



APHA Briefing Note 09/14

Enhancements to TB Zero Tolerance policy in Scotland - reduction in cross-compliance payments when TB tests completed late

Purpose

1. Official Veterinarians (OVs) will be aware that there is a Zero Tolerance approach in place with regards to the completion of TB tests within notified testing windows. This approach has been in place since 2008 and is an integral part of the government's TB eradication programme.
2. In 2015 when inconclusive reactor (IR) and Trace (TR) tests are not completed¹ within the notified testing window APHA will inform the Rural Payments and Inspections Division (RPID). Using the existing cross compliance rules, RPID will apply a penalty to CAP Scheme payments claimed by farmers who haven't complied with their TB testing requirements. Policy enhancement is effective from 1 January 2015; this will affect TB tests with testing windows that are open on or after the 1 January.
3. In addition, as part of a cross compliance inspection RPID will ask APHA to confirm whether the farmer's routine² TB test is overdue. If the test is overdue a penalty will be applied to CAP Scheme payments.
4. The level of cross compliance penalty will depend on the length of time the test was overdue before it was completed.
5. Please make sure your clients are aware of these changes so that they arrange their testing dates with you early enough to make sure the tests are completed within their notified testing windows. There will be further information available regarding these changes on the Scottish Government's website which will cover all changes to the cross compliance rules in 2015. Within the cross compliance guidance section of the website there will be an expanded section under the relevant requirement (Food and feed Law) informing farmers of the new zero tolerance approach to overdue TB tests.

¹Completion of test means that all eligible animals have been injected and read (TT2 date) before or on the last date of the testing window as notified by APHA.

²Routine tests include:

- Routine Herd Test (RHT48) or (RHT12S)
- Whole Herd Test (WHT)
- Bull Hirer Herd Test (BHH)
- New Herd Check Test (CT-NH1)

Issued: 05 December 2014