

Drive change

Protecting animal and worker welfare with
Farm First Dairy production standards

Fresh
thinking

LRQA

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Section 1 - Scheme rules

How the scheme operates

The FARM FIRST Dairy Scheme covers all aspects of milk production.

Farming enterprises (Site/s) operating within the Dairy sector can apply to join the Scheme at any time throughout the Scheme Year. The Scheme Year runs from the date of the initial certificate for 12 months. On-going membership will be through renewal of membership which will be required on an annual basis.

In order to become and remain an approved member, the registered site must conform to the scheme rules and standards at all times. Conformance to the standards will be monitored through an independent assessment and certification process.

Applicants and existing members are required to immediately inform the Scheme Owner and/or the approved Certification Body (CB) or contractor if a serious incident or emergency situation occurs on site which may impact on the welfare of stock, food safety, staff welfare or the environment.

FARM FIRST reserves the right to amend/update the scheme standards from time to time. Members and potential applicants will be advised of any changes to the Standards and when the changes are to take effect (be implemented on site).



Applications

Applications for membership must be made through a FARM FIRST approved CB or contractor.

Before making an application it is strongly recommended that potential applicants read the Scheme Rules and Standards which explain in detail the level of conformance required and how it will be measured. This is to ensure that the scope the Site wishes to apply for is covered by the Scheme.

In addition, the Scheme Owner strongly recommends that potential applicants undertake a self-assessment against the Scheme Standards before applying or, at the latest, before the independent initial assessment takes place.

Upon receipt of application, the CB will review the application and the scope for which membership has been applied and appoint a suitably qualified assessor to conduct an assessment.

Following application, the Site will be notified of an appointment for an independent scheme approved assessor to undertake an assessment.

Assessment

The assessor will contact the Site to check arrangements (access and biosecurity and to confirm that the site has stock on site) to agree a mutually convenient appointment for the assessment to take place.

On the day of the assessment it is important that a suitably qualified representative who has knowledge of all areas of the production facility is available to accompany the assessor around the site and answer any questions. The assessor will also ask to speak to staff where appropriate, to ensure conformance with the Standards. The representative will need to provide the assessor with access to relevant policies, procedures, documents and records to provide evidence of conformance with the Standards.

The assessment will commence with an opening meeting where the assessor will confirm the scope of the assessment, how the assessment will be conducted (i.e. site tour followed by a document review), confirm any biosecurity requirements whilst on site and answer any initial questions before commencing a tour of the production facility.

During the assessment, the assessor will make the representative aware of any areas which are not deemed to be conforming to the Scheme Standards (non-conformances).

Once the assessment has been conducted the assessor will provide the representative with written details of any non-conformances identified during the assessment and details of the next steps and timescales in relation to submission of corrective evidence or, where no non-conformances have been raised, the certification process.

The representative will be asked to sign a declaration on behalf of the Business, confirming that they agree with the outcome of the assessment and that there are no current or pending prosecutions that may affect conformance.

Certification

 (see also Appendix 1)

Following the assessment, the completed assessment report will be submitted to the CB for review. Provided no non-conformances have been raised it will be subject to a technical evaluation and if deemed to be conforming to the Standards, a certification decision.

Where non-conformances have been raised, the Site will be required to supply suitable evidence within the agreed timescale, to confirm that the non-conformance has been rectified. Once corrective evidence has been received, it will undergo a technical review and certification decision. The outcome of which will be notified to the Site.

Provided certification is granted the Site will receive a certificate confirming compliance and Buyers will be able to validate the status by contacting the Scheme Owner.

Members may not describe or sell their products as assured unless they have been through the application and assessment process and received a certificate of conformity.

Certification will remain in place provided the Site is able to prove ongoing conformance to the Standards at independent surveillance or spot check (which may be unannounced) assessments and that applications are renewed on an annual basis in line with Scheme timeframes.

Certification may be suspended or withdrawn by the CB at any point if there is sufficient evidence of failure to conform with the Scheme Standards and Scheme Rules; the Site has supplied false or misleading statements on the initial application, renewal application, during the assessment, in any other communication or there is evidence that the Site has brought the Scheme into disrepute.

If certification is withdrawn the Site will be required to re-apply and if the application is accepted, prove evidence of conformance through the independent assessment process.

For further information regarding Scheme and Certification Rules email: farm.first@lrqa.com



Destocked status

The Site must notify the Scheme Owner and CB if the site is to be destocked for any period of time – whether this is for essential maintenance or change of production. The certification status will be amended to ‘Destocked’. Before the certificate can be reinstated, at the discretion of the Scheme Owner and CB, an assessment may be required.

Grading levels

The FARM FIRST Dairy Standard provides an opportunity for applicants and existing members to attain conformance to the Standards at three different levels, within a group if one farm achieves the Silver status then all product from that group will be classed as Silver.



This does not detract from the Site being required to **comply with the Standards** but affords them the opportunity to measure performance, identify and potentially improve on the grading level achieved.

Each Standard has compliance criteria which will justify a Grading Level. The overall Grading Level is determined by the lowest common denominator. For example:

If there are 100 Standards to be conformed with and during the assessment the conformance grade per standard was:

(Total No Standards) No of Standards	Conforming Grade Level			Overall Grading Level
	Silver	Gold	Platinum	
100	100	0	0	Silver
100	0	100	0	Gold
100	0	0	100	Platinum
100	25	75	0	Silver
100	10	75	15	Silver
100	5	95	0	Silver
100	0	3	97	Gold

Following the assessment, applicants/members will receive details of any non-conformances identified during the assessment and in addition an indication of the Grading Level that the site has attained.

At this point, the Grading Level is only an indication, and this may change when the report is technically reviewed. A Grading Level can go up, i.e. from Silver to Gold or down, Platinum to Silver. A Grading Level does not determine approved status unless confirmed on a valid certificate or in writing from the CB.

Before a Grading Level can be confirmed, all non-conformances must be corrected within the relevant timescales (see Certification).

Additional evidence to potentially improve the Grade Level to which conformance and/or non-conformances are rectified may be submitted for consideration during the Certification process. As a result, the overall Grading Level may be changed but applicants and members should be aware that Grading Levels can move up as well as down at the discretion of the CB.

The Grading Level of a site cannot be improved by more than one level, or were deemed necessary by the CB, by any level without an independent spot check assessment being conducted to ratify that all improvements submitted for consideration have been implemented and conformance is at the revised Grading Level. There will be a charge payable for the spot check.



Appendix 1 – Certification

To achieve certified status the Site must, through an independent assessment, prove conformance to all the Standards.

If non-conformances are identified the assessor will make the Site aware and the reason for them at the point they are identified during the assessment.

Rectification timescales

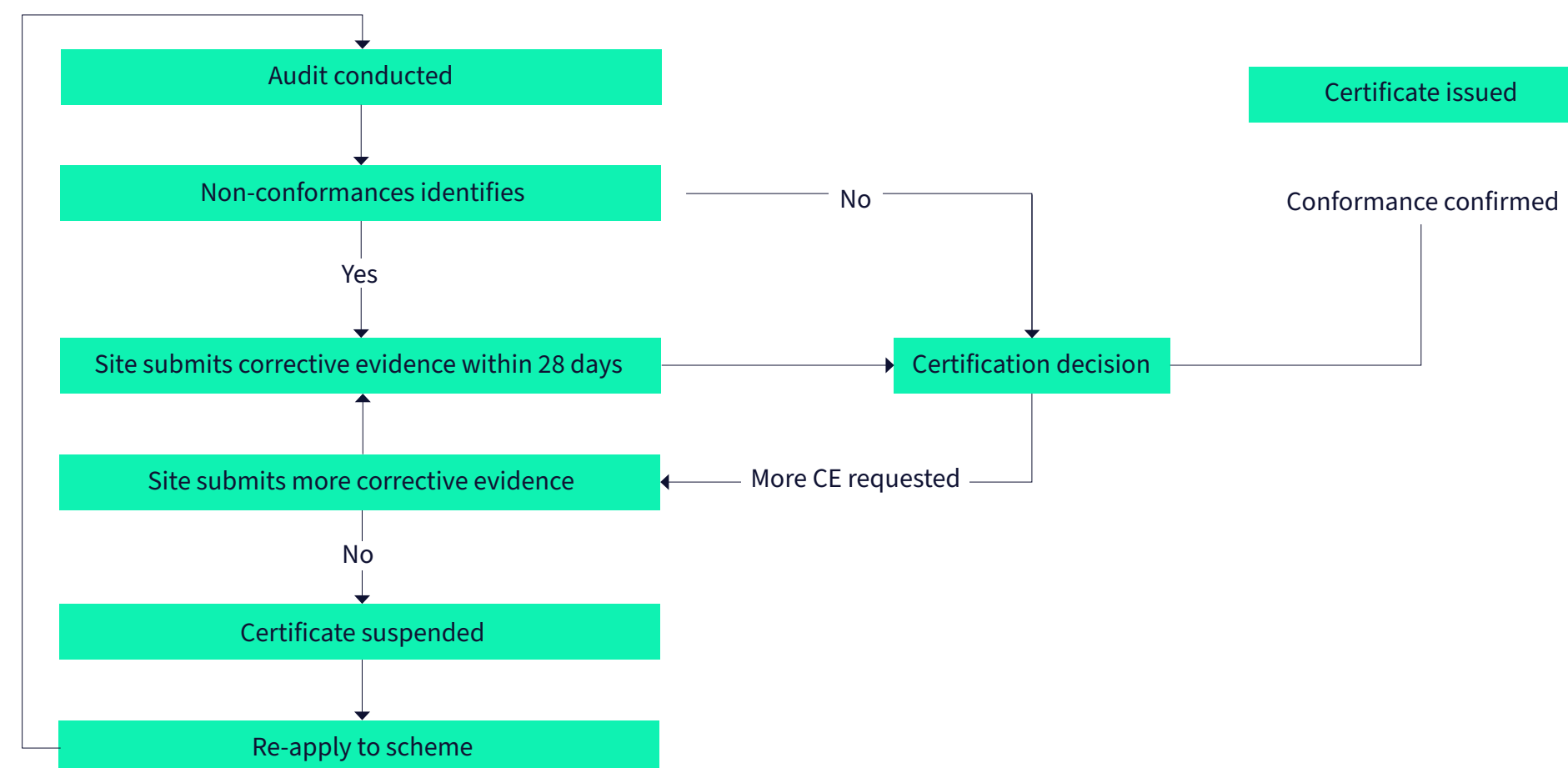
For new applicants the rectification timeframe is 28 days in which to submit a plan for correcting the non-conformances with no more than 90 days from date of the assessment to fully implement the action required. A revisit or spot check may be required to validate the cost of which will be recharged to the Site.

For existing members, the Sites must submit corrective evidence to rectify the non-conformance within 28 days of the assessment.

Corrective evidence may be in the form of photographs, records, invoices etc., and must be sufficient to enable the Certifier to make a certification decision. If not, the Certifier will contact the Site and request further information and an agreed timescale for submission.

If there are an extensive number of non-conformances a revisit or spot check may be required to confirm that the corrective action has been implemented and is effective in addressing the issue that caused the original non-conformance. If a revisit or spot check is required a fee will be payable.

Certification process





Section 2 - Farm First Dairy Standards

Integrity and traceability

Records and procedures must ensure that all farmed Cattle and the milk that they produce is fully traceable to their source. Integrity is paramount and traceability systems must ensure that accurate information is available whether Cattle are reared on farm or replacements sourced externally.

Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
IT 1	Records must demonstrate that all Cattle are traceable to their source and that there is a robust system of traceability onto, within and off the unit.	All movement documents must carry the LRQA assurance number from the premises the cattle have been moved from to ensure traceability from birth.	✓	✓	✓
IT 2	Cattle must be obtained from a farm certificated under the LRQA, or other scheme that is recognised by LRQA.	All movement documents must be traceable to the premises the cattle have been moved from to ensure robust traceability. If replacement Cattle are purchased the source must be from an LRQA accredited site or an equivalently approved scheme. For a list of approved schemes please contact LRQA. Movements must be recorded within 72 hours of any move. Platinum - All incoming stock from an LRQA registered site, Gold - all incoming stock from an LRQA or equivalent assured site, Silver - it is recommended that all incoming stock are from an approved site.	✓	✓	✓
IT 3	In order to maintain certificated status, movement information must be maintained.	Movement records must be maintained to ensure full traceability of cattle both on and off the unit. Movements must be recorded within 72 hours of any move.	✓	✓	✓
IT 4	Cattle identification, all cattle to meet the local legal requirements for identification.	Dairy calves must be identified within 36 hours. Cattle must be have a unique number and be double tagged by 10 days, this must match the official document which accompanies the animal, movements must be recorded to enable full traceability. Any replacement tags are recorded.	✓	✓	✓
IT 5	Milk collection documents must carry the Farm First certification number in order to prove traceability.		✓	✓	✓
IT 6	Any identification tags must not interfere with the animals ability to conduct all normal behaviours. Ear notching may be used to identify cattle.		✓	✓	✓
IT 7	Brisket/dewlap tagging, ear splitting and other surgical alterations for identification are not permitted.		✓	✓	✓

Staff and contractors

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Trained and competent staff and contractors are essential to achieving compliance with good practice and this standard.

Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
SC 1	There must be sufficient people available who are competent for the work they do.	Competence will be based on experience, training and the standard of work carried out by the individual.	✓	✓	✓
SC 2	Where staff work with, or have responsibility for cattle, they will be competent to work with the cattle in ways which safeguards the animals welfare.	<p>Staff must be trained on an LRQA approved course which covers all aspects of their position and, as a minimum must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health & Safety - Manual handling - Cattle welfare - covering fitness for travel and medicine administration training by vet - Biosecurity-Post calving protocol, new animal protocol <p>It is recommended that First Aid training is undertaken by the Site Manager, Senior Stockmen or a nominated worker on site. All staff working with, or who have responsibility for the Cattle must have an ongoing training programme in place which has regular training updates. If management recognise a training need either for an individual, or a number of staff, this must be recorded and addressed within this programme.</p> <p>Training records will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Date of training - Training given - Who provided the training? <p>Along with training records staff must be able to demonstrate competence on farm, this must also be regularly reviewed by management and any training requirements identified must be addressed.</p> <p>Gold - all training in place. Platinum - all training in place including a First Aid course.</p>	✓	✓	✓
SC 3	Records must be kept of experience, qualifications and training for everyone working on the farm.	<p>Records must also include the ongoing training programme for each individual.</p> <p>Training records will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Date of training - Training given - Who provided the training 	✓	✓	✓
SC 4	New staff will have induction training and will be supervised until they are deemed competent.	Management will sign off new staff once they are deemed competent and will identify any future training or refresher training needed. Unless deemed competent, no staff member will be responsible for the welfare of the Cattle or handle chemicals without supervision. Cattle will be moved calmly and with care at all times.	✓	✓	✓
SC 5	Continued competence must be confirmed at least annually, and refresher training implemented where required.	<p>Staff must be trained on a LRQA approved and verified Cattle industry training scheme which covers all aspects of their position and must include as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health & Safety - Manual handling - Cattle welfare - Bio-security <p>It is recommended that refresher training in First Aid is undertaken by the Site Manager, Senior Stockperson or nominated worker on site.</p> <p>Gold - all training in place. Platinum - all training in place including a First Aid course.</p>	✓	✓	✓



Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Silver	Gold	Platinum
SC 6	For workers living on site, there must be suitable amenities including potable drinking water, access to a doctor, clean place to sleep, clean food preparation area, toilets and drainage.		✓	✓	✓
SC 7	For workers living on site there must be dedicated bed, light for reading and entertainment such as TV.		✓	✓	✓
SC 8	There must be a system for recording accidents.	Accidents must be investigated and where possible improvements made to reduce the likelihood or recurrence.	✓	✓	✓

Cattle welfare & health

The welfare and health requirements of farmed Cattle must be met at all times. A proactive approach to Cattle welfare and health must be adopted and demonstrated through written veterinary health plan which implemented on farm and amended as required.

Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note			
WH 1	Commercial breeds/Sires will be selected that are suitable for the production system and local climate.	Chosen breeds/strains must have sufficient tolerance to the most likely diseases and will be stress-stable. Cattle selected for the suitability of the system must be selected. For example on extensive systems cattle must be robust enough to walk to pastures.	✓	✓	✓
WH 2	The welfare and health requirements of the Cattle must be met at all times.	Cattle must be inspected at least twice daily. Any issues seen that effect the health and welfare of the stock must be rectified immediately. Records must kept and include mortality and reason, any medication administered and comments on any issues seen at inspection to do with Cattle health, feeders, troughs, ventilation, lighting, cleanliness and their housing.	✓	✓	✓
WH 3	Cattle suffering ill health or injury must receive appropriate and timely attention. Euthanasia is carried out by a vet or someone who holds a current certificate of competence to euthanise cattle. There must be a detailed euthanasia policy within the health and welfare plan that details the methods used.	The euthanasia decision of the animal must be made if treatment is no longer effective or the animal is in distress, methods of euthanasia are: Captive bolt stunning with pithing or bleeding out, if captive bolt is to be used the appropriate bolt velocity and length of bolt for the size of animal must be used. Rifle or shot gun. Euthanasia must be carried out by a trained person or a vet, who remains with the animal and make immediate checks to confirm death or repeats the euthanasia process if signs of life are detected. Euthanasia is carried out away from the sight of other cattle and in a discrete location. The care of ill or injured cattle and efficacy of the culling method for each unit must be checked at least once every 12 months by a veterinary surgeon. Euthanasia equipment must be maintained according to manufacturer's specifications.	✓	✓	✓
WH 4	Appropriate facilities must be provided for the care of sick or injured cattle to recover, regular monitoring of these animals must be carried out to check the effectiveness of the treatment. The accommodation must be thermally comfortable, with a dry bedded or rubber matting provided in the lying area and easy access to clean drinkers and feeders.	Cattle must be individually monitored to determine if the treatment is effective or euthanised if no improvement seen. Platinum - Purpose built dedicated care facilities on site, Gold - Spare pens used as care facilities when required, Silver - Temporary pens made when required.	✓	✓	✓
WH 5	Where an animal fails to respond to treatment, or it is not appropriate to treat the animal, it must be humanely and promptly euthanised. Euthanasia must be in line with Council Regulation (EC)1099/2009.	Ill or injured animals must be promptly and humanely culled by using one of the following approved methods Shot Gun Captive Bolt (followed by bleeding/pithing) Chemical overdose (carried out with locally approved anaesthetic drugs)	✓	✓	✓



Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
WH 6	Carcasses must be removed from the animal accommodation or field and stored in a suitable covered locked place, inaccessible to other animals and wildlife until collection/disposal.	In hot climates where carcasses may be stored for more than 12 hours, consideration should be given to chilling or freezing. Platinum - dedicated dead stock storage that is lockable and sealed and is appropriate for the climate, Gold - dedicated storage that is lockable, Silver - suitable storage that meets the standard.	✓	✓	✓
WH 7	Carcasses must be removed from the site without delay in accordance with legislation.	On-site incineration, burial or composting is not permitted unless allowed by the legislation of the producing country.	✓	✓	✓
WH 8	There must be a vaccination program in place which is regularly monitored by the units vet to ensure there is robust coverage of known disease challenges that threaten the herd	The sites vet must develop and regularly monitor the vaccination requirements for the herd, this must include any challenges the stock may face.	✓	✓	✓
WH 9	A program developed by the vet must be in place for the control of worms and parasites within the herd.	The program could include regular testing and treatment or preventative treatment.	✓	✓	✓
WH 10	Special attention must be paid to the calves needs, especially at vulnerable times.	For example at birth and the few days that follow and shortly after any treatment to ensure their welfare is maintained, this includes provision for colostrum, provision of water, lighting, correct temperature and appropriate accommodation.	✓	✓	✓
WH 11	All farms must retain the services of a veterinary surgeon or veterinary practice.	Silver level: Veterinary surgeon retained and available to advise the site within 60 minutes Gold and Platinum level: The services of a veterinary surgeon are retained; the vet is available to advise the site within 60 minutes and attend the site within 24 hours in the event of a significant health issue or spike in mortality or disease challenge.	✓	✓	✓
WH 12	A regular recorded vet visit program must be in place for each unit, the vet must review the health and welfare of the stock, herd performance, housing, lameness, mastitis, medicine usage, parasite control, vaccination program, mortality, staff training for medication, euthanasia, treatment and on going animal care. A written vet report must be left with the site which includes findings which must be actioned by the site within the timescale set by the vet.	All vet reports from the visits must be made available to the LRQA auditor including details of the actions taken from what has been raised. Silver - at least 1 vet visit per year. Gold - as least 2 vet visits per year in both half's of the year, Platinum - 4 vet visits per year spread across all 4 quarters. All vet reports from the visits must be made available to the LRQA auditor including details of the actions taken from what has been raised.	✓	✓	✓
WH 13	There must be a documented animal Health and Welfare plan which must be developed in conjunction with the sites dedicated veterinary surgeon. The plan must be reviewed and signed at least annually by the site's veterinary surgeon.	The plan must be site specific, include a bio-security plan, herd performance, breeding plan, lameness policy, mastitis policy, medicine usage, parasite control, vaccination program, colostrum policy, animal care, treatment and euthanasia policy including the staff training for each of these. The document must be available to all key members of staff.	✓	✓	✓
WH 14	There must be a Disease Control and Prevention Plan that follows the local governments disease prevention programs. As a minimum the plan must cover Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD), Bovine Tuberculosis, Johne's disease and Foot & Mouth disease where relevant.	This plan can be part of the Health & Welfare plan.	✓	✓	✓
WH 15	There must be a documented downer animal health and welfare plan. If a cow is down it must be attended to immediately, be fully supported when lifted and not dragged.	The plan must be site specific and consider actions and protocols for dealing with downer cows and the use of shackles and a euthanasia policy for any animal unlikely to recover. This plan can be part of the Animal Health & welfare Plan.	✓	✓	✓



Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
WH 16	Lameness must be monitored for all the herd and actions taken to reduce the occurrence.	Platinum - Lameness monitored 4 times per year and an action plan developed with the vet to reduce the occurrence. Gold - Lameness monitored twice per year and an action plan developed with the vet to reduce the occurrence. Silver - Lameness regularly monitored and actions taken to reduce the occurrence.	✓	✓	✓
WH 17	Body lesions must be monitored for all in the herd to evidence suitability of the comfort provision and actions taken	Platinum - Body lesions monitored 4 times per year and an action plan developed with the vet to reduce the occurrence. Gold - Body lesions monitored twice per year and an action plan developed with the vet to reduce the occurrence. Silver - Body lesions regularly monitored and actions taken to reduce the occurrence.	✓	✓	✓
WH 18	Performance records must be regularly monitored and action taken if issues are detected. An annual review to be undertaken by the Vet.	Records to include, Involuntary and Voluntary culls, Lameness %, Mastitis %, Lesions scores, Calf mortality and milk quality. Medicine usage must also be monitored with the aid of a collation of medicine usage. The Vet is to sign off the annual review and make recommendations which must be acted upon.	✓	✓	✓
WH 19	Calves reared on milk replacer must be at least 35 days old and consuming 1kg of dry feed per day before they are weaned.	Weaning is based on dry feed intake rather than age, they must be consuming at least 1 kg of dry feed per day before weaning. Platinum - calves weaned no earlier than 42 days old and consuming at least 1kg of dry feed per day, Gold - calves weaned no earlier than 35 days old and consuming at least 1kg of dry feed per day, Silver , calves weaned once consuming at least 1kg of dry feed per day.	✓	✓	✓
WH 20	Disbudding must only be carried out under local anaesthesia using an approved method. Routine dehorning is prohibited and must only be conducted if necessary due to a welfare concern. If dis budding is carried out then this must be before the calf reaches 6 weeks of age.	Disbudding must not take place without anaesthetic and before horn growth can be seen. Please note if chemical cauterisation is being used this must be conducted in the 1st week of life only.	✓	✓	✓
WH 21	Castration to be carried out by suitably competent personnel using an approved method. The castration of calves over 2 months old must be carried out by a vet using an analgesic.	Castration by rubber ring <7days of age. Cauterising paste to be only used in conjunction with anaesthetic and analgesic < 7days of age. Burdizzo clamp can also be used but must be after 24 hours of age and up to 2 months of age. The castration of calves after 2 months old must be carried out by a vet using analgesic.	✓	✓	✓
WH 22	The removal of supernumerary teats is prohibited		✓	✓	✓
WH 23	Tail docking is prohibited		✓	✓	✓
WH 24	Hot branding is prohibited	Freeze branding is permitted, and should only be carried out by competent personnel with suitable equipment. Freeze branding is only permitted to the hind area. Rebranding is not permitted unless required by law.	✓	✓	✓
WH 25	No mutilations are permitted on cattle apart from bull nose ringing, freeze branding, disbudding and castration.		✓	✓	✓



Medicines and biosecurity

The use of animal medicines and vaccines may be required to support good health and welfare. Where animal medicines are used, they must only be administered where necessary and in an appropriate manner by competent staff. All medicines and treatments must be stored appropriately, and all withdrawal periods properly observed. Good biosecurity is a key strategy in reducing spread of disease.

Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
Medicines					
AM 1	Medicines and veterinary treatments must only be used where necessary and in accordance with manufacturers instructions.	Antibiotics or steroid growth hormones must not be used to promote growth or be administered prophylactically.	✓	✓	✓
AM 2	Critical Important Antibiotics that could be a threat to human health must not be used unless all other options have been investigated by the sites vet.	If CIAs have to be used this must be after other treatments have been investigated, sensitivity tests must show this is the only effective way of treatment and that this has been signed off by the sites vet and the company management, records must show all test results including post-mortem findings and the resulting treatment plan and they must be available at the LRQA audit.	✓	✓	✓
AM 3	The use of antibiotics must be monitored regularly by the sites vet with the aim to reduce the usage, any spikes in antibiotic use must be investigated and any findings acted upon.	Actions from the findings could include but are not limited to a review of the vaccination plan or bio-security review of the site. Platinum - Total antibiotic use is monitored by the sites vet and an active plan is in place to reduce the usage, records are kept to show the review and actions taken to reduce usage and investigate spikes in medication use, Gold - Records kept to show total antibiotic use and the site is actively trying to reduce the amount used, Silver - All antibiotic medication is recorded so that the vet can review the amount used at the annual visit.	✓	✓	✓
AM 4	All medicines and veterinary treatment use must be as detailed in its market authorisation, unless under the specific direction of a veterinary surgeon (off label medicines)	Medicines and veterinary treatments that are banned in the country of intended destination for the product must not be used.	✓	✓	✓
AM 5	Prescription only veterinary medicines must not be stored or used on the farm unless a copy of the prescription is available.	Prescriptions must be available for all medication including injectables, water and feed medications.	✓	✓	✓
AM 6	Withdrawal periods must be strictly observed. Identification of all animals that are still within the withdrawal time must be in place to prevent medication entering the human food chain. The medical history of incoming animals must be known and any withdrawal dates adhered to once they enter milk production or are sent for slaughter.	A programme of tests to detect residues of prohibited substances, in both the country of production and country of intended sale, must be undertaken, this may already be established government legislation. Animals undergoing treatment or still within the medication withdrawal period can be identified by spray mark and tape on the tail, location and/or ear tag number and detailed medication records.	✓	✓	✓
AM 7	All medicines and veterinary treatments must be kept in their original packaging, in a secure locked store and in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.	All medicines and vaccines must be stored in a secure locked store (e.g. correct temperature and stored up to date of expiry). Waste must be disposed in a dedicated container and there must be a suitable disposable container for sharps.	✓	✓	✓
AM 8	Medicines that have been stored inappropriately or where the 'use-by' date has expired must not be used and must be disposed of in line with manufacturer's advice and within the law of the members country.	A record of the route of disposal must also include the medicine name, amount disposed, batch number and date of disposal. Disposal must be within legal guidelines of the members country.	✓	✓	✓
AM 9	Used sharps and empty containers must be disposed of responsibly and safely.	Records of disposal must be kept. Disposal must be within legal guidelines of the members country.	✓	✓	✓



Level

Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Silver	Gold	Platinum
AM 10	Detailed records of animal medicine and veterinary purchase and disposal records must be maintained, A record of the route of disposal must also include the medicine name, amount disposed, batch number and date of disposal.	Animal medicine and veterinary treatment purchase and administration to be retained for 5 years. Purchase records must include, medication name, batch number, expiry date, quantity, and supplier name. Administration records must include medicine used, quantity, batch number, expiry date, withdrawal period clear date reason for treatment and who administered.	✓	✓	✓
AM 11	All those administering medicines or veterinary treatments must be deemed competent by the sites vet and be listed in the Animal Health & Welfare Plan.	Competence based on experience and veterinary training.	✓	✓	✓
AM 12	Documented procedures must be in place to deal with needles broken during use.	The procedure must cover how to prevent a carcass entering the food chain which may contain a broken needle.	✓	✓	✓
Biosecurity					
AM 13	There must be a documented biosecurity plan which covers measures to reduce the transfer of disease onto and off the site.	This could be part of the veterinary health and welfare plan. The plan must include the requirements for staff and visitors entering and leaving the site and the quarantine of new animals arriving on site. The biosecurity plan must be reviewed at least every 2 years.	✓	✓	✓
AM 14	Visitors policy.	This could be part of the veterinary health and welfare plan. There must be dedicated parking areas for visitors' vehicles. All potential hazards must be clearly signed.	✓	✓	✓
AM 15	Foot dip and a biosecurity sign must be present at the main access point to the site.	Foot dips-must use Defra or equivalent approved disinfectants at correct dilutions. Platinum & Gold - Records of regular foot-dip replenishment must be maintained.	✓	✓	✓

Water and feed

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A planned and professional approach to the sourcing, storage and provision of feed and clean water is essential to maintain good production and achieve good standards of cattle welfare and health and ensure the safety of the food produced.

Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
WF 1	All animals must have adequate access to a supply of fresh, clean drinking water.	This includes calves reared on milk replacer. All drinking and water facilities must be clean and manged in a way that they are capable of dispensing hygienic water at all times.	✓	✓	✓
WF 2	There must be an emergency water supply capable of providing water at peak demand for at least 24hrs.	In the event of a drop of supply, it must be clear how water can be provided. Water flow rates must be able to cope with peak periods of demand, such as post milking or hot conditions.	✓	✓	✓
WF 3	Where water is not from a public supply fit for human consumption, the potability must be tested at least once every six months for microbiological and annually for chemical and bacteria.	As a minimum water test results must comply with the national potable water standard.	✓	✓	✓
WF 4	All cattle must receive a daily diet sufficient to maintain full health and body condition. Rations details must be available at the LRQA audit.	Rations to be formulated by a recognised and suitably qualified nutritionist or provided by a certified feed company.	✓	✓	✓
WF 5	Body condition scoring must be carried out at least once per year by a competent person with results reviewed by the sites vet or nutritionist. http://www.assurewel.org/dairy cows/bodycondition.html	Records of body condition scoring to be held and evidence of the review by the vet or nutritionist. Platinum - body condition scouring done 4 times per year, once in each quarter and reviewed, Gold - body condition scouring done twice per year, once each 6 months and reviewed, Silver - body condition scouring done once and reviewed. BCS must be acceptable for the stage of production: 100 days before drying off through to calving a score of between 2.5 - 3, 60 days post calving 2 - 2.5	✓	✓	✓
WF 6	Cattle must not have to compete for feed and water. There must be sufficient space and supply for all cattle to be able to feed at any one time.		✓	✓	✓
WF 7	All feed must be stored in accordance with good practice to ensure that it does not become contaminated. All machinery, feed bins, stores and lorries used for handling, mixing and storing feed must be regularly cleaned.	Medicated feed to be stored separately and labelled. There must be no unprotected glass or hard plastic materials directly above or in close proximity to equipment used for handling, mixing, or storing uncovered animal feed.	✓	✓	✓
WF 8	Controls must be in place to ensure cattle are not exposed to poisonous/unsuitable plants and unsuitable feedstuffs.		✓	✓	✓
WF 9	Animal feeds must only include constituents legally permitted in the EU and UK. Growth promoters (antibiotic or hormonal) must not be used.	Where the laws of the country of intended destination are more restrictive, these requirements must be met.	✓	✓	✓
WF 10	All bought-in compounds/ blends must be from a source that is assured under a Feed Scheme approved by LRQA	Contact LRQA for list of approved schemes/ feeds.	✓	✓	✓



Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
WF 11	All other purchased feed materials must be from a source that is assured under a Feed Scheme approved by LRQA.	Contact LRQA for list of approved schemes / feeds.	✓	✓	✓
WF 12	On farm feed mixing operations must comply with the UK Industry Code of Practice for On-Farm Feeding or equivalent standard.	On farm mixing involving pre-mixtures or feed additives must be registered with a regional / local authority. On farm mixing involving medicines or certain government specified feed additives must be registered with a national authority.	✓	✓	✓
WF 13	Purchase records for all feed (included medicated feeds) must be retained for 2 years. Samples of feed must be taken and retained for a minimum of 12 weeks. Samples must be stored in a sealed container away from light and heat.	Feed samples from integrated companies may be stored at the feed mill. Silver - Records retained for a minimum of 2 years. Gold & Platinum - Purchase records are retained for a minimum of 5 years.	✓	✓	✓

Milk production

Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
Milk collection and storage					
MP 1	There must be a good access road and a hygienic collection area.	Access is possible for a milk tanker via a well maintained access road and a concrete or other suitably hygienic area for the milk tanker to park and driver to access the dairy.	✓	✓	✓
MP 2	The dairy/milk storage if external is secure.	Doors to the dairy, milk production area and any controls for external silo must also be lockable if in use when unattended.	✓	✓	✓
MP 3	Signage must be visible if collection is not permitted.	A sign to prevent the collection of milk must be available to be used in the event of milk contamination.	✓	✓	✓
MP 4	The structure of the dairy must be sound and suitable.	Walls must be washable to the full height and floors are impervious with no pooling of water or cracks, ceilings are complete and maintained, windows are shut or if open have insect screens fitted. Lights should be shatterproof.	✓	✓	✓
MP 5	The dairy must be managed hygienically and be cleaned daily.	No non essential items must be in the dairy, bins with lids must be available. The dairy must have a clean fresh smell. Drains must be covered and clear of debris.	✓	✓	✓
MP 6	Tanks should be hygienically managed to prevent milk contamination.	Cleaning protocols must be displayed and understood and known by all relevant staff and written in all relevant languages. Tank lids should fit properly with no corrosion of rubber seals to prevent contamination from wash water or other debris entering.	✓	✓	✓
MP 7	Milk should be cooled to 8 deg C for everyday collection and 6 deg C for every other day collection.	Temperature controls should be visible on milk collection tanks. Silver - electronical controlled, Gold - electronically controlled and alarmed if the temperature goes over the set, Platinum - automatic system with built in alarms.	✓	✓	✓



Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
MP 8	Tanks should be maintained to ensure they are in good working order.	Silver - maintenance service carried out annually by an accredited technician, Gold - maintenance service carried out annually by an accredited technician and a contract held for annual service and full service, Platinum - maintenance service carried out annually by an accredited technician and a contract held for annual service and full service which includes 24hr call out. Service reports to be made available to the LRQA assessor on request.	✓	✓	✓
MP 9	Dedicated handwash facility with unscented soap and towels must be available for all those using the dairy including the milk collection person.	Silver - handwash facility dedicated to the area, Gold - dedicated with hot and cold water and soap, Platinum - fully plumbed and drained facility for handwash with hot and cold water and towels.	✓	✓	✓

Milking parlour

Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
MP 10	The Parlour must be hygienically managed and free from any rubbish and or dirt and dust.	All areas must be cleaned regularly to prevent any risk of contamination, troughs all clean and free from stale feed, all equipment kept clean, walls and floors are washable and clean and no non essential items present. Silver - the parlour is visibly clean and well managed, Gold - the parlour is visibly clean and well managed and there is a written cleaning protocol in place, Platinum - the parlour is visibly clean and well managed and there is a written cleaning protocol and suitable equipment available for washing all areas after each milking.	✓	✓	✓
MP 11	Within the parlour there must be no areas of any damaged metalwork or equipment that could be injurious to cattle.	To include troughs, access/exit gates, rump rails, and areas of high wear.	✓	✓	✓
MP 12	Milking clusters to be hygienically managed and rubber ware changed within manufacturers guidelines or before if ware is detected.	Milking cluster hygiene is managed during milking and also in between milking's.	✓	✓	✓
MP 13	If used, dump buckets must be hygienically managed and well maintained.	Only present in the parlour if used.	✓	✓	✓
MP 14	Structures must be sound and well maintained.	Walls washable to a minimum of 2.5 metres, floors are impervious and sound with no standing water, ceilings are complete and maintained.	✓	✓	✓
MP 15	Lighting is sufficient and safe to enable milking.	Lights to be shatterproof and cleaned and working, light to enable milk inspection prior to milking.	✓	✓	✓
MP 16	Milking machine and associated fixtures and fittings to be maintained and tested by an approved engineer.	Annual test to be carried out by an approved technician, report to be made available. Any faults identified and acted upon. Test compliance to ISO6690:2007	✓	✓	✓
MP 17	There must be a milking procedure in place, available to all staff and in all relevant languages	Procedure to be known by all milkers and available on request to ensure all aware of routine, the procedure must include fore stripping, milk inspection and consideration for milk let down.	✓	✓	✓



Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
MP 18	Milk that is unfit for human consumption must be prevented from accessing the Vat.	All cows that have been medicated must have identification both physical and records available to enable milking staff to divert milk from these animals away from the vat. Treated cow physical identification could include tail tape, spray mark may also be used but the animal must also have tail tape.	✓	✓	✓
MP 19	Lactating cows must be milked daily.		✓	✓	✓
MP 20	The producer must be aware of the herds milk quality and be able to maintained it within allowed parameters set by the milk processor.	Both individual milk recording and bulk results to be made aware to the assessor and milk processor parameters known and any issues identified and addressed.	✓	✓	✓

Robotic milking systems

Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
MP 21	Robotic Milking Systems must be managed in a hygienic way at all times.	The robot and the area around it must be kept in a hygienic state, any automatic wash system must be regularly checked for its efficiency.	✓	✓	✓
MP 22	A maintenance contract must be in place for the robotic milking system.	Silver - engineer contracted to service and maintain the machine, Gold - contract held with supplier to service and maintain the machine, Platinum - contract held to service and maintain the machine and a 24 hr call out service with supplier.	✓	✓	✓
MP 23	Systems must be monitored to ensure that each animal is milked at least twice per 24 hours as a minimum	Records, either electronic or paper must show each individual animals milking times, these records must be available to the LRQA auditor.	✓	✓	✓
MP 24	Training for the system must be evidenced for all staff involved in Robotic milking.	Training can be provided by the suppliers consultant and must consider new members of staff.	✓	✓	✓
MP 25	There must be a procedure known to all who work with the robotic system that prevents milk entering the vat that is unfit for human consumption.	All staff using the system must be able to demonstrate how prevention is maintained.	✓	✓	✓

Vermin control

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Effective and environmentally responsible controls over wild birds, rodents, insects and other animals must be in operation where farmed Cattle are housed and farm produce or animal feed is stored.

Level

Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Silver	Gold	Platinum
VC 1	There must be no evidence of uncontrolled infestation or contamination by wild birds, rodents, insects or other animals.	Where vertebrates are trapped, the traps must be regularly checked, and the animals released elsewhere or humanely destroyed. No access points to milk storage area for vermin via windows, doors, drains, gaps round pipes, fly control to be away from tank access points.	✓	✓	✓
VC 2	Before poison baits are used, a site survey must be completed.	<p>Site survey will record type and level of infestation and list opportunities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved exclusion/ pest proofing; - Reduced access to feed (covers and spills etc); - Reduced harbourage (long vegetation etc). <p>The farm manager will sign the site survey to indicate that the above improvements have been implemented before poison baits are used</p>	✓	✓	✓
VC 3	Where poison baits are used, an environmental risk assessment must be completed.	<p>Environmental risk assessment will state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What the poison bait treatment is aiming to achieve; - What methods will be used and how poison bait is to be offered (covered bait boxes / low risk of contamination etc); - What non-target species may be present in or near the treatment area; - How dead rodents and surplus poison bait will be disposed of." 	✓	✓	✓
VC 4	Where poison baits are used a bait plan and baiting records must be maintained.	The bait plan will show the locations of each baiting point. Baiting records will state when the baiting points were inspected and when the bait points were replenished.	✓	✓	✓
VC 5	Permanent baiting must not be routinely undertaken.	Poison baits must only be sited where it can be demonstrated that they are being continuously effective.	✓	✓	✓

Cattle housing

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Any housing used must be well constructed, well maintained and kept clean. It will provide secure containment, facilitate appropriate stocking densities and provide a comfortable environment.

Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
CH 1	Cattle housing must contain the animals and be constructed, maintained to provide a safe, hygienic and comfortable accommodation.	The condition of the house must not compromise the welfare of the cattle. All surfaces must be free of sharp edges and easy to wash after depletion of the pen or building. Electrical installations must appear to be well maintained and be sited and/or protected to prevent accidental contact by humans or cattle.	✓	✓	✓
CH 2	House flooring must provide a safe, dry lying area that does not compromise the health or welfare of the cattle housed.	Floors must provide the cattle with an even, well maintained surface that is non slip and well drained so that it provides the cattle with a dry lying area for all the stock housed, the floors must be easy to clean.	✓	✓	✓
CH 3	Accommodation must provide comfort, the cattle lying area must be able to provide comfort by the use of suitable cubicle matting and or the provision of legal bedding. If cubicles are provided there must be one per cow.	Bedding (used in lying areas including cubicles, loose housing, non-slatted lying areas, and corrals) is non injurious, non-toxic and is absorptive. One cubicle must be available per cow.	✓	✓	✓
CH 4	Stocking rates for housed dairy cows must allow all animal to lie down in a dry area at the same time as a minimum.	<500kg Silver & Gold - 8m2, Platinum - 8.8m2	✓	✓	✓
		501-600kg Silver & Gold - 8.5m2, Platinum - 9.3m2	✓	✓	✓
		601-700kg Silver & Gold - 9m2, Platinum - 9.5m2	✓	✓	✓
		701-800kg Silver & Gold - 10m2, Platinum - 10.5m2	✓	✓	✓
		801kg plus Silver & Gold - 11m2, Platinum - 11.5m2	✓	✓	✓
CH 5	Slatted flooring must be even, well maintained and give good separation between the stock and the slurry below.	Silver - fully slatted system, Gold - slatted system with bedded lying area, Platinum - Bedded based system.	✓	✓	✓
CH 6	Ventilation must be able to maintain the cattle in a comfortable environment.	There must be good air flow within the accommodation to prevent the build up of noxious gasses or high humidity and maintain the stock at an acceptable temperature.	✓	✓	✓
CH 7	All cattle must have sufficient lighting available for inspection at all times encourage natural behaviour, plus a period of dark to promote proper rest.	Sufficient lighting must be available to inspect the stock at anytime.	✓	✓	✓
CH 8	All cows and calves from 6 weeks old, must have access to enrichment in the form of brushes to express natural behaviour.	Silver - all cows have access to a well maintained brush, Gold - all cows have access to a well maintained brush at a rate of no more than 1 brush per 60 cows, Platinum - all cows have access to a well maintained mechanical brush at rate of no more than 1 brush per 60 cows. Brushes not required in calving or hospital pens.	✓	✓	✓
CH 9	Dedicated calving facilities must be available with feed and water provision and cow restraint.	Calving pen must be suitably bedded and hygienic. Slatted floors are not permitted for calving areas as they do not allow for natural behaviours to be exhibited before and during calving. Cows placed into a dedicated calving facility prior to calving. Silver - adequate lighting and restraint, Gold - adequate lighting and a dedicated crush/head yolk, Platinum - adequate lighting and a dedicated crush/head yolk plus cameras monitoring the area.	✓	✓	✓



Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
CH 10	Pre/Post calving and transition of cattle must have been considered in the form of a policy and with consultation with a vet and or nutritionist.	Pre/post calving policy to have been part of the health plan and known to all and evidenced. Consideration to transmissible diseases such as Johnes. Silver - Pre/post calving policy considered, Gold - Pre/post calving policy in place and followed, Platinum - Pre/post calving policy developed with input from the vet and nutritionist and being followed.	✓	✓	✓
CH 11	Bull Pens must provide the animal with comfort and satisfy the need for socialisation. Safety of stockpersons must have been considered.	If there is dedicated bull accommodation this must be in sight and sound of other animals. Bulls must be provided with bedding. Bulls must have as a minimum 15 m2 of covered area. Escape routes must have been considered for stockpersons.	✓	✓	✓
CH 12	An isolation facility must be available for any animal with a transmissible condition.	Facility to be seen and provide comfort, feed and water and a separation from other animals air space, manure and drainage.	✓	✓	✓
CH 13	The use of tethers is only permitted only at the Silver level.	Adult cattle in a tether based system must be able to rest in comfort and feed and drink with ease, the tether must be regularly check to ensure it is not causing injury or pain, in each 24 hours period every animal must have 2 hours freedom from the tether in an area that is large enough for them to walk and easily turn around. Tethers can only be used on calves in group housing as a matter of restraint for treatment and must not be for a period of longer than 1 hour.	✓	✓	✓

Animal handling & facilities

Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
HF 1	Handling Facility must be free from any injurious protrusions and be designed to consider Cattle flow and human safety.	A dedicated system of pens and races with a suitable crush with head restraint is required in order to treat or inspect any cattle. The system must allow good flow of stock and be free from any injurious projections. Hydraulic or manual restraining chutes must be appropriate to the size of the stock being handled. Regular cleaning and maintenance must be carried out.	✓	✓	✓
HF 2	Cattle handling systems must be operated in a manner that does not cause injury or distress to the animals.	Facility to be seen and provide comfort, feed and water and a separation from other animals. All Cattle must be handled in a calm manner at all times. Animals must not be frightened unduly, caused pain or suffering during handling. The system and care of handlers is key to ensure this.	✓	✓	✓
HF 3	Animals should be kept in stable groups wherever possible.	Hierarchy's are established in herd animals, mixing of animals into new groups can lead to fighting and injury. If possible same age/size animals should form a group.	✓	✓	✓
HF 4	The use of electric goads or prodders and any object used to strike an animal is prohibited	Goads are not to be present on site,	✓	✓	✓
HF 5	Cattle must not be pulled, dragged, struck, lifted without support or have their tails twisted to encourage movement.		✓	✓	✓



Grazing

Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
G1	A written grazing plan must be in place.	Detailed in the plan must be the types of forage available, rotations detailed if used, water provision must be detailed to be included in a map of the available grazing which shows all areas.	✓	✓	✓
G2	There must be sufficient pasture cover available for all cattle.	Following vegetative cover must be met: - Silver and Gold 50% - Platinum 80%	✓	✓	✓
G3	Overgrazing and Poaching of land must be avoided.	Rotation of grazing and or access to fresh areas can mitigate this issue. Paddock grazing or strip grazing systems are most likely to cause poaching of land.	✓	✓	✓
G4	Outdoor Feeders must be sited so that the surrounding area does not become heavily contaminated/poached.	Consideration of the siting of the feeders in the driest areas, movement of feeders periodically to fresh ground. Animals may be discouraged from feeding in wet and dirty conditions and this could be detrimental to their welfare.	✓	✓	✓
G5	Tracks used by cattle must be composed of suitable materials that does not risk damage or injury to the cattle		✓	✓	✓
G6	Cattle must have access to well drained lying areas, shelter and shade for all animals at any one time.	In periods of hot or cold and wet weather consideration must be given to providing dryer land for grazing and shelter (natural or man made) for thermal comfort, this may include free access to housing.	✓	✓	✓
G7	All reasonably practicable measures should be taken to protect cattle from insect bites.	Measures include, but are not limited to - Physical protection and chemical anti parasite control.	✓	✓	✓



Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
Calf Rearing and Housing					
YS 1	A written calf breeding plan should form part of the health plan.	Breeding plan to be part of the health plan and must consideration to the use of sexed semen for the breeding of replacements and type.	✓	✓	✓
YS 2	Housing must be designed to provide calves with a hygienic environment be dry and comfortable, sufficient space, comfort and safety.	Calf housing could include individual pens, hutches, Igloos, loose housing. The management of this key area is crucial in terms of hygiene. Thermal comfort is to be considered for both hot and cold periods with the siting/direction of hutches with a thought to prevailing winds. Veal crates are prohibited.	✓	✓	✓
YS 3	Calves must have tactile contact with other calves, they must not be kept in isolation.		✓	✓	✓
YS 4	Calves must not be individually penned after 8 weeks of age.	Socialisation is important for the calves development and must be done as soon as practicable.	✓	✓	✓
YS 5	Stocking rates for housed young stock that have access to bedding must allow all animal to lie down in a dry area at the same time as a minimum.	<100kg Silver & Gold - 1.5m2, Platinum - 1.65m2	✓	✓	✓
		101-200kg Silver & Gold - 2.4m2, Platinum - 2.6m2	✓	✓	✓
		201-300kg Silver & Gold - 3m2, Platinum - 3.3m2	✓	✓	✓
		301-400kg Silver & Gold - 3.9m2, Platinum - 4.2m2	✓	✓	✓
		401-500kg Silver & Gold - 4.9m2, Platinum - 5.3m2	✓	✓	✓
		501-600kg Silver & Gold - 5.8m2, Platinum - 6.3m2	✓	✓	✓
		601kg plus Silver & Gold - 6.8m2, Platinum - 7.5m2	✓	✓	✓
YS 6	Growing stock housed on in fully slatted systems must have stocking rates that allow all animals to lie down in a dry area as a minimum. The slats must give good separation between the stock and the slurry. Fully slatted systems can only achieve a Silver or Gold level	< 200Kg - Silver - 1m2 minimum, Gold - slatted housing not permitted under 200kg	✓		✓
		201-300kg Silver - 1.1m2, Gold - 1.2m2	✓	✓	✓
		301-400kg Silver - 1.5m2, Gold - 1.6m2	✓	✓	✓
		401-500kg Silver - 1.8m2, Gold - 1.9m2	✓	✓	✓
		501-600kg Silver - 2.1m2, Gold - 2.3m2	✓	✓	✓
		601kg plus Silver - 2.3m2, Gold - 2.6m2	✓	✓	✓



Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Silver	Gold	Platinum
YS 7	Colostrum from the Dam must be fed, if not naturally taken, within 6 hours of birth.	This must be covered in the colostrum policy within the health plan.	✓	✓	✓
YS 8	Frozen colostrum should be available. Colostrum should be tested prior to freezing.	This must be covered in the colostrum policy within the health plan.	✓	✓	✓
YS 9	Calves must be fed a sufficient volume of milk replacer to maintain good health and body condition at a minimum of frequency of twice per 24 hours.	Milk replacer manufactures feeding instruction must be followed to maintain the calves growth.	✓	✓	✓
YS 10	Calves must have water provision at all times.	Water to be provided from birth.	✓	✓	✓
YS 11	The on-farm euthanasia of healthy calves born from dairy cows is prohibited.	The use and understanding of the breeding plan should negate the need for this practice which has high public perception issues.	✓	✓	✓

Transport

Welfare of the cattle must be always be paramount when loading, unloading and in transit.

Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Silver	Gold	Platinum
TR 1	Vehicles must be in good working order, smooth and cleanable internal surfaces, ventilation that can be adjusted to suit the local climate, able to keep the stock contained and safe, weather proof, fitted with flooring that aids grip, any ramps are fitted with battens and be no more than 20 degrees steep to assist the ascent and descent of stock, external ramps must have sides, and there must be adequate lighting for inspection and loading.		✓	✓	✓
TR 2	All vehicles must have a Cattle Capacity Document stating the maximum number of cattle that can be carried within different weight ranges.	The Cattle Capacity Document will be based on the Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 Protection of animals during Transport	✓	✓	✓
TR 3	Cattle handling, loading and unloading must be done with care and not have a detrimental effect on the animals welfare. Electric goads must not be used.	A dedicated system of pens and races with a suitable crush with head restraint is required in order to treat or inspect any cattle. The system must allow good flow of stock and be free from any injurious projections.	✓	✓	✓
TR 4	Some form of bedding must be provided in the transport to help absorb the moisture and manure created by the stock in transit.	Types of bedding used can be wood shavings or sawdust or straw, it must not contain any harmful particles such as metal fragments.	✓	✓	✓
TR 5	All vehicles must have a means of mobile communication.	A working and charged mobile phone must be carried as a minimum with relevant contact numbers known.	✓	✓	✓
TR 6	All journeys must be undertaken in accordance with current legislation.	Relevant legislation includes EC1/2005 The Welfare of Animals During Transport.	✓	✓	✓



Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
TR 7	Vehicles will be suitable to avoid cold or heat stress and additional steps will be taken in extreme weather.	The adoption of powered ventilation and/or adjustment to stocking may be appropriate.	✓	✓	✓
TR 8	All journeys must be planned, including the estimated time of arrival at the abattoir or farm. Journeys greater than 8hrs must not be planned and must never exceed 12 hours.	Journey time starts when the first animal is loaded and ends when the vehicle arrives at the destination. In any case, journeys must never exceed 12 hours.	✓	✓	✓
TR 9	Contingency plans must be established and known to the driver. Special attention must be paid to avoiding cold or heat stress.	These plans must be in the vehicle and must include relevant contact numbers and contemplate delays due to breakdown, accident, vehicle fire and traffic re-routing. All vehicles must carry a fire extinguisher.	✓	✓	✓
TR 10	Drivers, or an attendant travelling in the vehicle, must be competent and records must be kept of experience, qualifications, and training for everyone.	Training records will include: - Date of training; - Training given (driving and animal welfare) and - Who provided the training/ refresher training.	✓	✓	✓
TR 11	New staff will have documented induction training and will be supervised until they are deemed competent.	All new staff will be chaperoned until deemed competent.	✓	✓	✓
TR 12	Continued competence must be confirmed annually, and refresher training implemented where required for all staff who transport cattle.	Documented in the training records.	✓	✓	✓
TR 13	Vehicles must be cleansed and disinfected between loads unless they are returning to the same farm in which case they must be cleansed and disinfected after the last load of that day.	Defra approved disinfectants must be used. - https://www.gov.uk/guidance/defra-approved-disinfectant-when-and-how-to-use-it	✓	✓	✓
TR 14	All cattle must be fit to travel	Any sick, lame, stressed or injured cattle must not be loaded onto the transport vehicle.	✓	✓	✓
TR 15	Records for each consignment of cattle must be maintained and reviewed periodically by the management team.	Records for each consignment to include: - Number and type of cattle - Farm of origin; - Date journey, vehicle identity and driver identity; - Time taken to load; - Journey start time and time of arrival; - Incidents occurring enroute; - Mortalities- Prevailing weather conditions; - Farm First number"	✓	✓	✓



Environmental protection and contamination control

Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
EP 1	The farm must present a clean and tidy appearance.	All areas of the site to be kept clean and tidy, all vegetation to be managed, any waste that is being stored for disposal must be away from livestock buildings and be contained so it is not a threat to welfare or the environment.	✓	✓	✓
EP 2	Plant protection products must be stored in their original packaging, in a facility that is locked, signed and banded. Powders must not be stored where they could become contaminated by liquids.	An up-to-date inventory of stored product must be kept. Store sign to be a black exclamation mark in a black triangle, on a yellow background. All plant protection products must have current government approval in both the country of use and the country where the meat is expected to be sold.	✓	✓	✓
EP 3	All fertilisers must be stored in a way that reduces the risk of theft and avoids pollution risks.	Fertiliser must be stored in away from public view and away from stored straw/bedding.	✓	✓	✓
EP 4	Potential pollutants including agricultural fuels manures and slurry be stored in a way that safeguards against pollution.	Potential pollutants include wash water, manures and slurry, silage effluent, these all must be contained,	✓	✓	✓
EP 5	Chemical products such as cleaning agents, disinfectants, rodenticides, paints, preservatives and lubricants must be stored in ways that safeguard against pollution.	Manufacturers guidelines to be followed for all products	✓	✓	✓
EP 6	Plant protection products, fertilisers, manures and composts must be applied to land in ways which prevent pollution. Records of application to be maintained.	Are only applied when conditions allow, avoiding high risk areas and grazing intervals observed.	✓	✓	✓
EP 7	Plant protection product applicators to be maintained.	Knapsack and small boom sprayers (<3m wide) to be checked regularly and the checks recorded. Boom sprayers >3m wide to be checked regularly and professionally calibrated every 5 years.	✓	✓	✓
EP 8	All farms using organic waste and manures must have a documented manure management plan.	Manure management plan must include amount produced, months of storage and route of disposal, disposal or use of manures, slurries and litter must be within legislation of the country of membership.	✓	✓	✓
EP 9	All non-organic wastes such as surplus pesticides and animal medicines and empty containers must be disposed of in ways that safeguard against pollution.	Records must be kept of the date, amount and route of disposal.	✓	✓	✓

Business registration, quality planning and outcome measures

Previous

Next



Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
BR 1	The site must have access to the latest version of the Farm First Scheme Standards and all relevant industry codes of practice.	There must be access to Council Directive 98/58/EC which specifies the minimum requirements for the protection of farmed animals	✓	✓	✓
BR 2	An emergency contact list and emergency action plan must be displayed. A first aid kit must be located in an easily accessible place.	The emergency actions plan must contemplate all relevant scenarios including, equipment failure, power failure, fire, flood, adverse weather, disease outbreaks, environmental pollution, restrictions on Cattle movement and activist incidents. Policies and signage to be in the relevant languages of all staff and visitors.	✓	✓	✓
BR 3	Fire precautions must be in place to include restriction of smoking to designated areas and provision of fire-fighting equipment.	Smoking must be restricted and must not be permitted in any buildings containing livestock or livestock feed. Policies and signage to be in all relevant languages.	✓	✓	✓
BR 4	There must be an up-to-date human Health & Safety Policy with potential hazards identified and mitigations documented.	Product Safety Data Sheets for all relevant inputs must be readily available. Policies and signage to be in all relevant languages.	✓	✓	✓
BR 5	Businesses must be registered with all relevant regulatory authorities.	Registrations are made available to the auditor and any breaches of legislation are recorded in the complaints register and LRQA informed.	✓	✓	✓
BR 6	There must be an up to date site plan detailing the position of all the buildings and key structures such as housing capacities.		✓	✓	✓
BR 7	Records of complaints must be maintained along with any corrective actions to prevent recurrence.	Complaints record and any actions must be made available at the LRQA audit.	✓	✓	✓
BR 8	All potential new production sites/ buildings will be deemed suitable before their first use.	Areas to consider include biosecurity, location to other production facilities, pollution and animal health risks.	✓	✓	✓
BR 9	An internal audit must be undertaken each year by a competent person with appropriate authority. Non-conformances must be rectified, and records kept.	Sites must complete their internal audit before the audit from LRQA.	✓	✓	✓
BR 10	There must be named senior persons responsible for animal welfare, food safety and human first aid.	The responsible person must be documented and there must be a back up to cover holiday, weekend and absence.	✓	✓	✓
BR 11	The needs of the customer in each target must be clearly understood.	To ensure that the product supplied meets customer expectation, the needs of the customer in each market must be documented.	✓	✓	✓
BR 12	The business should have a documented plan for sustainable production to include targets for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fuel and energy usage efficiency - waste reduction - water usage efficiency - contribution to a better environment 	This plan can be composed of several separate elements. The plan to be reviewed annually.	✓	✓	✓
BR 13	Performance records for the unit must be maintained and regularly reviewed against set targets by the management team and areas of improvement identified.	Records must include: Milk production, lameness, mastitis, assisted calving's, culls, disease incidences.	✓	✓	✓



Social module

The Social module is a bolt-on module for sites wishing to attain Platinum level.

Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
SOC 1	Employment must be freely chosen.	There must be no forced, bonded or involuntary prison labour. Workers must not pay a fee, or lodge a deposit or identity papers, or be indebted to the organisation in order to be employed. Workers must be free to leave the employer on having given reasonable notice.	✓	✓	✓
SOC 2	Workers must have the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining.	All workers must have the choice to join or form a trade union. Workers must have the right to freely associate and to bargain collectively. Worker representatives are not discriminated against and are able to carry out their associated responsibilities in the workplace. The employer has an open attitude to the activities of trade unions.	✓	✓	✓
SOC 3	Working conditions, and accommodation where provided, must be safe and hygienic.	Adequate steps shall be taken to prevent accident and injury. Health and safety training must be provided, recorded and refreshed. Potable water and clean toilet facilities must be provided. Any provisions for food storage must be kept in a sanitary condition. Accommodation where provided, must be safe and hygienic. Health and safety must be the defined responsibility of senior management.	✓	✓	✓
SOC 4	Child labour must not be used		✓	✓	✓
SOC 5	Living wages must be paid as a minimum	Wages and benefits paid for a standard working week must meet national legal standards or industry benchmark standards, which ever is higher, as a minimum. All workers must be provided with written and understandable information about their employment conditions in respect to wages before they enter employment and about the particulars of their wages for the pay period concerned each time that they are paid. Deductions from wages as a disciplinary measure must not be permitted nor must any deductions from wages not provided for by national law be permitted without the expressed permission of the worker concerned. All disciplinary measures should be recorded.	✓	✓	✓
SOC 6	Working hours must not be excessive.	<p>Working hours, excluding overtime, shall be defined by contract, and shall not exceed 48 hours per week. All overtime shall be voluntary. Overtime shall be used responsibly, taking into account all the following: the extent, frequency and hours worked by individual workers and the workforce as a whole. It shall not be used to replace regular employment. Overtime shall always be compensated at a premium rate, which is recommended to be not less than 125% of the regular rate of pay. The total hours worked in any 7-day period shall not exceed 60 hours, except where covered by clause 6.5 below. Working hours may exceed 60 hours in any 7-day period only in exceptional circumstances where all of the following are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is allowed by national law; - This is allowed by a collective agreement freely negotiated with a workers' organisation representing a significant portion of the workforce; - Appropriate safeguards are taken to protect the workers' health and safety; and - The employer can demonstrate that exceptional circumstances apply such as unexpected production peaks, accidents or emergencies. <p>Workers shall be provided with at least one day off in every 7-day period or, where allowed by national law, 2 days off in every 14-day period.</p>	✓	✓	✓



Ref.	Technical Requirement	Guidance Note	Level		
			Silver	Gold	Platinum
SOC 7	Discrimination must not be practised.	There is no discrimination in hiring, compensation, access to training, promotion, termination or retirement based on race, caste, national origin, religion, age, disability, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, union membership or political affiliation.	✓	✓	✓
SOC 8	Regular employment must be provided.	To every extent possible work performed must be on the basis of recognised employment relationship established through national law and practice. Obligations to employees under labour or social security laws and regulations arising from the regular employment relationship shall not be avoided through the use of labour-only contracting, sub-contracting, or home-working arrangements, or through apprenticeship schemes where there is no real intent to impart skills or provide regular employment, nor shall any such obligations be avoided through the excessive use of fixed-term contracts of employment.	✓	✓	✓
SOC 9	Harsh and inhumane treatment must not be used.	Physical abuse or discipline, the threat of physical abuse, sexual or other harassment and verbal abuse or other forms of intimidation shall be prohibited.	✓	✓	✓



Fresh thinking

About LRQA:

Bringing together unrivaled expertise in certification, brand assurance and training, LRQA is one of the world's leading providers of food safety and assurance solutions. Working together with farms, fisheries, food manufacturers, restaurants, hotels, and global retailers, we help manage food safety and sustainability risks throughout supply chains and have become a leading global assurance provider.

We're proud of our heritage, but it's who we are today that really matters, because that's what shapes how we partner with our clients tomorrow. By combining strong values, decades of experience in risk management and mitigation and a keen focus on the future, we're here to support our clients as they build safer, more secure, more sustainable businesses.

From independent auditing, certification and training; to technical advisory services; to real-time assurance technology; to data-driven supply chain transformation, our innovative end-to-end solutions help our clients negotiate a rapidly changing risk landscape – making sure they're shaping their own future, rather than letting it shape them.

Get in touch

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