



AHVLA Briefing Note 01/14

Simplification of TB test instructions in England

Purpose

1. The purpose of this briefing note is to inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) that AHVLA is simplifying TB test instructions for Officially TB-Free Withdrawn (OTFW) status herds in England.
2. From 1 January 2014, in the event of the identification of reactors with visible lesions and/or culture-positive test results, a minimum of two additional tuberculin (short interval) skin tests read at 'severe' interpretation will be required before movement restrictions can be lifted.
3. Thereafter, the number and interpretation of any additional short-interval tests that may be necessary will depend on the magnitude of the tuberculin reaction and the post-mortem and laboratory culture results (if available) in other skin test reactors detected in the herd.
4. This is a clarification of existing instructions, not a policy or test interpretation change, and no difference in the outcome of tests are expected as a result.
5. The requirement for herds to pass two consecutive short interval tests read at the severe interpretation will also apply to Officially TB Free Suspended (OTFS) status herds suffering a new TB breakdown in the 'edge of high risk' area. Thereafter, if the affected herd requires further short interval tests, these will be read at standard interpretation unless the reactors subsequently show visible lesions or are culture positive. (The finding of any slaughterhouse cases during a herd breakdown may also affect subsequent test interpretation.)

Issued: 6 January 2014