



Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Scottish Government
Welsh Government

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Date: 10/05/2018

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Animal Health Act 1981
The Tuberculosis (England) Order 2014
The Tuberculosis (Scotland) Order 2007 (as amended)
The Tuberculosis (Wales) Order 2010 (as amended)

Post-mortem Examination of TB Reactors (R), Inconclusive Reactors (IRs) and Direct Contacts (DCs): PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Dear Sir / Madam,

Test Date:

Official Animal Identifier	Reason for Slaughter	Post-mortem findings (Visible Lesions/Non Visible Lesions)	Location of Lesions	Tissue samples submitted for culture (Y/N)
[Redacted]	Gamma positive	Non Visible Lesions		N
[Redacted]	Gamma positive	Non Visible Lesions		N
[Redacted]	Gamma positive	Non Visible Lesions		N
[Redacted]	Gamma positive	Non Visible Lesions		N
[Redacted]	Gamma positive	Non Visible Lesions		N
[Redacted]	Gamma positive	Visible Lesions	Intestinal, Chest, Liver	N
[Redacted]	Gamma positive	Visible Lesions	Chest	N
[Redacted]	Gamma positive	Visible Lesions	Chest	N
[Redacted]	Gamma positive	Visible Lesions	Chest	N

NOTES:

Post-mortem (PM) examinations are carried out in order to assess the stage and severity of the infection at the time of slaughter and, where required, obtain tissue samples for culture and DNA typing of the TB bacterium (to assist with epidemiological investigations). However, bovine TB can only be detected by post-mortem examination if the infection is relatively well advanced and has caused lesions in the infected organ(s) and associated lymph nodes that are sufficiently extensive to be visible to the naked eye.

Visible Lesions indicate that tissue changes characteristic of TB were seen at post-mortem examination. Examination of these lesions can aid in identifying the stage and severity of the disease, and can assist in assessing the degree of risk the infected animal posed to the rest of the herd.

Non Visible Lesions means that no evidence of tissue changes characteristic of TB could be detected at post-mortem examination. However, tuberculin skin and blood tests are more sensitive than post-mortem examination and may detect the immune response to the bovine TB bacterium at the early stages of infection, *before* the development of lesions and clinical signs of TB. **Therefore, failure to detect lesions of TB at post-mortem examination does not mean the animal was free of infection.**

Where lesions are found that are not typical of TB, they are classed as NVL. These will be submitted for culture where required.

Tissue cultures

Samples of tissues from all or some of these animals may be subjected to laboratory tests to attempt to grow, isolate and establish the strain of the TB bacterium. These are marked on the table overleaf.

If tissue samples have been sent to the APHA laboratory for culture to attempt to grow and isolate the bacterium that causes bovine TB, *M. bovis*, this will normally take six weeks from the date that the sample is set up for culture in the laboratory. However, in certain circumstances where *M. bovis* does not grow at the first attempt it is necessary to extend the culture beyond the initial six week period and to set up a second culture from the original sample preparation. Where this is necessary it can take a further eight to ten weeks to obtain a final result.

The TB testing requirement for your herd is now:

Two consecutive skin herd tests with negative results (both of which will be read at severe interpretation), at 60 day intervals ('short interval' tests)

This current testing regime applied to your herd may be amended subject to any further relevant information being made available to APHA, such as any slaughterhouse cases subsequently identified or any pending culture results.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact your local office.

Yours faithfully,

For the Veterinary Head of Field Delivery / Veterinary Lead Scotland / Veterinary Lead Wales

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy