



APHA Briefing Note 04/17

Bovine TB update –

General Authorisation allowing Official Veterinarians to undertake compulsory pre- and post-movement testing of bovine animals

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) in England, Scotland and Wales that a new General Authorisation allowing them to undertake pre- and post-movement TB testing of bovine animals has been issued on behalf of Defra, Scottish Government and Welsh Government.
2. The General Authorisation is available on GOV.UK:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/general-authorisation-for-ovs-pre-and-post-movement-tb-testing-of-cattle>

Background

1. The previous English, Scottish and Welsh TB Orders prohibit testing for tuberculosis in bovine animals **without** the written consent of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Ministers and the Welsh Ministers respectively.
2. In 2006 and 2007, Defra, Scottish Government and Welsh Government issued General Authorisations to OV practices in England, Scotland and Wales authorising them to undertake compulsory pre-movement testing of bovine animals.
3. A new General Authorisation has been produced under the latest TB Orders in England, Scotland and Wales.
4. This General Authorisation allows OVs to undertake pre- and post-movement TB testing of bovine animals on the following basis:

- i. that bovine animals are tested no less than 60 days after any previous tuberculin skin test;
 - ii. OVs are satisfied that the herds from where the bovine animals are to be moved from are not under TB movement restrictions; and
 - iii. having carried out such tests, the result of those tests must be reported immediately to the Animal and Plant Health Agency
5. This General Authorisation does not cover TB testing undertaken for other statutory purposes, or other types of lawful privately-funded TB testing.
6. OVs will still need to obtain written authorisation from Regional Veterinary Leads (RVLs)/Scotland Veterinary Leads (SVLs)/Veterinary Leads Wales (VLW) VHoFD/VLW/SVL in order to undertake pre-movement testing in restricted herds or private testing for other purposes.

Further Information

- General Authorisation in GOV.UK website: [hyperlink]
- OV Instructions on Pre and Post-movement Testing:
http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/TB_Instructions/Active_Surveillance/Pre_and_Post_Movement.html
- OV Instructions on Private Tests Including Tests for Export:
http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/TB_Instructions/Active_Surveillance/Private_and_Export_Test.html

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