



Red Tractor Farm Assurance for Pigs

Guidance Notes for Veterinary Surgeons Completing Quarterly Veterinary Reports (QVR)

Please read this guidance in conjunction with the Red Tractor Pig Vet [Terms & Conditions](#), agreed at the point of registration with Red Tractor as a Pig Vet.

A requirement of the Red Tractor Assurance Pigs Scheme is that pig units retain the services of a designated vet that has overall responsibility for the veterinary care of the pigs. In addition, the designated vet (or nominated vet from the same practice) must undertake quarterly visits to the unit and complete a Quarterly Veterinary Report for each visit. Please refer to the Standards for more detail on the requirements.

When carrying out a quarterly veterinary visit on a Red Tractor assured pig unit, the vet must physically witness all pig production areas on the farm.

In addition to the Terms and Conditions and requirements within the Standards, vets carrying out quarterly visits are advised of the following:

- Red Tractor Pigs Scheme members are required to retain copies (physical or electronic) of QVRs on farm and make them available to assessors conducting Red Tractor assessments.
- QVRs must be submitted to the farm's Certification Body. They can be submitted by either the vet/practice or by the member. The producer can inform you which Certification Body they are certified by, or this information, along with the farm's assurance status, can be found by searching for the farm on the [Red Tractor Checker](#) (you will need to register for Industry Access if you don't already have it).
- If a site is destocked for a prolonged period and the farm has notified their Certification Body resulting in destocked status being added to their certificate, it is acceptable to reduce the number of quarterly visits in the year accordingly. QVRs do **not** need to be submitted in quarters when a quarterly veterinary visit has not occurred on a destocked site. Otherwise, every effort should be made to conduct a quarterly veterinary visit when there are pigs on site. Should the site be destocked unexpectedly at the time of the scheduled visit, it should go ahead to review staff training and competency, the Veterinary Health Plan, mortality and medicine records, etc. A QVR form should be submitted, indicating on it that the site was destocked. Or if possible, the visit should be re-organised for a time when the site has pigs on.
- Some Red Tractor memberships include a primary unit and up to 3 additional units (small nursery or finishing units that are close to the main site and managed by the same person – see [Scheme Rule 19](#)). Your quarterly visits must incorporate all units associated with a membership on the same day. You can submit a single QVR form covering all sites (indicating on the report the details of the additional site(s) visited) or complete and submit a separate QVR per site.
- You are encouraged to use the QVR form to raise any areas of concern in relation to pig welfare, food safety or other areas relevant to Red Tractor with the farm's Certification Body, in the 'Additional comments/or required actions' box, as well as the comments boxes against the questions related to medicine records, sick pig management and euthanasia. When adding comments, please try to use 'objective evidence' – i.e. factual, unbiased and detailed

information. Be specific, refer to the relevant Red Tractor standards as a reminder of the requirements and relate back where possible.

- The Certification Body will review the detail supplied and, depending on the detail, they may raise a non-conformance, following which the member will be required to supply evidence of corrective action within 28 days. Or the CB may arrange a spot check (remote or physical) to check compliance against the standards. The member's certification will not be affected unless the detail pertains to a major non-conformance, or an excessive number of non-conformances or the member fails to rectify a non-conformance within a specified timescale (see also [Scheme Rule 50](#)). In any case, it is only ever the Certification Body that can raise a non-conformance.
- Where there is no clear breach to the Red Tractor standards, the member is required to address any issues identified or recommendations made by you on the QVR (as per standard AH.5.1) and assessors will be looking for evidence of this during the farm's next Red Tractor assessment. As such, the QVR can be used to drive necessary improvements on farm. At subsequent QVR visits you are expected to verify whether action has been taken by the producer and provide an update on the QVR form.
- Where issues are noted on the QVR, it must be submitted to the relevant Certification Body within five working days of the visit, ideally within two working days where serious issues are noted. Where no additional comments are noted, the form should ideally be submitted within five working days but **must** be submitted by the last day of the quarter, otherwise the farm's Red Tractor certification will be at risk.