# Addendum

Minor changes to FQAS Standard (April 2018)

The 2018 (April) NIBL FQAS Product Standard is continually reviewed by the FQAS Standard Setting Committee. It has been decided by the Committee to make a few minor changes to the current FQAS Standard. The changes are in response to a number of specific matters which have arisen since the current standard was issued in 2018 and will not have major effects on the main body of the FQAS Product Standard. At this early stage, it has been decided these changes will be communicated to participants of the scheme via the below addendum. At a later stage subject to further possible changes then the Standard may be re-issued. Please note NIFCC inspectors will be requiring the below changes to be complied with during inspections. Standard 2.3 & 2.4 will be implemented from 3rd February 2020, An implementation date for Standard 2.15 will be notified to scheme members via text and in the farming press.

The changes are highlighted in **red** and are mainly changes to wording within the standard.

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| 2.3<br>Amended | **All persons involved in the administration of animal medication must be competent based on experience and/or training to perform the tasks they are required to undertake.**<br><br>At least one person responsible for administering animal medicines must be formally trained in the responsible use of antimicrobials. | Records of experience and any formal training must be maintained, including for sheep dipping. Stockpersons must be familiar with, and have access to, the Code of Practice for the Responsible Use of Animal Medicines on the Farm.<br><br>This is incorporated into the Veterinary Medicines Record Book. This must be signed. **Appendix A.1b** outlines a sample experience and training record form.<br><br>The inspector will check that this code of practice has been signed and dated to indicate that it has been read and understood. The inspector will ask to see a certificate from a recognised responsible use of antimicrobials course (the list of approved courses can be found on www.lmcni.com/farm-quality-assurance/documentation/) |

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| 2.4<br>Amended | **A written herd/flock health plan, which includes a farm bio-security policy, must be established, implemented and reviewed at least annually or more frequently in the event of any substantial changes to husbandry practices. An antibiotic usage review must be completed in consultation with the farm vet.**<br><br>**Farmers must consult with their vet before using Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotics (HP-CIA's) (3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones, polymyxins (colistin)).**<br><br>**The farm bio-security policy must identify the risks of disease being introduced onto the farm relating to**<br>**animals, vehicles and personnel moving on and off the farm, and detail the procedures that are in place for minimising the risk.**<br><br>**As a minimum, farms must have cleaning and washing facilities and a DAERA approved disinfectant available for personnel, vehicles or machinery coming from or going to other livestock farms or premises. The DAERA approved disinfectant must be effective against Foot and Mouth Disease, TB and General Orders.** | A written Animal Health Plan and antibiotic usage review allows participants to demonstrate their commitment to planned animal health and preventative medicine regimes and provides a useful template for what the producer proposes to administer, or do, throughout the annual production cycle to ensure the optimum health of stock. Appendix A.2a outlines a sample Animal Health Plan. It should include as a minimum: the farm bio-security policy, vaccination programme and timing, control of external and internal parasites and routine veterinary operations. It is a recommendation that producers also consider significant health issues/ mortality as part of the Animal Health Plan. Producers should monitor and review the health plan in the light of any advice given by a vet during a farm visit, and in conjunction with meat inspection results that are available from DAERA (APHIS/NIFAIS). An antibiotic usage review template is available online at (www.lmcni.com/farm-quality-assurance/documentation/) Appendix A.2.a (addendum).<br><br>It will be acceptable for the DAERA approved disinfectant to be approved at the time of purchase, as opposed to approved at time of inspection. This will be checked against the DAERA approved list at that time. DAERA approved list available from DAERA/LMC website.<br><br>*The inspector will ask to see your Animal Health Plan and will check that it has been completed and signed to say it has been reviewed within the last year. The antibiotic usage review will be checked that it has been completed and signed by the herd/flock keeper and vet and reviewed within the last 18 months or within the inspection interval, whichever is sooner. The implementation of the plan will also be checked through cross referencing the planned treatments with the animal medicine records and checking the provision of facilities for bio-security.*<br><br>*The inspector will ask to see a receipt from the purchase of a DAERA disinfectant (if not currently approved for Foot & Mouth Disease, TB and General Orders).* |

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| 2.15<br>Amended | **All cattle and/or sheep must undergo routine disease testing/monitoring as required by DAERA including the requirements of The Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Eradication (BVD) Scheme Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.**<br><br>It is a requirement that PI cattle are culled as soon as possible after being identified and in accordance with Scheme Rule 37. | This is a legal requirement in Northern Ireland.<br>Regarding control of BVD, while apparently normal at birth, Persistently Infected (PI) calves usually become ill-thrifty and die before reaching slaughter weight. During this time they remain a source of infection for other cattle. It is a requirement that PI cattle are culled and in accordance with Scheme Rule 37.<br><br>*Evidence from DAERA will be taken into account when determining the Farm Quality assured status of animals under movement restriction for disease purposes. If a PI is present in the herd at the time of an inspection the inspector will ask to see that it has been isolated in accordance with legislation.* |

## NIBL FQAS Rule 37

37. Any Applicant/ Approved Producer in the possession of a bovine for which a positive test result for the presence of BVDV (Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus) has been obtained from an approved laboratory will have FQ attained status removed from the herd if the BVD status of the bovine in question is not resolved, either through evidence that a BVD negative test result has been obtained for the animal or through evidence that the animal has been culled, in accordance with timescales determined by the Scheme Owners.

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***Please keep this addendum with your copy of the FQAS standard. Please note NIFCC inspectors will be requiring these changes to be complied with during inspections from 3rd February 2020. An implementation date for Standard 2.15 will be notified to scheme members via text and in the farming press.**

## Need assistance with FQAS queries? – Call the FQAS helpline

The Farm Liaison Officer (Terry White) can assist members with preparation required for an impending inspection or with any queries or advice that may be needed to rectify non-conformances after an inspection.

To obtain copies of the FQAS Standard, Rules, Veterinary Medicine Records, Feed Record Books or application packs contact the FQAS helpline which is in operation Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm (028 9263 3024).