

TB Slaughter Gathering for the Sale of TB Restricted Cattle (England and Wales)

Guidance Notes on the Approval and Operation of a TB Slaughter Gathering

Background

In England and Wales, auctioneers holding dedicated sales/collections of cattle for onward consignment to a slaughterhouse may wish to include cattle which, due to TB movement restrictions, cannot enter a regular market. TB slaughter gatherings must have been licensed under the Animal Gatherings Order (as amended) Article 11 as dedicated slaughter sales or collections and can either be:

- gatherings for the sale of cattle for onward consignment to a slaughterhouse that are additionally approved to include cattle which, due to TB movement restrictions, cannot enter a regular market
- collections that have been approved for the collection of slaughter stock which have places at an abattoir in GB already booked that are additionally approved to include cattle which, due to TB movement restrictions, cannot enter a regular collection. They do not include a sale

The Veterinary Head of Field Delivery (VHoFD)/Veterinary Lead Wales (VLW) may require the following conditions to additionally license these gatherings to include TB-restricted slaughter cattle. These conditions must be strictly adhered to at all times, so that these gatherings do not present a disease risk to other stock. Failure to do so will result in the immediate withdrawal of approval for the gathering for TB restricted cattle.

Cattle moving through these gatherings:

- unrestricted cattle
- cattle from TB restricted premises; all must have tested clear within the previous 90 days and which are not classified as Reactors, unresolved Inconclusive Reactors (IRs) or Direct Contacts (DCs). There is no requirement for a clear test in the case of cattle moving from a non-grazing Approved Finishing Unit (AFU) in England to a 'red' market in England
- untested calves under 42 days old may be accepted providing they have not been classified as Reactors, unresolved IRs or DCs. These calves should not be gathered for individual sale
- cattle must be eligible as stock for human consumption
- **from 31 August 2020, TB Slaughter Gatherings (Slaughter Markets and Collection Centres) for TB restricted cattle from TB breakdown herds and Approved Finishing Units (AFUs) will not be permitted in the Low Risk Area (LRA) in England.** TB restricted cattle from Licensed Finishing Units (LFUs) will continue to be permitted to be sold at Approved TB Slaughter Gatherings in the LRA.

Conditions

VHoFD/VLW can consider approval of TB slaughter gatherings for TB restricted cattle if the proposed site complies with the following conditions:

- the gathering has been licensed under the Animal Gatherings Order (as amended) for the onward consignment of all the animals direct to a slaughterhouse within GB
- cattle from TB restricted premises must be licensed (TB24b) into and from the TB slaughter gathering. They must receive the same post mortem examination at the slaughterhouse as cattle arriving directly from TB restricted premises. They will be marked with an orange stripe along the back before onward consignment to the slaughterhouse
- cattle entering TB approved slaughter gatherings from TB restricted premises must have been tested with negative results in the previous 90 days with the exception of calves under 42 days old
- cattle from LFUs and non-grazing AFUs in England will move to TB slaughter gatherings in England under the General Licence (TB24h). These animals do not require a clear test in the previous 90 days
- the licensee must ensure that no cattle under TB restrictions enter the gathering unless accompanied by a Licence (TB24b/TB24h) and must not allow cattle to leave the site unless accompanied by a Licence (TB24b/TB24h) with the details of the destination completed (Licence (TB24b) only)

The licensee must comply with the requirements of the following legislation and subsequent amendments or changes:

[The Animal Gatherings \(England\) Order 2010](#)

[The Welfare of Animals \(Transport\) \(England\) Order 2006](#)
[The Disease Control \(England\) Order 2003](#)
[The Transport of Animals \(C&D\) \(England\) \(No 3\) Order 2003](#)
[The Animal Gatherings \(Wales\) Order 2010](#)
[The Welfare of Animals \(Transport\) \(Wales\) Order 2007](#)
[The Disease Control \(Wales\) Order 2003](#)
[The Transport of Animals \(Cleansing & Disinfection\) \(Wales\) \(No 3\) Order 2003](#)
The Welfare of Animals in Markets Orders 1990 as amended by
[The Welfare of Animals at Markets \(Amendment\) Order 1993](#)
Any relevant disease control zones

- the licensed premises must be capable of accommodating the maximum number of cattle anticipated
- the licensee must ensure that additional conditions for approved TB slaughter gatherings (e.g. movement licences, use of TB-approved disinfectants, etc.) are met
- any animals showing clinical signs of TB in a gathering are considered 'unfit' and, as such, must be immediately isolated and reported to the VHoFD/VLW
- additionally, in England, Article 9(3)a and Wales, Article 12 of the Tuberculosis Orders allow dedicated slaughter sales to accept cattle eligible for pre-movement tuberculin testing (PrMT) from non-restricted premises, thereby acting as intermediate destinations for cattle that are being moved to slaughter without PrMT. Pre-movement tested cattle and PrMT-exempt cattle from non-restricted premises can also enter these sales en route to slaughter. Therefore, a TB approved slaughter gathering could potentially involve up to five different categories of cattle:
 - clear-testing cattle from TB-restricted premises (which may include resolved IRs from the High Risk and Edge Areas and breakdown herds in the Low Risk Area)
 - untested cattle from TB-restricted LFUs and non-grazing AFUs in England (TB slaughter gatherings in England only)
 - PrMT-eligible (but untested) cattle from non-restricted premises
 - pre-movement tested cattle from non-restricted premises
 - untested cattle from PrMT-exempt, non-restricted premises
- gatherings for calves can be approved within a TB slaughter market, **but** the additional requirements are as follows:
 - calves **aged 42 days or over** must not be consigned to the gathering unless they have reacted negatively to a tuberculin test within the previous 90 days
 - market staff must ensure that all passports are checked prior to unloading any calves into the gathering
 - all calves must be loaded for onward consignment to the destination abattoir (with the updated licence as required) within 4 hours of the sale of the last calf
 - **As they will not be individually sold, in practice they should be moved off the premises as soon as possible and this should be considered to be within 4 hours of the arrival of the last calf**
 - the time spent on the market premises must also be considered when ensuring compliance with requirements of the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and/or the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Wales) Order 2007
- vendors, hauliers and market operators must comply with the requirements of the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and/or the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Wales) Order 2007. Further information available at: [Defra, UK - Animal health and welfare - Animal welfare - During transport - EU welfare](#) and with the conditions of the General Licence for the Movement of Cattle issued under the Disease Control (England) Order 2003/Disease Control (Wales) Order 2003 in respect of any movement of TB restricted cattle including the requirement for multiple pickups, if applicable
- any other conditions considered necessary or appropriate by the VHoFD/VLW.

Preliminary Approval Inspection

Following submission of an application form by the site operators, and before any gathering can be used for this type of collection, there must be an initial, pre-approval inspection by an APHA Veterinarian. The visit will take into account the state of repair of the premises, paying particular attention to disinfection, handling and penning arrangements, the vehicle wash and adequate staffing.

Dedicated areas for TB restricted cattle may be agreed with the auctioneer and, if so, each area will consist of an unloading area, pens for the cattle and a loading area. The Local Authority (LA) Trading Standards Department should be given the opportunity to comment on the proposal at this stage. VHoFD/VLW can waive the pre-approval inspection if they are satisfied that the premises in question fulfils all the specific conditions for the sale of TB restricted cattle by virtue of the fact that the operator is already licensed under the Animal Gathering Orders to hold gatherings of cattle for onward consignment to slaughter.

The inspection report should include a map clearly identifying the part(s) of the site to be used, showing agreed access, unloading/loading areas, designated pens and rings (when applicable), etc. The VHoFD/VLW will give notification of approval in writing in the appropriate section on the approval form. A letter of approval specifying the conditions for the gathering for TB restricted cattle should be sent to the operator with a copy of the plans. These will also be copied to the LA.

Approval will initially be given for three months on a trial basis, after which the working of the market will be reviewed. Following a successful review, an unannounced annual renewal visit will be carried out by an APHA Veterinarian to confirm that the approval conditions still apply and no breaches of the rules were reported in the previous year. Additionally, an APHA Veterinarian or an Animal Health Officer (AHO) may be present during the gathering to monitor compliance with the conditions set out below.

Notifications

It will be the market operators' responsibility to inform the VHoFD/VLW and the abattoirs concerned of the intention to accept cattle of TB restricted status at an approved TB slaughter gathering.

Once approval is given, the market operators must inform the VHoFD/VLW in writing (copied to the LA Animal Health Inspectors) on each occasion when a slaughter gathering for TB restricted cattle is to be held, giving at least **five** working days' notice. The letter to the VHoFD/VLW must give details of:

- date of the proposed slaughter gathering
- the number of TB restricted cattle booked in and
- the premises from which TB restricted animals are being moved (County Parish Holding (CPH) number, vendor's name and farm address)
- whether the collection will be open to non-restricted cattle or limited to TB-restricted farms only
- for a collection centre, confirm that all cattle are pre-booked into designated abattoirs

Market operators must ensure that all herd owners bringing TB restricted cattle to the slaughter market:

- notify the market of their details in advance of the gathering, supply details of the stock (i.e. official identification and total numbers) they wish to enter and apply to their local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office for a licence to move the cattle if they are under TB restrictions. Any additional information required by the Cattle Identification Regulations must be provided in a document accompanying the animals
- are aware and fully accept that any cattle entering the sale can only go from there to slaughter, even if they remain unsold. Cattle cannot be moved back to the premises of origin ('no return' policy applies)
- check their animals' official identification and passports prior to bringing them into the market
- keep their cattle clean enough to permit immediate slaughter
- provide a Food Chain Information document as required
- mark the cattle with an orange stripe along the back
- apply to their local APHA office for the necessary movement licences (see below)
- ensure cattle going through the gathering have tested negatively to a tuberculin test within the previous 90 days or are calves **under 42 days old**. Cattle moving from LFUs and non-grazing AFUs in England to an approved TB slaughter gathering in England do not require a clear tuberculin test in the previous 90 days
- if appropriate, milk their cows prior to coming in to the gathering so that there will be no need to milk a restricted animal in the market

The operators of the gathering will need to either:

- book the appropriate number of slots at the designated abattoirs of destination for each collection or
- arrange that sufficient buyers will be present at sales to ensure slaughter slots are available for all cattle that enter the gathering.

Licensing Requirements

TB restricted cattle will need a movement Licence (TB24b) to allow them to be moved from the farm of origin to the TB slaughter gathering and onwards to the abattoir. The licence must accompany the cattle throughout the movement from the TB restricted farm to the slaughterhouse. The licence will specify the addresses of the farm of origin and the TB slaughter gathering:

- for TB slaughter sales, the box for the address of the slaughterhouse will be left blank by the issuing office. The market operators must enter this information on the licence once the restricted animals have been sold and their place of slaughter is known
- for TB slaughter collections the relevant abattoir details will be completed by the issuing office

If any of the cattle listed do not arrive at the TB gathering, the licence must be copied and the relevant animals crossed off the list for the onward movement to the slaughterhouse.

Herd owners must apply to their APHA office for a licence to move cattle from farms under restriction to the TB approved collection centre and from the collection centre to the designated slaughterhouse, giving at least five working days notice. This is to allow for risk assessments to be completed before the licences can be issued. The licence will be issued by the APHA office for the county in which the restricted farm is situated. Two copies of the

licence(s) will be sent to the herd owner (which can be faxed if required), who will hand one copy of the licence(s) to the market operators on arrival at the market.

A copy of the Licence (TB24b) must accompany the animals to the gathering and should be handed to the operator by the vendor/haulier. Licences may be faxed to herd owners and operators upon request. The operator will ensure that the Licences (TB24b) are handed to the haulier of the relevant cattle on the second part of their journey to the slaughterhouse. Any animal from a TB restricted farm presented without the Licence (TB24b) will not be permitted to continue for slaughter (see below).

Until the sale is completed it may not be possible to know the final destination of the cattle and cattle from the same farm may end up in different abattoirs. Consequently, the market operators will have to:

- enter the slaughterhouse addresses on the original movement licences and photocopy them as necessary (so that each animal from the same farm has a copy of the licence if the group is split up)
 - collate a schedule, broken down by holding of origin, of all the TB restricted cattle sold. The schedule must give the:
 - CPH number and name of the vendor
 - official identification of the animal
 - name and CPH of the buyer
 - slaughterhouse of destination

This schedule must be sent electronically to APHA within 24 hours of the end of the sale:

- in England, these should be sent to TB Customer Service Centre (CSC) (TB.Advice@apha.gov.uk)
- in Wales to the TB Non Breakdown Team (APHA.CymruWales@apha.gov.uk)

APHA (TB CSC for England/TB Non Breakdown for Wales) will carry out a 10% check on returns to assess if animals have reached the correct destination according to CTS.

For calves through an approved TB slaughter gathering:

- calves should only be gathered from restricted premises for onward consignment to a pre-booked abattoir and the licence will state the abattoir in Part 2
- movement of calves must comply with all welfare legislation
- market operators must ensure that the number of pre-booked slaughterhouse places available is sufficient for the number of calves entered for the gathering

If insufficient places are available at the slaughterhouse, the market operator must immediately notify the farmer(s) concerned and the licensing APHA office(s) prior to the date of the TB gathering and identify which calves will not be consigned to that gathering.

In England - cattle moving from an Exempt Finishing Unit (EFU) to the TB slaughter gathering should be moved under Licence (TB24e).

In England - cattle moving from a non-grazing AFU to a TB slaughter gathering in England should be moved under Licence (TB24h).

Cattle not restricted for TB and either exempt from pre-movement testing or pre-movement tested do not need a specific TB licence to be moved to a TB slaughter gathering.

The market operator will ensure that the licences are copied (and records retained) as necessary to ensure that the relevant cattle travel with a copy of the licence to the specified slaughterhouse(s).

Haulage to the Approved TB Slaughter Gathering

The conditions of the movement licence (TB24b) allow animals from TB restricted premises to travel to the gathering on the same vehicle:

- with cattle from other restricted premises being transported under a similar licence and
- with cattle from non-restricted premises also destined to slaughter, provided these are picked up before the cattle on the restricted premises
- as long as all premises are authorised for multiple pickups

All transport must comply with the relevant welfare conditions.

Following the completion of transport the normal cleansing and disinfection of the vehicle must be carried out in accordance with the current legislation. The requirements are stated on the back of the Licence (TB24b).

It is permissible for cattle from TB restricted premises to arrive at the TB slaughter gathering the evening before the sale takes place, as long as this is compatible with the current animal gatherings and welfare of livestock legislation, i.e. this will not be permitted for calves.

Procedures Applying at the Approved TB Slaughter Gathering

All TB slaughter gatherings are to be conducted according to the legislation governing animal gatherings and animal health and welfare in markets. The operators are responsible for ensuring that vendors of TB restricted cattle comply with the conditions under which the slaughter gathering has been licensed.

In addition, all TB restricted cattle coming to the TB slaughter gathering must be accompanied by a Licence (TB24b).

On arrival at the premises, market staff will be responsible for:

- collecting licences
- checking that the official identifications of the cattle are those recorded on the licence
- matching lot numbers to the official numbers
- ensuring that a Licence (TB24b) accompany all cattle on their onward journey to the slaughterhouse and
- the notification to British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) of the movement off the market and the movement On to the subsequent destination, as noted on the licence

The market operator must have a contingency plan for dealing with missing licences, passports or any errors in the animals' identification, bearing in mind that once unloaded at the market the animals cannot go back to the farm of origin. Any TB restricted cattle arriving at the market without the necessary documents will not be permitted to continue for slaughter until the situation is rectified with the vendor. The APHA office that issued the licence must be notified immediately.

Rejection of Cattle

Any cattle arriving at the TB gathering without the necessary licences or rejected for any reason will not be permitted to continue for slaughter. The auctioneers should attempt to contact the owners and ask them to come to the collection centre to rectify the situation to the satisfaction of the APHA office. The operator should ensure that alternative contingency arrangements are in place for such circumstances.

Any restricted cattle considered unfit on welfare/health grounds may require casualty slaughter. The auctioneers will arrange this using the services of a private veterinary surgeon. The local APHA office must be informed immediately.

The market operators will accept full liability for any consequences of any nature arising in the event of a documentary mix up and an animal being rejected by the abattoir as unfit for human consumption.

Haulage from the TB gathering to the Abattoir

Licensed cattle should leave the gathering as soon as possible after the sale/collection has taken place. In principle cattle will not be permitted to stay overnight at the market and operators should have contingency plans in place to ensure that all cattle are removed after the gathering. However, it may be necessary on occasions to delay transport until the following morning to ensure that animals arrive at the slaughterhouse when an Official Veterinary Surgeon (OVS) is available to inspect them. This is permissible provided that:

- this is not in conflict with the current livestock movements regime
- the 48 hour limit stipulated on the licence is not exceeded and
- the premises remain closed to other livestock until the slaughter cattle have left and the market has been signed off as cleansed and disinfected (see below)
- this is in compliance with the relevant welfare legislation

Cattle must go directly to slaughter and not be unloaded at any place other than the destination slaughterhouse. It will be the operators' responsibility to ensure that the haulier is aware that the cattle must go directly to the abattoir, and it is the haulier's responsibility to comply with the conditions of the licence.

The conditions on the back of Licence (TB24b) allow for TB restricted cattle to be transported away from the gathering to the abattoir in the same vehicle as non-licensed animals.

TB restricted cattle leaving the TB slaughter gathering to the designated slaughterhouse must travel with the Licences (TB24b). The lorry drivers taking the cattle to the designated slaughterhouses will hand those to a member of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) at the abattoir. FSA staff must check that the licensed cattle have arrived at the abattoir. The FSA will inform the APHA office if any animals listed on the licence are not presented at the abattoir.

Following the completion of transport and before re-use of the vehicle, the normal disinfection procedures must be carried out in compliance with the current legislation. The requirements for this are stated on the back of the Licence (TB24b).

Disinfection of the Approved TB Slaughter Gathering

The parts of the premises used for the gathering must be cleansed and disinfected before and after the event, in accordance with the [Animal Gatherings \(England\) Order 2010](#) or the Animal Gatherings (Wales) Order 2010.

In addition, the parts of the premises used or contaminated by the TB-restricted cattle must also be cleansed and disinfected after the gathering using a disinfectant approved under the [Diseases of Animals \(Approved Disinfectants\) \(England\) Order 2007](#) or the Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) Order 1978 at the concentration required under that Order for both 'Tuberculosis Orders' as well as for 'General Orders'.

A notice requiring cleansing and disinfection under the TB Orders (BT05) need only be issued by the APHA office for each gathering of TB-restricted cattle where the VHoFD/VLW considers it expedient to do so. In this case, the market operators must sign the declaration on the reverse of that notice and return it to the issuing APHA office.

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