



AHVLA Briefing Note 04/14

Removal of veterinary inspector status and new approach to the imposition TB movement restrictions

Purpose

1. Official Veterinarians (OVs) have recently received a communication from AHVLA confirming the removal of their Veterinary Inspector status from 6 April 2014.
2. The purpose of this Briefing Note is to remind OVs of the consequences of this change which has now come into effect.

Background

3. From 6 April 2014, OVs no longer hold appointments as Veterinary Inspectors under the Animal Health Act 1981. Your authorisation as an OV, and authority to perform the duties of an OV, is unaffected by this change.
4. Veterinary Inspector status confers legal powers that are rarely required by OVs, such as powers to enter premises where this has been refused, and powers to serve enforcement notices. With the exception of serving restriction notices on herds in which TB test reactors are identified, these powers are seldom used by OVs.
5. Following legislative changes in England, Scotland and Wales, TB related movement restrictions will now automatically apply to herds in which reactors, or inconclusive reactors, are identified without the need to serve TB2 restriction notices. **As a consequence TB2 Notices should no longer be issued.**
6. OVs undertaking TB testing will continue, as they do now, to have a duty to inform keepers of test results. If reactors, or inconclusive reactors, are disclosed the tester will provide keepers with an explanatory leaflet (TB181) informing them of the restrictions which automatically apply. Copies of this leaflet have been issued to OV practices and are also available from the AHVLA website, including a Welsh language version.

7. The TB181 is not a legal enforcement notice. Rather it is intended to provide the keeper with information regarding the restrictions with which they are legally required to comply, at the point at which test reactors, or inconclusive reactors, are disclosed. It is not intended that this document should replace other existing information or guidance documents.
8. Minor changes are being made to AHVLA's Sam IT system and an explanatory leaflet, as well as an updated Sam user guide, has been sent to OV's practices. The changes however are minimal and will have little impact on the way Sam is currently used.
9. It remains the responsibility of the tester to mark reactors with a DNA tag in England and Wales, or a metal reactor tag in Scotland.
10. In Wales only, non-bovine tuberculosis legislation has also been updated to automatically apply movement restrictions to the non-bovine species defined by the Welsh TB Order 2011 upon disclosure of reactor, or inconclusive reactor, animals. An explanatory leaflet specific to non-bovines (TN181) will similarly need to be handed to keepers informing them of their statutory obligations; this is available from the AHVLA website, including a Welsh language version.
11. The removal of VI 'officeholder' status from OVs means that, from the start of the 2014/15 tax year, all fees paid by AHVLA to OVs, who are non-salaried within their practices, will now be exempt from National Insurance deductions. Please contact your HMRC tax office if you require further clarification on this issue.

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