

# Arlagården standards updated from 1 January 2017

Here is a reminder of the additional standards that will be assessed alongside your Red Tractor audit from 1 January 2017.

## Milk production

Standard	Explanation	Support documents
Chemical pesticides, such as fly sprays, must not be used in the milk storage (tank) room.	Glue, electronic or UV traps can be used as an alternative to fly spray, provided that they are placed in such a way that there is no risk of contamination of the milk.	
Veterinary medicinal products, udder and hoof care products, as well as disinfectants, must be used in such a way that the milk is not contaminated.	Udder and hoof care products, as well as products intended for cleaning and disinfection of milking equipment and surfaces, must not contain quaternary ammonium compounds (QACs).  Surfaces in rooms adjacent to areas where the milk is handled may still be washed/disinfected with products containing QACs as long as contamination of the milk is avoided.	Fact sheet on QACs.
Milking equipment and bulk tanks must be made of materials that are resistant to corrosion and are approved for food handling.	The required European labelling demonstrates that spare parts do not contain phthalates, which are suspected to act as endocrine disrupters in humans and animals. Parts do not necessarily need to display the fork and glass symbol.    Compliance can also be checked via delivery notes for any new parts.	
Appropriate facilities and resources must be in place to milk the cows in the event of a power outage.	In order to safeguard animal welfare, it is imperative that the cows can also be milked in the event of a power outage.  All farms must have either an emergency power supply (generator) or a trustworthy written plan for how the situation will be handled in case of power failure.  This can be achieved by complying with at least one of the following:  <b>1</b> There is a socket for an emergency power supply and an agreement is in place for the loan/lease of a power supply system that can be connected within six hours of the power failure.  <b>2</b> The herd has no more than 15 cows (according to the official register), which can be milked by hand.  <b>3</b> There is a tractor/engine-driven vacuum pump, fitted with the necessary equipment to run the milking system.	<b>TEMPLATE 1 (T1):</b> Plan for ensuring cows can be milked in the event of a power outage (available to download at <a href="http://www.farmer.arla.com">www.farmer.arla.com</a> ).

## Milk production continued

Standard	Explanation	Support documents
	<p><b>4</b> There is a documented plan for effective management of the milking operation in the event of a power outage.</p> <p>An emergency power supply system should be established when constructing new buildings. Automatic feeding systems should also be connected to this in those situations where a power outage makes the feeding impracticable.</p> <p>It is recommended that generators are checked regularly.</p>	
When a bulk tank is scrapped, the refrigerant must be extracted by an authorised refrigeration company.	Refrigerants must be drained from the cooling system before it is scrapped or sold. This must be performed by an authorised company.	
<p>If the bulk tank is replaced with a brand new tank (ordered after 1 January 2017) the new tank must be fitted with an alarm that meets Arla's full specification for tank alarms.</p> <p><i>Effective from 1 January 2017.</i></p>	<p>Tank alarms are intended to forewarn the farmer of any potential issues. The alarm must highlight the following, as well as all other requirements within the specification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power outage for over 30 minutes for a continuous period.</li> <li>• No stirring for over 60 minutes for a continuous period.</li> <li>• Milk temperature above 9 degrees C for at least three hours for a continuous period.</li> </ul>	See <a href="http://www.farmer.arla.com">www.farmer.arla.com</a> for the full specification document. Please speak to your tank manufacturer with any queries in the first instance.
A written procedure describing how treated animals are identified, recorded and milked, must be in place.	Please ensure that all instructions for staff are available in a language that can be understood.	Example templates can be found on <a href="http://www.farmer.arla.com">www.farmer.arla.com</a>
In order to avoid potential contamination of milk, the vacuum supply to dump buckets must never be connected to the milk line.	<p>If treated cows are milked last and the pipe is out of the tank this does not apply.</p> <p>Where a dump bucket is used to milk treated animals, additional valves in the vacuum line between the milk receiver and vacuum pump may be required to complete the vacuum circuit.</p>	Please contact your parlour engineer for more information in the first instance.
In those situations where the haulier is not supposed to collect the milk, the sign 'STOP – do not collect' must be clearly displayed.		A stop sign is included in this pack, the template can also be downloaded at <a href="http://www.farmer.arla.com">www.farmer.arla.com</a>

## Housing

Standard	Explanation	Support documents
<p>Poultry and pigs must be kept separately from housing/production facilities covered by Arlagården.</p> <p><i>Effective from 1 January 2017.</i></p>	<p>Poultry and pigs must not be kept in production facilities and housing covered by Arlagården (including that used for heifers and calves).</p> <p>If pigs and poultry are loose in the vicinity of buildings covered by Arlagården, it must be ensured that there is no contact between poultry and pigs and dairy animals (including heifers and calves) or feed intended for dairy animals (including heifers and calves).</p>	
New buildings and major renovations of existing buildings for cattle must not include tethered systems.		

## Animal medicines and husbandry

Standard	Explanation	Support documents
<p>Antibiotics can only be administered by veterinarians or by suitably skilled farm employees. Antibiotics must not be used for prophylactic purposes.</p>	<p>The aim of this standard is to support the responsible use of antibiotics.</p> <p>Training of farm employees is already covered by Red Tractor standards.</p> <p>RUMA (Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance) defines prophylaxis (preventative use of antibiotics) as treatment of an animal or a group of animals, before clinical signs of infectious disease, in order to prevent the occurrence of disease or infection.</p> <p>You can use antibiotics for metaphylactic purposes. This is defined by the European Medicines Association as when product is administered at the same time to a group of clinically healthy (but presumably infected) in-contact animals, to prevent them from developing clinical signs, and to prevent further spread of the disease. The presence of the disease in the group must be established before the product is used.</p>	
<p>If antibiotic dry cow therapy is required, it must be prescribed by the practising vet, based on an individual animal requirement and supported by an appropriate diagnostic test. The protocol for selective dry cow therapy must be outlined in the annual dry cow therapy review form.</p> <p><i>Effective from 1 October 2015 to 31 March 2017 (or first Arlagården assessment).</i></p>	<p>During the first assessment you will be asked to provide a completed form, which outlines your current approach to dry cow therapy, and provides a commitment to review the practices on farm in order to move to a selective approach in due time, if not already implemented.</p> <p>Not completing the form will result in a non-conformance at the first assessment.</p> <p>You will not receive a non-conformance at the first assessment if you are blanket treating your cows as long as the form is completed.</p>	<p><b>TEMPLATE 2 (T2):</b> Veterinary review of annual dry cow therapy. Your vet is required to sign this document outlining the drying off procedure on your farm (available to download at <a href="http://www.farmer.arla.com">www.farmer.arla.com</a>).</p>
<p>If antibiotic dry cow therapy is required it must be prescribed by the practising vet, based on the individual animal requirement and supported by an appropriate diagnostic test.</p> <p><i>Effective from 1 April 2017 (or second Arlagården assessment).</i></p>	<p>During the second assessment you will be asked to demonstrate that at least 10% of the herd is not treated with antibiotics at dry off.</p> <p>You will need to provide the assessor with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Arla data capture form for the previous 12 months (T2a).</li> <li>• Your protocol for selective dry cow therapy (does not have to be on an Arla form).</li> <li>• Access to your records on the day to cross check the figures provided.</li> </ul> <p>If you are blanket treating your cows at dry off using antibiotics, you will need to provide the assessor with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A letter from the vet confirming why blanket antibiotic therapy is needed at dry off and what actions can be taken to move to a selective approach.</li> <li>• If you are blanket treating your cows with antibiotics a re-visit will be scheduled to review progress against the actions set out to move towards a selective approach.</li> <li>• If you are a seasonal calver, a re-visit may be scheduled if evidence is not present at the time of the assessment, due to calving patterns.</li> </ul>	<p><b>TEMPLATE 2A (T2A) – Data capture form template for previous 12 months.</b></p> <p><b>TEMPLATE 2A (T2A) EXAMPLE – Completed example of data capture form for guidance.</b></p> <p>Example of selective dry cow therapy protocols.</p> <p>Autumn 2016 Milk Matters article.</p>

## Animal medicines and husbandry continued

Standard	Explanation	Support documents
<p>Use of hormones is only allowed after veterinary examination of each post-parturient animal for therapy of diagnosed disorders and for fertility treatment.</p>	<p>The aim of this standard is to ensure that hormones are not used to replace good management practices, and to avoid any welfare implications as a result of their use.</p> <p>In animals that are post-parturient, hormones can be used provided the vet has identified a need for their use.</p> <p><b>For example, you are able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synchronise heat in heifers as there can be welfare benefits in doing so in terms of managing animals that are away from the herd and can't be observed for heat signs.</li> <li>• Use hormones for embryo transfer, as vet involvement is required.</li> <li>• Use hormones to induce calving where there are potential welfare implications for the cow or calves in not doing so, for example large calves or where a calf has died.</li> <li>• Use oxytocin on individual animals where it is needed.</li> <li>• Use hormones for fertility issues where the post-parturient animal has been examined by the vet.</li> </ul> <p><b>For example, you are not able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treat groups of post-parturient animals with hormones where an assessment has not taken place as defined above.</li> <li>• Induce calving as a routine management practice.</li> </ul>	
<p>Animals with known genetic defects that may have a negative impact on them or on the quality of milk must not be included in breeding programmes.</p>		
<p>Where homeopathic and herbal products are used to treat livestock, the ingredients must be known.</p>	<p>Where products without veterinarian prescription (eg herbal products) are used the supplier must prove that these are approved and registered, for instance, by providing the package leaflet or a copy of the marketing authorisation.</p>	