Dealing with TB in your herd
What happens if TB is identified in your herd?

Contents

Contents ................................................................................................ . 1
Section 1 : Breakdown in your herd ....................................................... 3
  Suspicion of TB in your herd ................................................................ 3
  Investigation of the TB breakdown ....................................................... 4
  Dealing with milk quota ........................................................................ 5
Section 2 : Reactor animals ................................................................. 6
  Valuation, slaughter and compensation ................................................. 6
  Overdue tests ...................................................................................... 8
  Removal and slaughter of reactors by private arrangement .................... 8
  Removal for slaughter .......................................................................... 9
  Post mortem examination of reactor cattle ............................................. 10
Section 3 : Inconclusive Reactors ......................................................... 11
  Further testing of IRs identified within a breakdown .............................. 11
  Private slaughter of IR ........................................................................ 12
Section 4 : Withdrawal of officially Free TB status (OTFW) ...................... 13
  Cleansing and disinfection .................................................................. 14
  Disposal of slurry and manure ............................................................. 14
Section 5 : Testing during a breakdown .................................................. 16
  Short Interval Tests ............................................................................ 16
  Gamma Interferon tests for M. bovis ................................................... 16
  Further testing after removal of restrictions ........................................... 17
Section 6 : Movements on and off restricted holdings ................................. 18
  Moving cattle between restricted linked holdings ................................. 20
Moving cattle off TB restricted holdings................................................................. 20
Movement to slaughter through an approved TB slaughter market or collection centre .......... 19
Movement to other TB restricted holdings .............................................................. 19
Movement to Approved Finishing Units (AFU) ....................................................... 19
Movement to approved TB isolation units ............................................................ 19
Movement through a dedicated sale for TB restricted cattle ................................. 19
Herd dispersal sales ................................................................................................. 20
Moving cattle onto a TB restricted holding from an unrestricted holding ................. 20
Movement of carcasses from your holding ............................................................ 21
Further information ............................................................................................... 21

This guidance is now out of date and has been withdrawn
For the latest guidance, see ‘Bovine TB: getting your cattle tested (England)’
Section 1: Breakdown in your herd

All herds will be classed as Officially TB Free (OTF) provided that they are up to date with their TB testing and there is no suspicion of TB infection. Once there is suspicion of TB in any animals within your herd, the herd will be put under restrictions and its OTF status will be suspended (OTFS).

If your 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 OT status becomes suspended due to suspicion of disease in an animal at a slaughterhouse inspection, if culture of the lesion is negative, your herd may regain its TB free status.

Your herd will become a breakdown and will be subject to all the actions applied to breakdown herds if any TB test reactors are identified as a result of a TB test or if any culture positive lesions are found in an animal from your herd at the slaughterhouse.

Suspicion of TB in your herd

When TB is suspected, your herd will be put under movement restrictions. This will automatically suspend the OTF status of the herd.

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

- one or more animal in your herd has failed the tuberculin skin test or has been tested with inconclusive results (IR) on two consecutive occasions and is classified as a reactor
- an animal from your herd has lesions which are suspicious of TB, when inspected in a slaughterhouse, at a knackers’ 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 and following slaughter lesions which are suspicious of TB are seen at the post mortem inspection. 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 aggressive or a lack of adequate testing facilities.

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

- you must not move cattle on to or off the restricted holding, unless you are given a licence by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)
- if you produce milk, you must inform your milk purchaser as soon as 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.

This guidance is now out of date and has been withdrawn. For the latest guidance, see 'Bovine TB: getting your cattle tested (England)'.

For the latest guidance, see 'Bovine TB: getting your cattle tested (England)'.
- additionally, you must ensure that milk from any cows identified as reactors does not enter the human food chain (i.e. it is withheld from the bulk tank)
- you must not sell unpasteurised milk directly to the final consumers or for use in the manufacturing of unpasteurised milk products

**Investigation of the TB breakdown**

A veterinary officer or inspector from APHA will contact you and undertake a disease investigation 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 inspector will require information on your farming enterprise and how it is managed.

The investigation will assess the TB breakdown on your farm, attempting to identify its origin and instigating control measures to limit its spread within your herd and to other herds. The veterinary officer/inspector conducting the investigation will give you advice to help you reduce the risk of spread of bovine TB and eradicate it from your herd, so 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 without a licence. Licences may be issued by your local APHA office where the conditions necessary to eliminate any risk associated with that movement can be satisfied.

Movements between parts of the holding under the same movement restrictions can be made without the need for a movement licence for TB purposes, although other legal requirements for movements still apply, such as livestock movement standstill and recording and reporting requirements.

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

The inspector will also:

- assess the possible sources of infection
- assess and advise on any permitted movements that may help you manage your enterprise 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

For the latest guidance, see ‘Bovine TB: getting your cattle tested (England)’. This guidance is now out of date and has been withdrawn.
explain the testing regime and how this may vary depending on the outcome of the post-mortem examinations and laboratory tests on reactors

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 information that may help to establish the source, and the possible spread of the disease

**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.

You can get more information on milk quota from:

The Rural Payments Agency
Milk Quotas
PO Box 277
Exeter
EX5 1WB
Helpline: 01392 266466


---

*This guidance is now out of date and has been withdrawn.*

For the latest guidance, see ‘Bovine TB: getting your cattle tested (England)’.
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 blood test or any other approved test for TB. Animals that have inconclusive test results at two consecutive tests are also classified as reactors.

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

Reactor cattle should be considered as presenting 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 cow classified as a reactor must not be used for human consumption and must be withheld from the bulk tank pending removal of the animal to slaughter. You should not feed untreated milk to calves or other livestock, as it could infect them and so spread and prolong the TB breakdown on your farm.

The milk from reactor cows 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 contacts:

- the Environment Agency in England and Wales
  https://www.gov.uk/waste-exemptions-disposing-of-waste
  or telephone the Environment Agency Helpline: 08708 506 506
- in England only, the Defra Whole Farm Approach
  http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmmanage/wholefarm/ or telephone the
  Defra Helpline on 08459 33 55 77

Any reactors identified during a tuberculin skin test will be marked 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 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 of tissues from the reactors may be taken for laboratory culture and molecular (strain) typing of M. bovis to assist with the investigation into the origin of the TB breakdown. You will be notified by letter of the results of any investigations.

Valuation, slaughter and compensation

Any animals that have been classified as reactors or direct contacts will be compulsorily removed from your herd and slaughtered. You will receive compensation for the loss of such animals, but you must ensure that the identification documents and tagging requirements for such animals are in order. Compensation is only payable for animals which comply with the Cattle Identification Regulations 2007, including the requirement for cattle to be identified by means of ear tags and a passport. For cattle without passports the presumption is that their market value will be zero, as those animals may...
not be traded on the open market. No compensation will be paid for cattle without the legally required ID.

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

APHA may either contact you by telephone or undertake a visit to determine the compensation for your animal. In either case the APHA officer will explain the processes and will answer any queries or concerns that you may have.

Compensation for animals slaughtered because of bovine TB is determined primarily through table valuations, based on average market prices for pre-determined cattle categories. Table value rates are updated monthly and published by Defra at the start of each calendar month, on GOV.UK at: https://www.gov.uk/compensation-for-animals-culled-to-control-animal-diseases

Where there is no available sale price data, or if the sale price data is inadequate for calculating the average market price for a relevant category in any particular month, compensation will either be determined using a previously ascertained market average price or, if this is not possible, through individual valuation.

An animal can only be classed as ‘pedigree’ when a full pedigree certificate, meeting the requirements of Commission Decision 84/419/EEC, has been issued by a recognised breed society by the date the animal is identified as a reactor. To enable pedigree compensation to be paid a pedigree certificate must be presented to your local APHA office within ten days of the animal being identified as a reactor. If a pedigree certificate is not available the animal will be valued as non-pedigree stock. Cattle in the process of being graded-up will also be valued as non-pedigree stock.

* All animals in an Approved Finishing Unit (AFU) or a (pre-movement testing) Exempt Finishing Unit (EFU) are destined for slaughter only and have no breeding potential. Therefore for the purposes of valuation, any cattle located in an AFU or EFU are classed as commercial and the compensation paid according to the relevant valuation table for non-pedigree animals. (Update published 6 October 2015)

If an individual valuation is necessary it will be carried out by a valuer appointed jointly by APHA and yourself or failing that, by a valuer nominated by the President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and appointed by the Secretary of State.

You should provide any relevant information at the time of valuation, for example, milk yields, pedigree certificates. Valuations arising from any of the methods above are final and binding on all parties.

On 1 July 2012 a policy of reducing compensation for TB reactor cattle from herds with significantly overdue TB tests was introduced in England, under The Cattle Compensation (England) Order 2012.
Overdue tests

Owners of TB reactor cattle disclosed in herds with tests overdue by more than 60 days will receive reduced compensation payments in line with the following sliding scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TB test is overdue by</th>
<th>Reduction in compensation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than 60 days but not over 90 days</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 90 days but not over 180 days</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 180 days</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Removal and slaughter of reactors by private arrangement

The removal, transport and slaughter of TB reactors cattle are usually arranged by APHA though you can arrange the slaughter of the animals privately if you wish. Where an owner slaughters an animal voluntarily and privately (which must be agreed with the Department) you will retain any payment made by the slaughterhouse, but receive no compensation.

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
- inform APHA where and when the animals are to be slaughtered
- APHA will provide the movement licence and will arrange the post mortem at the place of slaughter
- ensure that the relevant paperwork/forms accompany the animal/s to the slaughterhouse

If you choose to arrange removal of your animals to have them slaughtered privately, compensation will not be paid, and any salvage value will be paid directly to you by the slaughterhouse.

For the latest guidance, see 'Bovine TB: getting your cattle tested (England)'.

For the latest guidance, see 'Bovine TB: getting your cattle tested (England)'.
You need to be aware that a small number of cattle carcases are condemned post slaughter (where extensive TB lesions are found). If this happens the salvage payable from the slaughterhouse may be reduced accordingly, or no payment made.

APHA will not be responsible for compensating for the reduced payment, or for any costs associated with the disposal of the carcase.

**Removal for slaughter**

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

APHA will be responsible for the arrangement and cost for removal of the reactor, subsequent slaughter, and disposal of the carcase 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.

You must ensure that:

- the correct documentation is sent with your animals to the slaughterhouse. Please check that the ear tag numbers and the 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
- 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) (England) Order 2006
- your cattle are in an acceptable state of cleanliness for hygienic slaughter in accordance with The Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006, as amended

The legislation is available on the UK legislation website: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/.

Alternatively, copies can be ordered from The Stationery Office Ltd (TSO) either via the TSO Online Bookshop, by e-mail to customer.services@tso.co.uk, or by post to:

TSO
PO Box 29
Norwich
NR3 1GN
Tel: 0870 600 5522
Fax: 0870 600 5533

For the latest guidance, see 'Bovine TB: getting your cattle tested (England)'.
Post mortem examination of reactor cattle

Reactor carcases are examined for evidence of infection and, where necessary, to collect tissue samples for laboratory diagnosis. The nature and extent of the lesions in the carcase may indicate whether the disease was in an early or advanced stage or how the animal was infected. If your tuberculin skin or blood test revealed several reactors, samples may not be collected from every animal slaughtered. The laboratory will attempt to isolate bovine TB from the samples, which will take at least six weeks. The results will 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 the post mortem or if culture results are positive for M. bovis, the TB status of your herd will be withdrawn (OTFW). If your herd status is withdrawn, the results from the last skin test may be reviewed and re-interpreted using the severe interpretation where appropriate. This interpretation lowers the criteria for an animal to be declared a reactor and may result in further animals being classed as reactors.

If post-mortem evidence of bovine TB is not detected in any reactors from your herd your herd’s status will remain suspended (OTFS). Further tests will be required to make sure that no infection remains on your farm.

In these cases your herd will also be assessed against certain criteria and may require an additional clear test. Two clear consecutive tests would be needed, to regain officially TB free status if a high risk of TB infection is identified. You will be informed by letter of the criteria that have been applied if your herd requires the additional test(s).

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, one complete clear test will be needed.
- Depending on assessment against additional criteria you may need to complete two clear consecutive tests.
- If the OTF status of your herd is withdrawn, two clear consecutive tests will be needed.
- 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 may use a ‘Severe Interpretation’ for some tests in order to reduce the possibility of leaving infected cattle in your herd.

Please remember that if TB is not found through post-mortem examination or by culturing...
Mycobacterium bovis in the laboratory, it does not mean that the disease was not present in the animal.

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

The TB infection status of an Inconclusive Reactor (IR) 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. The identification of an IR will automatically result in movement restrictions being applied to your herd until APHA advise you otherwise.

APHA will contact you to confirm you have an IR and advise on the next steps. What happens next mainly depends on whether or not reactors have also been found in the same herd.

When IRs are identified in an OTF herd, the whole herd will be put under movement restrictions and it will lose its OTF status if there are:

- reactor animals in addition to the IR, or
- the herd has had a TB breakdown in the last three years that led to the withdrawal of its OTF status

In all other cases the herd movement restrictions will be lifted and only the IRs will be put under restrictions. The herd will not automatically lose its OTF status.

When IRs are identified in a herd that has already lost its OTF status, the herd will remain restricted and further testing of the IRs will be required as part of the herd testing regime.

Further testing of IRs identified within a breakdown

Inconclusive reactors (IRs) are re-tested after 60 days; either on their own or, if reactors have also been found, 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

For the latest guidance, see ‘Bovine TB: getting your cattle tested (England)’.
on occasions, and in a herd where the OTF status has been withdrawn, an IR may be slaughtered as a direct contact. An officer from your local APHA office will explain the risks associated with the IR and discuss this with you where necessary.

**Private slaughter of IR**

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 is not paid for privately slaughtered IRs.

Taking this option, rather than waiting for the outcome of the IR’s next TB test, could lead to additional testing and/or prolong 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 inform your local APHA office. You will not receive compensation for IRs that die on your farm.

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.

For the latest guidance, see ‘Bovine TB: getting your cattle tested (England)’.
Section 4: Withdrawal of Officially Free TB status (OTFW)

The TB status of your herd will be withdrawn when lesions typical of TB are detected during post-mortem examination of TB test reactors, or if *M. bovis* is isolated by tissue culture.

If the OTF status of your herd remains suspended, it will be assessed against specific criteria to identify any increased epidemiological risk. These include:

- whether your herd has had its OTF status withdrawn due to a TB breakdown in the previous three years
- whether your herd is contiguous to another herd with its OTF status currently withdrawn

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

If one or both apply to your herd, two consecutive tests with negative results will be required before we will lift your restrictions. You will be informed of the results of the assessment and the status of your herd when the office contacts you with the results of the post-mortem of your reactors.

Further testing is dependent on your TB status:

- if your herd remains as OTFS you will only need one herd test (short interval test) with negative results at standard interpretation for the restrictions to be lifted and for your herd to regain OTF status
- if your OTFS herd is assessed against certain criteria and judged as a higher risk you will need two consecutive herd tests (short interval tests) with negative results
- if your herd becomes OTFW you will need two consecutive herd tests (short interval tests) with negative results for the restrictions to be lifted and for your herd to regain OTF status

All cattle, except calves under 6 weeks of age, will be included in these tests.

If the OTF status of your herd is withdrawn, additional measures will be taken to ensure 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 herds that are neighbouring, or in your locality 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)
• the slaughter of remaining animals in the group or herd may be considered if
  infection is severe and extensive
• compulsory cleansing and disinfection

Where appropriate, for example if yours is a milk producing herd, APHA will notify your
local health and environmental health authorities with the results of the post mortems on
the positive culture.

**Cleansing and disinfection**

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

Under certain conditions *M. bovis* can survive in the environment for a long time and
therefore when your herd’s status has been withdrawn it is a requirement under notice,
served by APHA, to thoroughly clean and disinfect all buildings where reactor cattle have
been kept. It is also good practice to consider improving your biosecurity and possibly
additional cleansing and disinfection of areas which may be at risk.

The disinfectant used for the C&D required by the Notice must be approved by Defra for
use against bovine TB and used at the appropriate concentration. You should check the list
of approved disinfectants at: [https://www.gov.uk/defra-approved-disinfectant-when-and-
how-to-use-it](https://www.gov.uk/defra-approved-disinfectant-when-and-how-to-use-it)

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

APHA will serve the notice (BT5), detailing the requirements for C&D at the beginning of
your breakdown. You must 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 or vacation of the holding where reactors have been located.

If you are vacating the holding and other unrestricted cattle are to move to the holding,
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 minimum period of 60 days.

Therefore restrictions will normally remain in place until 60 days after the last of your
cattle have vacated the holding.

**Disposal of slurry and manure**

Usually you will be permitted to use slurry or manure on your own farm land while TB
restrictions are in place, although you should consider the risk of spreading the disease to
other stock or wildlife.

If your status has been withdrawn the BT5 notice will specify if you require a licence to
remove manure, slurry or other animal waste from the holding under restriction.
Best practice is that bedding and manure from the holding under restriction should be sprayed with an approved disinfectant, then removed and stacked for at least three weeks prior to being spread. Slurry should ideally 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 the holding 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 on grassland, it should be spread at least 60 days before any cattle are allowed to graze. Where possible, methods of spreading potentially infected manure and slurry should avoid the generation of aerosols that can increase the risk of airborne transmission of *M. bovis*.

This guidance is now out of date and has been withdrawn.

For the latest guidance, see ‘Bovine TB: getting your cattle tested (England)’.
Section 5 : Testing during a breakdown

Short Interval Tests
These tests usually include all animals in the herd, except calves under 6 weeks of age, and are carried out at minimum intervals of 60 days.

The 60 day period is from the date the last reactor left your herd or from the date any reactors or inconclusive reactors were effectively isolated from the rest of the herd.

Calves less than 6 weeks of age are excluded from the short interval test, unless a risk is identified in this age group. 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. bull beef in a bio secure unit.

If the TB status of your herd is suspended (OTFS) it will need to pass one short interval test following removal of any reactors, including the resolution of any inconclusive reactors by re-testing.

- If your OTFS herd is assessed against certain criteria and judged as a higher risk you will need two consecutive herd tests (short interval tests) with negative results.
- If your herd is located in the Edge Area of England you will need to complete a minimum of two short interval tests.
- If the TB status of your herd is withdrawn (OTFW) it will need to pass two consecutive short interval tests following removal of any reactors including the resolution of any inconclusive reactors by re-testing.

Where herds are OTFW, to ensure your herd is cleared of infection as quickly as possible, we apply severe interpretation at the first short interval test.

Gamma Interferon tests for M. bovis
The Gamma Interferon blood test is a supplementary TB test that may be used in some breakdown situations to improve the detection of 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 skin test-negative animals in all new TB incidents located in the 4 Yearly Testing Area where the OTF status has been withdrawn
- on skin test-negative animals in all new TB incidents located in specified areas of the Annual Testing Area in England where the OTF status has been withdrawn
- on skin test-negative animals in herds with a severe breakdown, to inform decisions around whole or partial herd slaughter
- on skin test-negative animals in herds with persistent infection where the OTF status has been withdrawn and where the TB problem that fails to resolve
through repeated short-interval skin tests and have taken appropriate herd bio-
security precautions have been taken.

The Tuberculosis Orders provide for compulsory slaughter of animals failing any diagnostic
test for bovine TB, including the Gamma Interferon test. You are entitled to the same
compensation arrangements for any Gamma Interferon test reactor 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 ‘check’ tests include 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. If that test is negative, a second test will be due 12 months after the 6 month test.

However if your herd is located in the 4 Yearly Testing Area and has not had its OTF status
withdrawn, it will only require one further test and this should be carried out between 6
and 12 months from the date of the last short interval test before the TB restrictions were
lifted on your herd. If the test is clear, your herd will return to its normal TB testing
frequency.

Herds undergoing 6 and 12 month check tests after a TB breakdown are subject to
pre-movement testing rules for TB, regardless of their routine herd testing interval.

For the latest guidance, see ‘Bovine TB: getting your cattle tested (England)’.
Section 6: Movements on and off restricted holdings

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

Certain movements may be allowed, but only under a licence issued by local APHA. However no movements will be allowed on to herds where the OTF status has been suspended (OTFS) or withdrawn (OTFW) until the first official test has been completed following the start of the breakdown.

Licences will only be issued to authorise movements if a veterinary risk assessment identifies that there is no, or negligible, risk to disease spread as a result of that movement. This guidance gives general advice on what movements of animals on and off restricted holdings 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 spreading disease to your herd, within your herd and to other herds.

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

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

Moving cattle between restricted holdings

You can move animals between the holdings of and premises listed under the same movement restriction without a licence, though other regulations may still apply such as pre-movement testing, standstill rules and reporting of movements.

It may be possible to move cattle that have tested negative from one TB restricted holding to another TB restricted holding under the authority of a licence, but this must be subject to a satisfactory veterinary risk assessment of the risk of disease spread.

Moving cattle off TB restricted holdings

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

Movement to slaughter

You may be issued with a general movement licence, which will mean that you do not need to apply for a 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 moving. 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-tag 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 working days before the planned movement in order 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 that 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 holding 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.

**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 6 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, which allows multiple movements, and this licence can be issued by your local APHA office providing the risk assessment is satisfactory.

**Movement to other TB restricted holdings**

Cattle may be licensed to move from one restricted holding to another, but the TB status at the holding of destination must be of the same or a higher risk than that 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, 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. 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**

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 a holding within Wales unless the movement is direct to a slaughterhouse. Movements from the sale are allowed to an AFU or to slaughter.

**Herd dispersal sales**

Dispersal sales for TB restricted herds may be held in England, subject to a satisfactory risk assessment, at a dedicated sale site or on farm. They must include cattle from one holding only and should satisfy certain criteria. TB restricted farms may only hold one herd dispersal sale in any one calendar year.

Cattle being sold at an on-farm dispersal sale can be moved to slaughter, to AFUs and additionally to TB restricted holding providing they satisfy certain criteria. Movements from these sales must only be within England, with the exception of movements to slaughterhouses which may be located in Wales.

Cattle being sold at a dedicated sale site can only be moved to slaughter or to an AFU. Movements are not allowed to any other TB restricted holding. Movements from these sales must only be within England, with the exception of movements to slaughterhouses which may be located in Wales.

Slaughter gatherings, AFUs, Approved TB Isolation Units, dedicated sales and herd dispersal sales for TB restricted cattle cannot be approved in Scotland and dedicated sales and herd dispersal sales cannot be held in Wales. Cattle from dedicated sales in England cannot be moved into Wales or Scotland, except directly to a slaughterhouse in Wales.

Further information on approved facilities for TB restricted cattle is available on GOV.UK or your local APHA office.

**Moving cattle onto a TB restricted holding from an unrestricted holding**

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

A general licence will 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 holding or in your location increases significantly or if your testing becomes overdue by more than one month. Ear-tag numbers will not be included in this licence, unless the movement will not be reported 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 not appropriate due to a high risk, or has been revoked due to an increased risk, as described above. It will specify which animals can move, only allows a single specific movement and is for a defined period.

You should contact your local APHA office if you need replacement suckler calves or a breeding bull. APHA will normally issue a specific licence for these classes of animals unless there is a high disease risk or your TB testing is overdue.
Movement of carcasses from your holding

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.

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 carcases 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.

For more information see https://www.gov.uk/report-and-record-cattle-deaths-on-the-holding

Details of the National Fallen Stock Company (NFSCo) can be found at www.nfsco.co.uk or telephone 0845 054 88 88.

Further information on approved animal by-product plants is available from your local APHA office or at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-by-product-operating-plants-approved-premises

Further information

Contact your local APHA office for further practical advice and guidance.

Since devolution, the responsibility and powers in regard to animal health legislation has meant that there may be significant differences in the policies regarding bovine TB in England, Wales and Scotland. GOV.UK and the Scottish Government and Welsh Government websites provide up-to-date detail on these policies.

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.
The Animal and Plant Health Agency is an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs working to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

www.gov.uk/apha

This guidance is now out of date and has been withdrawn.

For the latest guidance, see ‘Bovine TB: getting your cattle tested (England)’. 