



QMS 2023 Auction Market & Collection Centre Assurance Scheme Standards

What's Changed and Why

What's changed?

We've reviewed our Auction Market & Collection Centre Assurance Scheme Standards and these changes will apply from 1 November 2023.

These updates have been approved by the QMS Auction Market & Collection Centre Assurance Scheme Standards Setting Body, a committee of auctioneers, farmers, industry experts and stakeholders, following a public consultation. They will help you meet evolving supply chain demands and new legal requirements. Find out about the main changes and why they were made in the summary overleaf.





Key Changes

Biosecurity and Disease Control

Standard 3.1

Cleaning and disinfecting on site

Addition included into requirement of this standard; the policy must specify frequency, method of cleaning, method of applying disinfectant and disinfectant to be used. Records of cleansing and disinfection must be kept, disinfectants should be Defra-approved and appropriate for the task.

Rationale

The standard remains the same, but more detail has been added to the requirement to ensure all sites cleaning and disinfection polices are to the same level. It also aligns the cleaning policy with the other QMS schemes.

New Standard 3.2

Adequate pest control must be used to ensure pests are prevented internally and externally, with control actions taken when required.

Rationale

Pest control protects the health and welfare of livestock. It also aligns it with the other QMS schemes.

New Standard 3.6

Dirty water, slurry and solid manure from livestock container cleansing and disinfection must be stored in a way that prevents access by livestock and pollution of ground water.

Rationale

Including this in the Standard demonstrates markets commitment to environmental protection.

New Standard 3.8

Fallen stock and carcass management. Carcasses of fallen stock must be removed without undue delay.

Rationale

Increases biosecurity on site and prevent risks arising to public and animal health.

Animal Welfare

New Recommendation 5.1R

It is recommended that livestock have regular welfare checks while on site.

Rationale

Welfare checks will vary depending on hours of operation and livestock on site. This is only a recommendation and sites decide how best to manage this.

New Standard 5.4

Handling facilities, such as a crush, crate, or race, for veterinary use or identification checks are required to keep animals and personnel safe.

Rationale

The inclusion of this standard emphasises the importance of safety and welfare of personnel and animals.

Standard 5.11

Lairage facilities

Addition to standard requirement; facilities should protect animals from extreme weather, provide shade in hot weather and shelter in cold weather.

Rationale

To deliver livestock welfare needs and ensure there is a contingency plan in place to cover all weather events should they arise.

Facilities

New Standard 9.5

Auction Market & Collection Centre Appearance

Appearance is important to the public perception of farming and the QMS brands image. The exterior and interior areas of the site must:

- Be maintained to a good level of hygiene and tidiness to ensure animal health and food safety is not compromised, and vermin harbourage is not encouraged.
- The tidiness of the site must also convey a good image to promote good public perception of the site.

Rationale

Markets are public spaces and public perception matters to the long term marketability of Scotch Beef, Scotch Lamb and Specially Selected Pork.



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