

Summary of October 2017 Standards for Vets

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

Full standards are available [here](#).

BEEF AND LAMB

Standards affecting the use and recording of antibiotics have been bolstered across all livestock sectors, demonstrating the UK farming industry's commitment to playing its part in tackling antimicrobial resistance. Further changes will be made in 2018 after the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance (RUMA) target recommendations and other industry initiatives are published to ensure the industry is fully aligned.

Animal medicines

A recommendation has been added that the highest priority critically important antibiotics are only used as a last resort under veterinary direction. For farm to farm sales, animals under statutory withdrawal periods for medicines must be accompanied by a withdrawal period declaration.

Biosecurity

A farm biosecurity plan must be created, implemented and updated in relation to health and performance reviews. Disinfectants across the farm should be Defra approved.

PIGS

Responsible use of medicines

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

Notching

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

Imported stock and semen testing

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

Biosecurity

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

Supplementary rearing accommodation

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

POULTRY

Antibiotics

Broiler producers must only use antibiotics to treat a problem and total antibiotic use should now be recorded in mg/pcu*. The use of third and fourth generation Cephalosporins, Glycopeptides and Colistin are not permitted, but Macrolides and Fluoroquinolones are allowed if backed up by a vet and with written permission from the company purchasing the birds.

*mg of active per population correction unit is the measure used by the European Medicines Agency

DAIRY

Documented medicine records

Medicine records must provide an annual collation of total antibiotic used for the unit either by a vet from prescription data or completed by a farmer from medicine records. An annual review of antibiotics used must be undertaken by a vet. For farm-to-farm sales, animals under statutory withdrawal periods for medicines must be accompanied by a withdrawal period declaration.

Quaternary Ammonium Compounds

Cleaning chemicals and udder and hoof care products must not contain QACs. The presence of QACs in milk can affect cheese production. The FSA has also revised the national maximum residue level for QACs in milk.

Colostrum

A documented colostrum policy should ensure that youngstock are receiving adequate colostrum. This needs to be written in the health plan. A recommendation has been added that the quality of colostrum should be tested too.