

BMPA launches updated Pork Scheme in the UK

Following a major review of its pork and pork products quality standards, the British Meat Processors Association (BMPA) is launching its updated Pork Scheme on 1 May 2015.

The BMPA owns and manages quality standards under an umbrella scheme, the 'BMPA Pork Scheme', covering fresh pork and a range of pork products, including pork sausage, bacon, ham and cooked pork. These standards are managed through announced and unannounced audits carried out by independent UKAS-accredited bodies. Products manufactured to the BMPA standards carry the Red Tractor logo.

Over several months, the BMPA carried out a comprehensive review and updating of the standards in order to ensure that they meet the changing needs of consumers, retailers and manufacturers, to simplify the schemes, to improve audit arrangements and to extend their scope to cover external cold stores, and to strengthen the provisions with regard to provenance and traceability by requiring scheme participants to demonstrate an understanding of their supply chains and to have a schedule of traceability audits, as well as carry out a quarterly mass balance exercise.

The updated Scheme also includes a requirement for the use of CCTV in all areas bearing on animal welfare, as well requirements for adequate facilities for washing and disinfecting hauliers' vehicles.