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## TB testing intervals 2013

[The TB testing intervals information for 2014 is now available](#)

Defra, the Welsh Government and the Scottish Government are committed to setting TB herd testing intervals that are aligned with the regional risks of bovine TB and comply with EU legislation. This is achieved by carrying out, with AHVLA, a national review of TB testing intervals on an annual basis.

Historically, the TB herd testing intervals have been calculated by monitoring the level of TB in a given area in the previous six years, the area used in the majority of cases was the parish. The annual review was therefore called the parish testing interval review (PTI)

However alternative approaches are now being taken by England, Scotland and Wales.

In 2010, a more risk based approach to setting routine TB testing intervals was applied in England, and this approach continued through to 2012, as outlined below. In 2013 the area to be used to set testing intervals will be counties and calculations will no longer be based around parishes. A new surveillance testing regime is to be introduced, as outlined below.

In Scotland, recognition of the country as Officially TB Free in 2009 allowed a more risk based approach to surveillance. The default position is that herds are tested every 48 months, but some herds are now exempted from routine herd testing following an annual risk-based assessment.

Annual testing was applied across Wales in order to assess the TB status of

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the country and continues as the drive towards eradication of the disease progresses. There are no current changes to the surveillance regime in Wales.

Therefore the area in which your holding is located will be assigned a testing interval (TI) according to the policy of the country in which the area lies. The testing interval will in most cases be the default frequency at which you will be expected to carry out routine testing of your herd. However specific herds may be assigned a more frequent testing interval and this will be in response to an identified higher risk, such as the enterprise or business you run, or in response to an increased disease threat in the locality. The herd testing interval (HTI) is the testing frequency that applies to your own herd of cattle and if this differs from the area testing interval it will be the herd testing interval that applies to your herd.

This terminology replaces the previous parish testing interval (PTI) and your location will be determined according to your CPH number. If that is the case, AHVLA will inform the affected herd owner accordingly.

In England, herd owners will be written to annually, following the review, to advise them of their TB testing intervals. Herd owners in Wales will only be written to if their TB testing interval changes. All herds owners in Scotland are written to annually advising them whether they are exempt or not from routine TB Testing.

The herd testing intervals are the criteria by which herd owners are either eligible for, or exempt from, [pre-movement testing](#) requirements. If your herd testing interval is annual you will be subject to the requirements for pre-movement testing in England and Wales, regardless of the testing interval for the area in which you are located.

## **2013 TB testing intervals for England, Wales and Scotland**

Find out the testing interval for 2013 that applies to your area via the [testing interval search](#). Alternatively, download the complete lists for England, Scotland and Wales below.

### **England**

A different approach has been applied to calculating TB testing intervals in England in 2013.

TB testing intervals have traditionally been calculated using historical TB incidence figures which 'follow' the spread of infection. Since 2010 the Government followed a recommendation by the TB Eradication Group (TBEG) (which has now been replaced by the [TB Eradication Advisory Group \(TBEAG\)](#)) for development of a proactive approach to testing frequencies, which sets the TB testing intervals on the basis of the current disease picture using a range of epidemiological evidence.

The approach used since 2010 was therefore more proactive than the previous arrangement, as it looks to ensure that herds in high TB risk areas are tested annually and the testing programme is aimed at ensuring that we are ahead of the spread of infection from the high TB incidence areas.

From **1 January 2013**, a new TB surveillance testing regime will be introduced for bovine herds in England. TB testing intervals for bovines will be determined on a county basis rather than by parishes and will be tested either annually or four-yearly. This will be based on risk and will simplify the current approach resulting in more stable routine TB testing intervals.

Please read the [question and answer](#) (PDF) document and the [policy](#) (PDF) document for more details on England's approach to TB testing intervals in 2013.

The new TB testing intervals in England will come into effect on **1 January 2013** and are detailed below in the 'England TI List'. AHVLA is writing to herd owners individually to confirm what their testing interval (TI) and herd testing interval (HTI) will be.

**Note:** While the testing interval (TI) will state the testing frequency for the majority of herds within that area, it is the herd testing interval that will apply to the testing requirements for an individual herd.

All herds with a herd testing interval that is annual will have to comply with pre-movement testing requirements on cattle movements unless one of the conditions for exemption can be applied. See further information on [pre-movement testing](#).

- [England TI List](#) (PDF)

Additionally, in 2013 there will be some changes to the rules around movements of cattle on and off TB-restricted premises in England. These build upon other tightening of cattle controls introduced in July 2012.

The following information notes explain the changes:

- [Changes to bovine TB surveillance](#) (PDF)
- [Changes to TB cattle movement controls](#) (PDF)

### Wales

The Welsh Government has decided that all of Wales will still require annual TB testing in 2013. As a consequence of annual testing, all cattle keepers in Wales have to comply with pre-movement testing requirements on cattle movements since 1 January 2010.

The Welsh Government proposes to retain six monthly testing within the IAA during 2013.

- [Wales TB testing intervals list](#) (PDF)

### Scotland

Scotland is recognized as Officially TB Free and the default testing interval is 48 months. Some herds are exempt from routine herd testing following a risk-based approach. AHVLA writes annually to all cattle keepers in Scotland stating whether or not their herd is exempt from TB testing.

The link below is a list of parishes in Scotland and their TB testing intervals.

- [Scotland TB testing intervals list](#) (PDF)

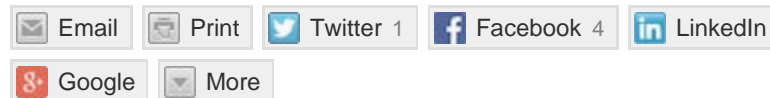
### Map of TB Testing Intervals

A GB map of the TB testing intervals from 1 January 2013 is available:

- [GB TB testing interval map](#) (PDF 3.4mb)

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