier.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.11.b	Wastes are not burnt, with the exception of vegetation and untreated wood.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.11.c	Empty PPP containers are: - cleaned using an integrated pressure rinsing device, or triple rinsed appropriately and the rinsate returned to the spray tank - stored securely - not reused - returned to the supplier or where non-returnable, disposed of via a registered waste carrier.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained
	EC.11.d	Redundant PPPs are disposed of via the supplier or a registered waste carrier.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained

proposals

EC.12		Waste sheep dip must be dealt with in a manner that minimises the risk of contamination and pollution.	Cattle Goat Sheep		L	Retained

Give feedback

Specific feedback: Nutrient Management Plan - Regarding EC.9, do you agree with the proposal to include a Nutrient Management Plan within the standards? A Nutrient Management Plan helps ensure nutrients are applied according to crop and soil need, improving nutrient efficiency and protecting soil and water resources.

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Overarching feedback: Environmental Protection - To what extent do you agree with the proposed standards for Environmental Protection, and do you have anything else to add?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Share feedback at
redtractor.org.uk/bld-consultation

Urea (UR)

Aim

By demonstrating that urea fertilisers are only used where appropriate, the agricultural industry can evidence responsible nutrient management through a voluntary stewardship approach. This industry-led approach was developed to offset a proposed ban on unprotected urea fertilisers, helping retain access to an important fertiliser option without the need for further regulatory intervention.
As agriculture is a devolved matter, the requirements relating to unprotected or uninhibited fertiliser containing urea currently apply only in England.

Summary of proposed changes:

There are no proposed changes to this section.

Proposed Standards

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
UR.1		Fertiliser containing urea must only be applied where the following requirements are met.	Cattle Sheep Goat			Retained

	UR.1.a	Protected/inhibited fertilisers containing solid urea can be applied within any product use-by or best-before dates.	Cattle Sheep Goat			Retained
	UR.1.b	Protected/inhibited fertilisers containing liquid urea can be applied with the prescribed rate of protector/inhibitor for the application, and within any product use-by or best-before date.	Cattle Sheep Goat			Retained
	UR.1.c	In England, unprotected/uninhibited solid fertiliser containing urea can only be applied between 15 January and 31 March.	Cattle Sheep Goat			Retained
	UR.1.d	In England, unprotected/uninhibited liquid fertiliser containing urea can be applied between 15 January and 31 March.	Cattle Sheep Goat			Retained
	UR.1.e	In England, unprotected/uninhibited liquid fertiliser containing urea can be applied between 1 April and the last application in autumn* only if agronomic justification is provided by FACTS-qualified farm personnel**, or if advice specific to the crop has been provided by a FACTS-qualified adviser and followed (see EC.9.1).	Cattle Sheep Goat			Retained
	UR.1.f	In Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, fertiliser containing urea (solid and liquid) can be applied in accordance with relevant legislation.	Cattle Sheep Goat			Retained

Proposals

Give feedback

Overarching feedback: Urea - Which of the following describes your feedback on the proposed standards for Urea, and do you have anything else to add?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Share feedback at
redtractor.org.uk/bld-consultation

Recycled Manure Solids (RMS)

Aim

Recycled Manure Solids (RMS) are included in the Red Tractor Dairy Standards to ensure they are produced and used safely, legally and hygienically, protecting animal health, welfare and milk quality. The standards also support DEFRA recognition by demonstrating that the risks associated with RMS are managed through clear, auditable requirements and good farming practice.

Summary of proposed changes:

There are no proposed changes to this section.

Proposed Standards

Standard	Audit point	Proposal	Species / enterprise	Record / Template (T)	Legal (L)	Change status
RM.1		RMS must only be produced using raw cattle manure/slurry from housing and/or yards.	Dairy		L	Retained
	RM.1.a	Manures/slurries and used bedding as detailed below managed separately, and thus not used in production of RMS: - parlour waste (including waste milk) - isolation/quarantine/hospital pens and calving pens - TB inconclusive reactors, TB reactors, and cattle under Brucellosis investigation - the herd during periods of non-OTF status - livestock under statutory medicine withdrawal periods - other livestock species	Dairy		L	Retained
RM.2		RMS must only be used as a bedding for cattle which are in the same epidemiological unit as those cattle from which it is generated.	Dairy		L	Retained
	RM.2.a	RMS is not moved between epidemiological units.	Dairy		L	Retained
RM.3		RMS is not used on farms under restrictions for notifiable diseases or where herd is showing clinical signs of infection e.g. salmonella.	Dairy		L	Retained
	RM.3.a	Production and use of RMS suspended in event of breakdown or infection	Dairy		L	Retained

Proposals

		(loss of Officially Tuberculosis Free (OTF)).				
RM.4		Bought-in livestock must be quarantined for a minimum of 1 month and manure not used for RMS production.	Dairy		L	Retained
RM.5		RMS must only be used as bedding for housed cattle aged over twelve months.	Dairy		L	Retained
RM.6		RMS must only be used on cubicle beds.	Dairy		L	Retained
RM.7		Pre-milking teat preparation must include a pre-milking teat disinfection.	Dairy		L	Retained
RM.8		RMS produced by a slurry separator unit designed for the purpose.	Dairy		L	Retained
	RM.8.a	RMS produced is at least 34% Dry Matter.	Dairy		L	Retained
RM.9		Slurry Separator must be maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.	Dairy		L	Retained
RM.10		Equipment used for handling and processing RMS must not be used for handling/processing feed without appropriate cleaning and disinfection.	Dairy		L	Retained
RM.11		Separation equipment used for RMS production must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before moving between sites (epidemiological units).	Dairy		L	Retained
RM.12		RMS material must be covered between production and use (used within 12 hours of production).	Dairy		L	Retained
RM.13		An annual review of the use of RMS must be undertaken by the farm's vet.	Dairy		L	Retained
RM.14		Material that has been composted/digested must not be used as RMS.	Dairy		L	Retained

Proposals

Give feedback

Overarching feedback: Recycled Manure Solids - Which of the following describes your feedback on the proposed standards for RMS, and do you have anything else to add?

- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Disagree

Share feedback at
redtractor.org.uk/bld-consultation

Thank you for taking the time to review the proposals. All feedback is appreciated.

Your feedback will be considered by the Sector Boards and Technical Advisory Committees before any changes are made in 2027.

Find out more about the proposals and what happens next at redtractor.org.uk/bld-consultation.

proposals