

The Tuberculosis (England) Order 2007 (as amended)
The Tuberculosis (Scotland) Order 2007 (as amended)
The Tuberculosis (Wales) Order 2010 (as amended)

Automatic Animal and Public Health Restrictions following Disclosure of a Reactor or Inconclusive Reactor at an Official Diagnostic Test for Tuberculosis in Cattle, Buffalo or Bison

Your herd is now under restriction and has lost its Officially Tuberculosis Free (OTF) status

You are receiving this information note because the Tuberculosis (TB) test carried out on the herd detailed below has revealed one or more reactors or inconclusive reactors (IRs). Pursuant to the relevant TB Order the following legal requirements now automatically apply to the keeper:

- you must restrict the movement of bovine animals to the extent that they may not be moved on or off the premises on which the reactor or IR is kept without a licence issued by an Inspector
- every reactor must be marked, and every reactor and IR must be isolated from the negative testing bovine animals and from other animals
- milk from TB reactors must not be placed in a bulk tank or used in any way for human consumption, and
- where the reactor resides on premises with a milking herd you must inform any commercial buyer of your milk of the loss of the herd's OTF status.

Failure to comply with these restrictions or observe these requirements is an offence under section 73 of the Animal Health Act 1981

Any farm employee or agent authorised to act on the keeper's behalf must, as soon as possible, inform the registered keeper of the test failure and hand over this information note to the keeper, and it should be retained for the duration of the TB restrictions.

What Happens Next

A Veterinary Officer (VO) or Inspector from Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) will contact you and undertake a disease investigation. They will provide advice and discuss with you how this TB breakdown will be managed and what further action may be required.

Name of Approved Veterinary Surgeon/Lay Tester/AHVLA Veterinary Inspector:	<input type="text"/>	Date	<input type="text"/>
Name of Recipient (the keeper or person authorised to act on keeper's behalf)	<input type="text"/>		
Name of Registered Keeper	<input type="text"/>	CPHH	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>		

Action You Must Now Take

Movements

Any cattle movements which do take place into and out of the restricted herd must comply with all relevant disease control, livestock movement and livestock identification legislation and must be accompanied by a licence issued by AHVLA. The prohibition on movement does not apply to bovine animals which are moved in an emergency to a place of slaughter or veterinary treatment so as to prevent the unnecessary suffering of that animal. In such cases full details must be given to an AHVLA Inspector at the earliest opportunity. AHVLA will normally arrange for the removal and the slaughter of TB reactor cattle. However, if you choose to arrange removal of your animals to have them slaughtered privately, you must first inform AHVLA and obtain the necessary movement licences and forms to do so. In that case, government compensation will not be paid, and any salvage value will be paid directly to you by the slaughterhouse.

Isolation

Reactors and IRs could present a risk of infection to the rest of your herd and any neighbouring herds and must now be immediately isolated from other animals pending removal to slaughter or re-testing (as applicable). Special consideration should be given to the suitability of facilities used for isolation, which should provide all possible protection against the risks of contamination or infection.

Milk from TB Reactors

Milk from TB reactor animals must not be used for human consumption. It is not recommended that you feed milk from reactors or IRs to calves or other livestock, unless it has previously been boiled or pasteurised. Until the OTF status of your herd is restored, milk from IRs and negative testing cows in your herd may only be used for human consumption if it is heat treated before it is placed on the market. The milk from TB reactors can be collected in the slurry system, but subsequent land spreading must be in accordance with a registered Waste Management Licence Exemption. To register contact either the:

- Environment Agency (EA) in England (or use the Defra Whole Farm Approach in England only)
- Natural Resources Wales (NRW), or
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) in Scotland.

Protecting Your Family

To safeguard your own health and that of your family, it is strongly recommended that you do not consume unpasteurised milk from your herd, and certainly not until the movement restrictions have been lifted by AHVLA.

Cleansing and Disinfection

This is an important disease control measure. Under certain conditions TB bacteria can survive in the environment for a long time, so it is essential to cleanse and disinfect (C&D) thoroughly all buildings, fittings and equipment where reactor cattle have been kept. AHVLA will shortly serve a notice (BT05) on the keeper in cases where reactors have been identified detailing the requirements for C&D. The disinfectant used for C&D required by the notice must be approved for use against bovine TB and must be used at the recommended concentration. A list of approved disinfectants can be found on the Defra website.

Biosecurity

Farm-to-farm movement of infected livestock is the most likely means of spreading animal diseases. Effective biosecurity and good animal husbandry practices are important measures in reducing the risk of TB infection in your herd. Feed stores and feeding areas should be protected from possible contamination from infected animals and wildlife TB hosts such as badgers or deer. Ensure perimeter fencing, including gateways, is adequate to prevent nose-to-nose contact with other animals and their excrement, saliva or urine. Contaminated clothes, boots, equipment and vehicles can carry disease from one farm to another so make sure you have effective cleansing and disinfection routines in place and make sure you and any visitors use them.

Your vet will be able to assist you further in providing information and recommendations which are specific to your needs. A series of publications containing further advice and guidance, including the leaflet 'Dealing with TB in your herd' are available online through the AHVLA website with variations for England, Scotland and Wales.

Further Information Sources

Further information can be obtained from the following websites:

- GOV.UK
- Defra
- Scottish Government
- Welsh Government.

The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs working across Great Britain on behalf of Defra, the Scottish Government and Welsh Government