

Quality assurance remote inspections

Due to the Covid-19 crisis, Red Tractor suspended all on-farm inspections on 20th March. However, to allow auditing to continue, Red Tractor recently introduced a new way of inspecting farms. Known as a 'remote assessment' the audit takes place off-site without the need for the assessor to visit the farm. It involves a combination of uploading or emailing records/documents/photographs and live streaming. The live stream part of the assessment is carried out using technology such as Skype, Microsoft Teams, Zoom Meeting, GoTo Meetings or WhatsApp.

The remote farm assessment initially applies to new applicants and members due or overdue an inspection that are willing to take part. Your Certification Body will contact you if your farm is due for an inspection.

How does a remote assessment work?

There are two parts to the remote farm assessment. The first involves the assessor checking that all the paperwork is up to date and the correct information is recorded. This is done by either emailing the required paperwork, for example movement documents, medicine purchases and usage, emergency plan, staff training records, fallen stock receipts, scripts, veterinary health plan, farm map, meal mixing records, vermin control records to the assessor or uploading them to the Red Tractor portal. The Red Tractor portal is an online filing cabinet and is a more secure and confidential way of providing the paperwork required. More information on the portal, including how to use it, is available at <https://portal.redtractor.org.uk>.

In some cases, only a sample of documents will be required, for example the assessor does not need to see every movement document or medicine record. Your assessor will talk through what is needed when they contact you to arrange the remote assessment.

After the assessor has checked all the paperwork, they will carry out a remote inspection of the farm. The remote inspection simply involves you walking around your farm filming each house and other relevant areas, for example meal plant, medicine store. The assessor will check everything they would normally check during an annual inspection, for example, number of nipple drinkers, environmental

enrichment, medicine store, dead skip, slats, hospital pens, cleanliness of pigs etc. Details of any non-compliances will be emailed to you. More information on remote farm assessments is available at

<https://assurance.redtractor.org.uk/contentfiles/Farmers-7103.pdf>.

Remote quarterly veterinary visits

Red Tractor have also introduced remote quarterly veterinary visits. The remote visit involves your vet contacting you by phone to discuss pig health and welfare. Although not compulsory, your vet may use video calling/footage to help them assess pig health and welfare. Your vet then completes a remote Quarterly Veterinary Visit Report form that has been developed. This new form includes declarations that your vet certifies without the need to visit the farm. It also includes declarations that rely on your vet seeing a copy of recent medicine administration records and movement records. You can send copies/photos of these documents to your vet via messaging apps and/or email. The farmer declaration section has been removed meaning you do not have to sign the form. More information on the remote quarterly veterinary visit is available at

<https://assurance.redtractor.org.uk/contentfiles/Farmers-7100.pdf>