

Dealing with TB in your herd

What happens if bovine TB is detected in your herd? (Wales)



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

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Section 1 : Breakdown in your herd

All herds are classed as Officially TB Free (OTF) unless the TB status of a herd is either regarded as unknown due to overdue testing or there is suspicion that the herd may be infected with TB.

From January 1st 2016, in Wales, OTF status of new TB breakdowns will be withdrawn,(OTFW), rather than suspended (OTFS) with some exemptions, as below.

If there is suspicion of TB in your herd or testing becomes overdue, your herd will be placed under movement restrictions and its Officially Free TB status will become suspended (OTFS).

If your herd TB status is suspended due to overdue testing, completion of that test with negative results will allow your herd to regain its TB free status. If your herd TB status is suspended due to suspicion of TB in an animal at a slaughterhouse inspection, provided the culture result is negative and any follow up tests are clear your herd may regain its TB free status. If any TB test reactor is identified in your herd and/or an animal sent to slaughter has a culture-positive lesion, your herd will become a breakdown herd (OTFW) and will be subject to all the actions applied to breakdown herds.

Suspicion of TB in your herd

Suspension of Officially Free TB status (OTFS)

When we are suspicious of infection with TB in your herd the OTF status will be suspended (OTFS) and your herd will be put under movement restrictions.

Suspicion that animals in your herd may be infected with TB will occur when:

- an animal from your herd has lesions which are suspicious of TB, when inspected in a slaughterhouse
 - an animal from your herd has lesions which are suspicious of TB, at a knackery yard, or hunt kennel
 - one or more Inconclusive Reactors (IRs) have been found in your herd and you have had cattle infected with TB on your holding within the last three years
- clinical signs which are suspicious of TB are seen in a live animal in your herd (clinical signs of TB can include weakness, lethargy, difficulty breathing, chronic coughing and emaciation)
- your herd's test is overdue, or some or all of your cattle cannot be tested due to being wild and unmanageable. In these cases we cannot rule out the possibility that an animal within your herd is infected with TB
- the herd is classed as a breakdown herd where only one animal in your herd has failed the tuberculin skin test and is classified as a reactor,

provided that:

1. the reactor animal is not a tracing from an OTFW breakdown
2. the herd has not been OTFW within the past three years (with this time period measured from the date of the releasing test of any previous breakdown)
3. no herd contiguous to the breakdown herd has been OTFW within the previous six months (with this time period measured from the date of the releasing test of any previous breakdown)

Withdrawal of Officially Free TB status (OTFW)

From January 1st 2016, your herd's officially free TB status will be withdrawn if your herd has a TB breakdown when any of the following apply:

- more than 1 animal has failed the tuberculin skin test and is classified as a reactor
- lesions are detected at reactor post mortem examination
- *M.bovis* is cultured from post mortem samples taken from a reactor
- your herd is assessed against specific criteria which suggest an increased risk that your herd will have a further breakdown if no additional measures are taken. These criteria have been identified as factors which significantly increase the risk of the herd having a further TB breakdown and having its OTF status withdrawn
- your herd has had its OTF status withdrawn in the previous three years
- your herd is contiguous to another herd with its OTF status either currently withdrawn or which has had OTF status withdrawn in the previous 6 months
- there is an increased epidemiological risk

By considering these at an early stage we could prevent disease spreading and reduce the long term impacts on the herd.

You will be informed by letter, of the results of the post mortem examination of your reactors, of any assessment on your herd and the TB status of your herd. If your herd is OTFW, you will need two consecutive clear tests (short interval tests) for the restrictions to be lifted and for your herd to regain OTF status. Once the OTF status of your herd is withdrawn additional actions will be taken to ensure all risks of spread of disease from the infected animals have been minimised:

- any animals being moved from your herd during the infected period will be traced and tested if appropriate
- any neighbouring herds will be investigated and tested if appropriate
- any additional animals which are at risk of infection may be considered for slaughter as Direct Contacts (DCs)
- slaughter of remaining animals in the group or herd may be considered if infection is severe and extensive

Additionally APHA will notify your local health and environmental health authorities with the results of the post mortem examinations or the positive culture.

It is important that you comply with the conditions of herd movement restrictions:

- you must not move cattle either on to or off the restricted premises unless you are given a licence by APHA
- if you produce milk, you must inform your milk purchaser as soon as the restrictions are imposed as milk from any cows in a herd under TB restrictions must not be used for human consumption unless it is heat treated
- you must ensure that milk from any cattle identified as reactors does not enter the human food chain. This milk can be disposed of through the slurry system but must comply with the regulations for waste management. This is explained later in this leaflet
- you must not sell unpasteurised milk to consumers or for use in the manufacturing of unpasteurised milk products

Disease investigation of the breakdown

A Veterinary Officer from the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) will contact you and a disease investigation will be undertaken in the early stages of your breakdown.

They will provide advice and complete a disease report on the incident in your herd. In order to complete this, the officer will require information on your farming enterprise and how it is managed.

The disease investigation will assess the situation and give you advice to help you reduce the risk of spread of bovine TB and to eradicate it from your herd; allowing the restrictions to be lifted.

Please remember that all the premises on your holding are under restriction and you may not move cattle on to or off any of these premises. Movements between parts of the premises under the same movement restriction can be made without the need for a licence for TB purposes, although other legal requirements for movements still apply such as livestock movement standstill and recording and reporting requirements.

You should have the following information available for the disease investigation visit:

- livestock movement records that will not be recorded on the Cattle Tracing System (CTS), going back at least two months before the last clear bovine TB herd test (for example movements where there is a BCMS link)
- any local information that may help to establish the source, and the possible spread, of the disease

You will be given appropriate advice on the following:

- public health issues and implications of the incident
- reducing the impact of the restrictions on your business
- managing the risk of infection spread in your herd and to other herds
- restricting wildlife access to your premises

- licences that can be issued or any additional conditions that may be necessary, to allow you to effectively manage your livestock and your business during the restriction period

The Veterinary Officer will also:

- assess the possible sources of infection
- assess and advise on any permitted movements that may allow you to manage your enterprise effectively whilst under restriction
- establish the boundaries of your holding and any possible contact with adjacent and other herds
- establish if there are other TB susceptible species on the farm
- explain the testing regime and how this may vary depending on the outcome of the post mortem examinations and laboratory tests on reactors

Dealing with milk quota

While your herd is under restrictions due to TB, you may need to consider how you will manage your milk quota.

APHA strongly advises you to consult the relevant scheme rules or to contact the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) for the latest information.

Section 2 : Reactor animals

A reactor is an animal that has failed a test for bovine TB. This may be the skin test, the gamma interferon TB test or any other validated test for TB. Reactors are also those animals that have inconclusive test results at more than one consecutive test read at a standard test interpretation.

Reactor animals will be removed as quickly as possible to help control the disease, reduce the risk of spread within in the herd and to help your herd regain Officially TB Free status.

Reactor cattle present a risk of infection to the rest of your herd and you must immediately isolate them until they are sent for slaughter.

Milk from any animal classified as a reactor must not be used for human consumption and must be withheld from the bulk tank. You should not feed untreated milk to calves or other livestock as it could infect them and prolong the disease in your herd.

The milk can be collected in the slurry system, but subsequent land spreading must be in accordance with a registered Waste Management Licence Exemption.

For further information on land spreading of slurry contact Natural Resources Wales at www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk or phone the general enquiry number 0300 065 3000.

Any reactors identified during the TB skin test will be tagged immediately using a DNA tag. This will enable us to ensure that the correct animal is slaughtered.

APHA will arrange the valuation and slaughter of the reactors. The animals will be examined post mortem to check for lesions that are typical of TB and to check the extent and location of these lesions. Samples may be taken from the reactor for further culturing for *M bovis*. You will be notified by letter of the results of any investigations.

Valuation, slaughter and compensation

Animals that have been classified as reactors will be compulsorily removed from your herd and slaughtered.

Your reactor cattle will be valued before slaughter and you will receive appropriate compensation for any reactors slaughtered to control bovine TB.

You must ensure that the identification documents and tagging requirements for the animals that are to be valued are in order.

Compensation is only payable for animals which comply with the requirements of the Cattle Identification (Wales) Regulations 2007. These require cattle to be identified by means of ear tags and a passport. If this is not the case, or if the passports are not available or are not valid, the presumption is that the market value of the animals will be zero as they may not be traded on the open market.

You will not receive compensation for any animal due to be slaughtered, that dies on your premises before slaughter, regardless of the cause of death.

Compensation for animals slaughtered because of bovine TB is determined by one of the following methods:

- agreement between APHA and the owner
- valuation by joint appointment of valuer
- valuation by appointment of a valuer nominated by the President of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) - where the owner has not agreed to the valuer appointed by APHA (by joint appointment)

APHA will arrange and pay for the valuation.

You should provide any relevant information at the time of valuation, for example, milk yield records and pedigree certificates.

Valuations arising from any of the methods above are final and binding on all parties.

Calculation of amount of compensation

The calculation used to determine the compensation may be reduced in the following circumstances:

- breaches of TB (Wales) Order 2010 (as amended)
- failure to test on time
- failure to comply with a Veterinary Improvement Notice
- where an animal is slaughtered because it is wild or unmanageable and it cannot be tested

The level of reduction will depend on the severity of the breach, but this could mean that you only receive 5% of the market value if any of the above applies.

Removal and slaughter of reactors by private arrangement

The removal, transport and slaughter of TB affected cattle is usually arranged by APHA, although you can arrange the slaughter of the animals privately if you wish.

If you want APHA to arrange the slaughter, we will:

- arrange for the payment and removal of your animals to slaughter

- provide you with the relevant documentation to be completed

If you wish to arrange the slaughter privately, then:

- tell your local APHA office who will provide the relevant forms that you must complete and which must go with the animals to the slaughterhouse
- check that the ear tag numbers on the documents match the numbers on the animals' official ear tags
- APHA will provide the movement licence and will arrange the post mortem examination at the place of slaughter
- ensure that the relevant paperwork/forms accompany the animal(s) to the slaughterhouse

If you choose to have your animals slaughtered privately, compensation will not be paid but any salvage will be paid directly to you by the slaughterhouse.

You need to be aware that the animal carcass may be condemned if TB lesions are found and the salvage payable from the slaughterhouse may be reduced accordingly, or no payment made. APHA will not be responsible for compensating for any reduction in payment, or for any costs associated with the disposal of the carcass.

Removal for slaughter

In exceptional cases reactors may be slaughtered on your premises and the carcass removed for post mortem examination and disposal. This will be arranged by APHA if your animal is unfit to travel or cannot be considered as fit for human consumption, for example within an extended drug withdrawal period.

APHA will be responsible for the arrangement and cost of removal of the reactor to a slaughterhouse, subsequent slaughter and disposal of the carcass if it is unfit for human consumption. A contracted haulier will contact you to agree a date to remove your animal(s) and you should assist with the loading of your animal.

You must ensure that:

- the correct documentation is sent with your animals to the slaughterhouse and that the ear tag numbers and documents match
- the correct animals are presented for collection for slaughter. APHA will not pay compensation if the wrong animal is presented for slaughter. Failure to present a reactor for slaughter could be a breach of the TB Order
- your animals are fit for transport. You remain responsible for the welfare of the affected animals prior to their removal to slaughter, in particular ensuring that they are fit to be transported in accordance with The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Wales) Order 2006

- your cattle are be of an acceptable state of cleanliness for hygienic slaughter in accordance with The Food Hygiene (Wales) Regulations 2006, as amended

The legislation is available on the UK Legislation website www.legislation.gov.uk/. Alternatively, copies can be ordered from The Stationery Office Ltd (TSO) either via the TSO Online Bookshop by email to customer.services@tso.co.uk or by post:

TSO
PO Box 29
Norwich
NR3 1GN
Tel 0870 600 5522

Post mortem examination of reactor cattle

Reactor carcasses are examined, where appropriate, for evidence of infection and, where necessary, to collect tissue samples for laboratory diagnosis.

The nature and extent of the lesions in the carcass may indicate whether the disease was in an early or advanced stage or how the animal was infected.

If your tuberculin test revealed several reactors, samples may not be collected from every animal slaughtered. The laboratory will culture samples collected from the reactor in order to attempt to isolate bovine TB. This will take at least six weeks and the results should help us to understand the nature of the outbreak. APHA will write to you with the results of any post mortem examination undertaken and of any results of samples sent for culture.

If lesions are detected at post mortem examination or if culture results are positive for *M. bovis*, the TB free status of your herd will be withdrawn (OTFW).

If your herd TB free status is withdrawn, the results from the last tuberculin test may be reviewed and re-interpreted using severe interpretation. This interpretation lowers the threshold for an animal to be declared a reactor and is used where there is a high risk of infection remaining in your herd. This may result in further animals being classed as reactors.

If bovine TB is not detected in any reactors from your herd, either at the post mortem examination or in the laboratory, your herd status will remain suspended (OTFS).

In these cases your herd will also be assessed against certain criteria and your status may be withdrawn if a high risk of TB infection is identified in your herd. You will be informed by letter of the criteria that have been applied if your herd status is withdrawn.

Further testing of your herd is necessary to minimise the risk of infection remaining on your farm. The number of tests and the interpretation of those tests will depend on the status of your herd.

- if the OTF status of your herd remains suspended you will need to complete one complete clear test
- if the OTF status of your herd is withdrawn you will need to complete two clear consecutive tests

The interpretation of these tests will depend on the risk of infection in your herd:

- TB skin tests are usually carried out at a 'standard interpretation'
- where there is a higher risk of infection, in herds that are OTFW we use a 'severe interpretation' in order to increase the sensitivity of the test and decrease the possibility of leaving infected cattle in your herd

Please remember that because a post mortem examination is not a perfect technique for identifying bovine TB, failure to detect TB lesions or to culture the disease from samples taken does not mean the animal was not infected with bovine TB. In the early stages of the disease (in particular), it is often not possible to see lesions with the naked eye, and, due to the nature of the organism, it is not possible to culture from samples in every case. It is important to bear in mind that the primary purpose of post-mortem and bacteriological culture of test reactors is not to establish the presence or absence of disease, but rather to identify the severity and strain of infection. This is useful to support subsequent disease control efforts.

Section 3 : Inconclusive Reactors

Inconclusive Reactors (IRs) are important because the disease status of the animal is uncertain.

Any animal classed as an IR must be kept on the farm and isolated from the rest of the herd to reduce the risk of spreading TB to other cattle. Your herd will automatically be subject to movement restrictions if it is not already restricted.

APHA will serve an isolation notice confirming that you have an IR and giving instructions on what you need to do. What happens next mainly depends on whether or not reactors have been found in the same herd.

IRs identified in unrestricted herds

The whole herd will be put under movement restrictions when an IR is identified at a test, these will remain in force if there are:

- any reactor animals in addition to the IR (when the herd will become a breakdown), or
- the herd has had a confirmed TB breakdown (OTFW) in the last three years

In all other cases, providing there is no other suspicion of TB, only the IRs will remain under restriction and the herd OTF status will be restored for domestic trade purposes, but export trade is restricted pending re-testing of the IR(s).

Further testing of IRs

Inconclusive Reactors (IRs) are tested again after 60 days

- if the IR tests clear, it can rejoin the herd
- if it is still an IR it will be classed as a reactor and removed and slaughtered in the same way as a test reactor

IRs identified in breakdown herds

The whole herd movement restrictions will remain in force and the IRs will be retested within the ongoing testing regime for the breakdown.

If the test at which the IR was disclosed would otherwise have allowed the herd to regain its OTF status the herd will remain under movement restrictions until the IR is resolved by a subsequent clear test after 60 days. If the IR becomes a reactor at the retest the herd will continue with a breakdown testing regime.

Further testing of IRs identified within a breakdown

Inconclusive Reactors (IRs) are tested again after 60 days, as part of the short interval test with the rest of the herd:

- if the IR tests clear, it can rejoin the herd
- if it is still an IR it will be classed as a reactor and removed and slaughtered in the same way as a test reactor

If the test at which the IR was disclosed would have allowed the herd to regain its OTF status the IR will be tested as an individual IR retest after 60 days:

- if the IR tests clear it can rejoin the herd and movement restrictions will be lifted from the herd allowing it to become Officially TB Free
- if it is still an IR it will be classed as a reactor and removed and slaughtered in the same way as a test reactor and the herd will continue with a breakdown testing regime

In some cases and depending on the interpretation used, the IR may not become a reactor at the second test. In these cases a gamma interferon test will be carried out on the IR. If this is positive the animal is immediately classified as a reactor, if it is negative a third IR skin test will be carried out on a date which is 60 days after the second retest.

Any cattle with an IR result after two consecutive tests will be classed as a reactor and removed and slaughtered.

Private slaughter of IRs

You can have an IR privately slaughtered at your own expense. You must tell the local APHA office, giving at least five working days' notice, as they will have to issue a licence allowing the IR to travel to a slaughterhouse of your choice.

They will arrange for the IR to be examined in the slaughterhouse for any evidence of bovine TB and may take tissue samples for culture. Compensation will not be paid for any IR that is privately slaughtered.

Taking this option, rather than waiting for the outcome of the next TB test, could lead to additional testing and/or prolonging the restrictions on your herd. You should discuss the possible consequences with your case Veterinary Officer or your local APHA office.

If an IR dies on the farm or has to be put down for welfare reasons, you will also need to tell your local APHA office. You will not receive compensation for IRs that die on your farm before slaughter.

If an IR dies on the farm (or is privately slaughtered) and post mortem examination indicates that the animal was infected with bovine TB, APHA will apply TB

movement restrictions (unless they are already in place) and test the rest of the herd.

Section 4 :Biosecurity measures

Cleansing and disinfection

Cleansing and disinfection (C&D) is important to reduce the risk of infection spreading to cattle or to other susceptible animals on your farm.

Under certain conditions *M.bovis* can survive in the environment for a long time. The length of time can vary considerably and the conditions affecting this include such things as temperature and moisture. Therefore it is a requirement under a Notice, served by APHA, to thoroughly clean and disinfect all buildings, equipment and utensils where reactor cattle have been kept. It is also good practice to consider implementing additional biosecurity measures to mitigate the risk of further spread of infection.

The disinfectant used for the C&D required by the Notice must be approved by Welsh Government for use against bovine TB and must be used at the appropriate concentration. You should check the list of approved disinfectants which can be accessed via GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/defra-approved-disinfectant-when-and-how-to-use-it>

It is particularly important to cleanse and disinfect any fittings or equipment that may have come into contact with sputum, faeces or milk from TB reactors.

APHA will serve a Notice (BT5) detailing the requirements for cleansing and disinfection, at the beginning of your breakdown and you will need to sign the declaration and return the Notice to the local APHA office when the required C&D has been completed and before TB restrictions can be lifted at the end of the breakdown.

There will be other circumstances when this Notice is served, for example extensive infection, depopulation or vacation of a premises where reactors have been located.

If you are vacating the premises and other unrestricted cattle are to move to the premises, you would need to carry out full C&D of all the buildings used by any of your cattle and to leave the grazing ground empty of cattle for a period of 60 days.

Therefore restrictions will normally remain in place until 60 days after the last of your cattle have vacated the premises and C&D is completed.

Disposal of slurry and manure

You can use your own slurry or manure on your own land while TB restrictions are

in place, although you should consider the risk of spreading the disease to other stock or wildlife.

The BT5 Notice will specify if you require a licence to remove manure, slurry or other animal waste from the premises under restriction.

Best practice is that bedding and manure from premises under restriction should be sprayed with an approved disinfectant, then removed and stacked for at least three weeks prior to being spread. Slurry ideally should be stored for a minimum of six months before being spread.

Care should be taken to prevent any livestock coming into contact with this bedding and manure.

If at all possible, manure and slurry from premises under TB restrictions should be disposed of on land that is to be used for arable cropping. However, if manure or slurry has to be disposed of where cattle graze, it should be spread at least 60 days before any cattle are allowed access. Methods of spreading potentially infected manure and slurry should avoid airborne contamination.

Section 5 : Testing during a breakdown

Short interval tests

Herds are tested every 60 days throughout a breakdown. These tests are known as short interval tests. Short interval tests usually include all animals in the herd and are carried out 60 days apart. The 60 day period is from the date the last reactor left your herd or from the date any reactors or inconclusive reactors were isolated.

Very occasionally and subject to a satisfactory and strict risk assessment, we may agree to exempt certain groups of animals from short interval testing, e.g. calves less than 42 days of age (providing a risk is not identified in this age group).

If the TB status of your herd is suspended (OTFS) you will need one clear short interval test following removal of any reactors, and clear tests for any inconclusive reactors.

If the TB status of your herd is withdrawn (OTFW) you will need two clear consecutive short interval tests following removal of any reactors, and clear tests for any inconclusive reactors. Where herds are OTFW and to ensure your herd is cleared of infection as quickly as possible, we apply severe interpretation at the disclosing test, any immediate herd check test and the first short interval test following disclosure of reactors where lesions are detected.

The interpretation of second and subsequent short interval tests will depend on the risk of infection in your herd.

Gamma Interferon tests for *M.Bovis*

The gamma interferon test may be used in a breakdown to help identify TB infected animals.

This test does not replace the tuberculin skin test, which continues to be the primary screening test for bovine TB, but will improve the chances of detecting infected cattle, thereby speeding up the resolution of TB incidents, in the following circumstances:

- on tuberculin test-negative/inconclusive animals in all new TB incidents located in low incidence areas and where the OTF status has been withdrawn
- on tuberculin test-negative/inconclusive animals in herds with a severe breakdown, to inform decisions around whole or partial herd slaughter
- on tuberculin test-negative/inconclusive animals in herds with persistent infection where the OTF status has been withdrawn and that fail to resolve through repeated Short Interval Tests (tuberculin skin tests) and that have taken appropriate herd biosecurity precautions

- on animals which have been identified as inconclusive reactors at two consecutive tests but are not classed as reactors due to the interpretation used at the skin test

Animals failing any diagnostic test for bovine TB, including the Gamma Interferon test will be slaughtered. The Tuberculosis Order allows for compulsory slaughter of these animals. You are entitled to the same compensation arrangements for any Gamma Interferon test reactors and they will be removed in the same way as skin test reactors.

Further testing after removal of restrictions

After the movement restrictions have been lifted, your herd will have regained its OTF status but it still needs to undergo further tuberculin tests to ensure that:

- no infected animals have been missed in previous tests, and
- no re-infection has occurred

These tests cover all cattle over 42 days old and the first test is due six months from the date of the last short interval test before the TB restrictions were lifted on your herd and, if the test is negative, a second test will be due 12 months after the date of the six month test.

If the second test is negative, your herd will return to routine annual testing, unless your herd is located within the Intensive Action Area (IAA) where routine testing is more frequent.

Section 6 : Movements on and off restricted premises

There may be circumstances where you will wish to move cattle either on to or off your premises while under movement restrictions; either for management, breeding, slaughter, sale or contract rearing.

The default position is that no movements will be allowed, but in certain low risk situations movements may be authorised under a licence issued by local APHA office.

This guidance gives general advice on what movements of animals on and off restricted premises may be permitted and conditions that will apply but all licensed movements are subject to an individual veterinary risk assessment, by APHA, which takes account of the potential of introducing disease to your herd or spreading disease within your herd and to other herds.

Movements on to or off your premises should be discussed with the APHA veterinary officer at the initial visit to discuss disease control on your premises. Alternatively, you should contact your local office to seek guidance.

If the restrictions are in place because testing on your premises is overdue (zero tolerance), the TB status of your herd will be unknown and licences to move cattle on to or off the premises will not be issued.

Moving cattle between restricted linked holdings

You can move animals between the parts of your premises identified under the same movement restriction (TB02) without a licence, though other regulations still apply such as pre-movement testing, standstill rules and reporting of movements.

It may be possible to move negative testing cattle from one TB restricted premises to another TB restricted holding under the authority of a licence, but this must be subject to a satisfactory veterinary risk assessment, a clear test within the previous 30 days and licensing.

Moving cattle off TB restricted premises

A licence may be issued, providing the risk of spread of disease is low, for movements off your premises. The following movements can be considered by your local office, but it is important to remember that licences are necessary for these movements and they will only be issued if the movement does not present a risk to disease spread.

Movement to slaughter

You may be issued with a general movement licence, which will mean that you do not need to apply for a specific movement licence every time you take clear testing cattle to slaughter and the licence does not need to stay with the animals whilst they are being transported.

In high risk situations, where a general licence cannot be permitted, you will need a specific movement licence, which you must apply for beforehand and must stay with the animals during transport. Ear numbers of cattle to be moved must be provided to the office for inclusion in this licence. It will specify which animals can move, only allows a single specific movement and is for a defined period. You must apply for this licence at least five days before the planned movement to guarantee receipt of a licence in time for the movement to take place.

As well as the required movement licence, you must make sure the animals travel to slaughter with their official identification documents (passport or certificate of Cattle Tracing System registration), and the necessary Food Chain Information (FCI). You will need additional, specific documentation to send reactors, IRs and DCs to slaughter and this will be provided by APHA.

Additionally, there is a requirement to mark all animals being sent to slaughter from a TB restricted premises with an orange stripe along the back. APHA is not responsible for any loss or inconvenience you may suffer if you fail to provide all the necessary paperwork for animals going to slaughter under licence.

Other requirements

When moving animals to slaughter there are other requirements you should take into account:

- Cleanliness - all cattle sent to an abattoir must be of an acceptable cleanliness for hygienic slaughter. The Food Standards Agency has a publication on the different aspects of clean livestock on its website www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/cleanbeefsaf1007.pdf or ordered from Food Standards Agency Publications on 0845 606 0667
- Cattle born or reared in the UK before 1 August 1996 are permanently excluded from the food chain and it is illegal to send them for slaughter for human consumption. At the end of their productive lives, the carcasses must be treated in the same way as fallen stock

Movement to slaughter through an approved TB slaughter market or collection centre

Cattle that have had a skin test with negative results in the previous 90 days, or untested calves under six weeks old may move to slaughter via a collection centre or a 'red' market specifically approved for TB restricted cattle, under a licence

issued by your local APHA office. This movement can be carried out under a general movement licence and this licence can be issued by your local APHA office providing the risk assessment is satisfactory.

Movement to other TB restricted premises

Cattle may be licensed to move from one restricted premises to another, but the TB status at the premises of destination must be of the same or a higher risk than at the farm of origin. The movements are also subject to a veterinary risk assessment before a licence will be granted. There may also be some implications to your own testing if you purchase cattle from another TB restricted farm. The local office will inform you of this before a licence is issued.

Movement to Approved Finishing Units (AFU)

Cattle from restricted herds, that have been skin tested with negative results, can be sent to AFUs under licence, for rearing and fattening before being sent on to slaughter.

Movement to approved TB Isolation Units

Cattle from a single restricted herd, that have tested negative, can be sent to an approved TB Isolation Unit under licence. For the Isolation Unit to regain TB free status, all cattle in the unit will need to complete two consecutive tests with negative results, the last test being more than 120 days after the last animal moved in to the unit.

Movement through a dedicated sale for TB restricted cattle in England

Cattle may move, under licence, through a dedicated sale for TB restricted cattle that has been approved by APHA for this purpose. These sales are only held in England and cattle cannot be moved from the sale to premises within Wales, including back to the premises of origin, unless the movement is direct to a slaughterhouse. All cattle must have had a skin test with negative results in the previous 90 days.

Movements from these sales are allowed to either an Approved Finishing Unit (AFU) in England or to slaughter, and this may include a slaughterhouse located in Wales.

Further information on approved facilities for TB restricted cattle is available on GOV.UK at <https://www.gov.uk/keeping-farmed-animals/bovine-tb>

Moving cattle onto a TB restricted premises from an unrestricted premises

You may apply for a licence enabling the movement of cattle from unrestricted premises on to your premises. It will be necessary to complete your first short interval test (SIT) before any consideration to issue a licence to allow restocking of your herd can take place.

A general licence will only be issued in low risk situations. It will allow multiple movements and will last the duration of your breakdown, unless the TB disease risk on your premises or in your location increases significantly or your testing becomes overdue by more than one month. Ear tag numbers will not be included in this licence, unless it is not necessary to report the movement to BCMS.

The general licence can only be issued after a satisfactory risk assessment by APHA and may be subject to additional conditions.

A specific licence may be issued when a general licence is inappropriate. It will specify which animals can move, only allows a single movement and is valid for a defined period. You should contact your local APHA office if you need to replace a suckler calf or a breeding bull before the first short interval test.

Movement of carcasses from your premises

If an inconclusive reactor (IR), direct contact (DC) or reactor dies or has to be slaughtered on your farm for welfare reasons, you should inform the local APHA office immediately (all offices have a 24 hour contact service available).

You do not need a licence to move the carcase but you must tell us before moving it as APHA may wish to carry out a post mortem examination.

Remember:

- never wait to contact us before arranging to have an animal slaughtered if the delay puts the animal's welfare at risk
- you will not get compensation for reactors, IRs and DCs that die on your farm before they are due to be slaughtered
- any carcasses of reactors, DCs or IRs sent to a slaughterhouse must have a notice issued by the local APHA office

In addition to these TB requirements, other conditions must be complied with when removing fallen stock.

Guidance about fallen stock is available on GOV.UK at <https://www.gov.uk/fallen-stock>

Details of the National Fallen Stock Company (NFSCo) is at www.nfsc.co.uk or by telephone on 0845 054 8888.

Further information

GOV.UK

<https://www.gov.uk/keeping-farmed-animals/bovine-tb>

Welsh Government

www.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/?lang=en

Since devolution, the responsibility and powers in regard to animal health legislation has meant that there are significant differences in the policies regarding bovine TB in England, Wales and Scotland. The Defra, Scottish Government and Welsh Government websites providing up to date detail on these policies can be accessed from GOV.UK.

If you farm on the border of England and Wales, or England and Scotland, you should be aware that the location of your animals at the time of the test would influence which protocols are relevant to you.



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