



## Terms and Conditions of the Approval and Operation of a Licensed Finishing Unit (Wales)

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**Licensed Finishing Unit: A TB Restricted Unit in the Low TB Area and Intermediate TB Areas of Wales for the Finishing of Cattle from Multiple Officially Tuberculosis Free Herds without the requirement to post movement test.**

### Background and Purpose

1. Licensed Finishing Units (LFUs) have been introduced in the Low TB Area to provide an option for exemption from Post-Movement Testing of cattle moving into the finishing enterprise. This has been extended to the Intermediate TB Areas to provide an option for fattening herds.
2. The LFU provides an outlet for the finishing of negative testing cattle from Officially Tuberculosis Free (OTF) herds only, under strict biosecurity conditions to mitigate the risk of disseminating *M.bovis* infection to neighbouring cattle herds and local wildlife. Cattle may be sourced from multiple OTF premises including any area of England, Scotland and Wales. Imported cattle can move into these units subject to compliance with the specific import requirements.
3. The LFU is approved for cattle only. No other species of animal are permitted within these units.
4. The LFU is a cattle finishing unit only. They cannot be approved as rearing units. The LFU is not intended for pregnant animals and no breeding must take place within the unit. There must be a contingency in place to deal with unexpected calves born in the unit.
5. The conditions of approval and operation of LFUs have been formulated to ensure disease security:
  - the unit must be under TB restrictions
  - the unit must have an individual permanent CPH number allocated and be registered with the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) on the Cattle Tracing System (CTS)
  - the unit must not have a temporary CPH (tCPH) or Temporary Land Association (TLA) registered against its CPH nor must land/premises registered against its CPH be associated temporarily through a TLA or as a tCPH to another CPH

### Source of Cattle

1. The risk of importing infection into the Low TB Area and Intermediate TB Areas of Wales must be minimised, and therefore it is a requirement that LFU's can only source cattle from OTF herds and where cattle are required to be pre-movement tested prior to movement, they have received a pre-movement test with negative results.
2. Cattle may be sourced from multiple OTF premises including any area of England, Scotland and Wales.
3. Imported cattle can move into these units subject to compliance with the specific import requirements.

### Destination of cattle

1. The only permitted movements of cattle out of the LFU are to slaughter:
  - directly under a general licence (TB203 or TB24g)

- via an approved slaughter gathering in England or Wales for TB restricted cattle under general licence (TB203)
- directly under a specific licence (TB24) (exceptional circumstances only).

### **TB Testing on Licensed Finishing Units**

1. Cattle within the LFU will be tested at six monthly intervals under standard interpretation (unless a reactor or Inconclusive Reactor (IR) is identified) at government expense.
2. Cattle within the unit are exempt from post movement testing, providing the statutory premovement testing requirements have been met.
3. Imported animals that move directly into an LFU will be exempted from post import TB testing as long as all other TB testing requirements for export purposes have been met.
4. Cattle moved from premises which subsequently have a TB incident will be traced and/or notified to LFUs. The spread tracing tests will be synchronised with the six monthly surveillance tests at the LFU and read at standard to severe interpretation.

### **Conditions**

1. The conditions listed below are aimed at ensuring that the LFU remains a discrete, self-contained cattle unit clearly isolated from other cattle herds, other livestock and wildlife. The object is to prevent disease spread within the locality of the unit from undetected infection within the unit.
2. The approval of an LFU can be considered if the proposed premises comply with the following conditions:
  - can only be approved on an Officially TB Free (OTF) premises. A new CPH cannot be issued or an LFU set up on premises that are under movement restrictions (TB02)
  - each unit should meet all the criteria required to qualify for a separate CPH number
  - the boundaries of the unit should be well defined, discrete, effective and secure. There should be separate housing, management, equipment (refer below), machinery (refer below), yards etc. and a double fence with a 3m gap or something that effectively serves the same purpose e.g. a solid wall to a building with no openings or opportunity for leakage of draining's from the unit would be an acceptable part of a boundary
  - there must be no opportunity for straying or for direct or indirect (e.g. shared troughs/equipment/personnel) contact with susceptible stock outside of the LFU
  - cattle may only move into the unit under licence issued by APHA. No other cattle must have access to the unit at any time
  - units must not be co-located on a yard where another herd exists
  - multiple units cannot co-exist within the same yarded area but multiple buildings within a yarded area may be acceptable as one single unit
  - buildings must have sufficient space to allow for the growth of the cattle to be allowed in the unit and a maximum capacity stated in the conditions for approval. It is the responsibility of the owner/operator of the unit to ensure that the welfare of the cattle is not compromised by overcrowding. The number of cattle which the unit can hold must be included on the approval and the owner/operator must have considered contingencies to exclude potential adverse welfare conditions which will be recorded and agreed
  - there must be adequate dedicated testing facilities; as a minimum this should incorporate a crush, a sufficiently long race, a collecting yard and a covered testing area
  - units must have strict biosecurity with protocols in place for movements of personnel, equipment and vehicles entering and leaving the unit. All such movements must be limited to those essential to the running of the unit
  - protocols must include access to feed

- units must be wildlife proof, either the buildings containing the cattle must be fully wildlife proof or the boundary to the unit must be fully wildlife proof. This can be achieved for example by the use of electric fencing as a boundary around the building(s). The boundaries of the unit must also be livestock proof.
- wildlife-proof in this context refers to species of wild mammals that can act as reservoirs of *M. bovis* (e.g. badgers and, potentially, wild deer) and suitable conditions include:
  - sides of the building should not be open, but of a smooth and solid construction (i.e. to prevent wildlife from gaining access to the building) and at least 1.5m high
  - doors should be of smooth and solid construction and at least 1.5m high (solid sheets of metal can be added to a five bar gate)
- gaps at the sides and under doors and walls should be no greater than 7.5cm and must not be able to be enlarged by digging or chewing where appropriate electric fencing can be used at the boundary of the AFU to ensure access by wildlife is denied (best practice would also be to include feed stores and silage face etc. in order to prevent adding to the disease risk from the local wildlife). Where electric fencing is used it is important to note that strands of wire should be at 10, 15, 20 and 30cm above the ground if personnel, equipment or vehicles are to be used/have access to other cattle outside of the unit, the biosecurity protocol must refer to this
- equipment should be dedicated, unless:
  - contamination is at a level that can satisfactorily be cleaned using a power wash and disinfection
  - any contamination should be dealt with immediately and certainly before contact with other TB susceptible stock
  - contamination will be assessed according to risk
- a full and effective biosecurity protocol will be required for all shared equipment
- dedicated and disinfectable clothing must be worn and a protocol provided to demonstrate elimination of risk of disease spread outside of the unit
- manure will be stacked for a minimum of three weeks on the site of the unit, or at an approved site to which wildlife or other livestock do not have access
- slurry will be either:
  - stored for at least six months and must then be spread a minimum of 10m from the farm boundary or from any land grazed by, or housing used by, any TB susceptible stock (includes sheep, pigs, goats and camelids, farmed or park deer), or
  - if not stored for at least six months, it must be spread by injection into the ground or onto arable land
- additionally, there will be no access to the treated ground by TB susceptible stock or forage cut for feeding, for at least 60 days following slurry spread
- records should be kept of all locations and dates of such spreading
- protocols must also be in place for drainage of effluent and washings from the unit:
  - there must be no drainage of effluent or wash offs from the unit into areas where TB susceptible stock have access
  - a system must be in place to collect run-off water and effluent from the unit that prevents contamination of watercourses
  - where effluent or waste water drains into a soak away ditch, wildlife must not have access and wire or electrified pig netting could be used to prevent such access. This is to prevent the contamination of the environment and wildlife

## Application and Inspection

- persons seeking approval for an LFU should contact their local APHA office who will provide them with an Application Form (TB188) and the Terms and Conditions for Approval (TR429(W)). Alternatively these documents can be accessed on GOV.UK.
- on receipt of a completed application form and plan of the premises, APHA will assess the application and if the unit appears to meet the criteria for approval, a Veterinary Inspector will visit and inspect the proposed premises
- following a satisfactory inspection report, written confirmation of the approval will be sent (TB430)
- if the unit does not meet all of the conditions required, approval will not be given and APHA will inform you of the reasons
- if approved, a new dedicated CPH must be obtained for the unit although an existing CPH can be considered for use where all the premises under the existing CPH are to be included in the unit. To apply for a CPH number:
  - contact the Rural Payments Agency (RPW)
  - request a CPH for an LFU and confirm that the application has been recommended by APHA
- if approved the LFU will be served with a Restriction Notice (TB02), prohibiting the movement of bovine animals, which will be copied to the relevant Local Authority
- the premises, records of movements, etc. will be subject to inspections periodically (which may be unannounced) and, as a minimum, twice a year, by APHA
- failure to comply with any of the conditions (including failure to complete any testing that may be required)) may result in withdrawal of the approval. The approval and restrictions (TB02) will continue to operate until the OTF status can be achieved, but the licence to move cattle into the unit will be revoked.

### **Action in the event of a TB incident in the Licensed Finishing Unit**

The LFU will follow the standard APHA procedures for compensation, removal and post-mortem of reactors and Direct Contacts (DCs). APHA offices will continue to arrange retest of Inconclusive Reactors (IRs). Operators have, however, the option to privately slaughter IRs. This, however, may have implications on the further testing required to return to normal surveillance testing.

All animals within a LFU are destined for slaughter only and have no breeding potential. Therefore for the purposes of TB valuation, any cattle located within a LFU are classed as commercial type.

Further to a breakdown in the unit:

- breakdown testing will be carried out
- the owner/operator may wish to depopulate the LFU rather than complete the testing programme. In these cases the LFU must be cleansed and disinfected as stated in the conditions on the Notice (BT05). This will be inspected before restocking is considered
- the Veterinary Lead Wales (VLW) may stop the movement of cattle onto the LFU if a severe TB incident is disclosed in the unit as a whole or in a part of it.
- the general licence (TB15a) for movements on will be revoked and replaced by the requirement for a specific licence (TB15), subject to a Veterinary Risk Assessment (VRA), for the duration of the breakdown.

### **Action on the farm of origin when animals have been consigned to an LFU**

- Slaughterhouse cases from LFUs will be routinely back traced to the farm of origin where it may be necessary to instigate check testing for the origin herd.

### **Re-gaining Officially TB Free (OTF) status (lifting TB restrictions on the LFU)**

- If the operator decides to cease functioning as a LFU, they must notify the VLW in writing of the intention to seek OTF status
- LFUs can regain OTF status following either of two protocols following consultation with APHA:

### **Protocol 1: Depopulation**

If the operator decides to depopulate the holding, the LFU approval can be revoked and OTF status obtained, providing the following conditions are met:

- the operator must declare in writing that:
  - the unit has been totally depopulated, giving the date of depopulation and
  - full building Cleansing and Disinfection (C&D) has been completed as required in the Notice (BT05) that will be served, confirming the date of completion
- in some circumstances a satisfactory APHA inspection of C&D will be required following completion of C&D
- no cattle must be registered on the holding - APHA will complete a CTS record check

If the revocation process begins during an ongoing TB breakdown, it may be necessary to meet additional conditions before OTF status can be obtained.

### **Protocol 2: Testing**

An alternative to depopulation is implementation of a testing regime in order to achieve OTF status:

- all movements into the unit must cease
- a single check test (CT) at standard interpretation is required, which must start no less than 60 days from the last movement into the unit
- If the CT is clear, then the LFU approval will be revoked and OTF status obtained
- If the CT is not clear, then the LFU approval and conditions must remain in place until either Inconclusive Reactors (IRs) resolve, or the LFU satisfies normal TB breakdown releasing test requirements

In all cases, restrictions will remain on manure/slurry until the treatment prescribed in the general conditions listed above has been completed.

Once OTF status is regained, the operator must reapply in the normal way if they wish to reinstate the LFU.

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.