



APHA Briefing Note 09/16

Changes to TB Compensation in Wales

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) that from 1 April 2016, changes will be made to the way TB compensation is paid in Wales, to encourage cattle keepers to follow best practice.

Background

2. The arrangements for paying compensation for cattle slaughtered because of TB are set out in the Tuberculosis (Wales) Order 2010 (as amended). Compensation is based on the market value of the animal.
3. Welsh Government (WG) will appoint a valuer who will determine the market value of the animal. Ordinarily this will be the amount of compensation paid, taking in to account that:
 - the salvage value of the animal will be paid if it is more than the market value;
 - the market value of the animal will be paid when this is greater than the salvage value;
 - the highest amount of compensation that will be paid for an animal is £15,000 and the lowest will be £1.
4. The Order also includes rules that can affect the amount of compensation that a cattle keeper can receive for any animal slaughtered for TB. If the rules have not been followed the amount of compensation may be reduced by up to 95%. A list of the circumstances in which an animal's owner may receive less than the market value for the animal is available on the [Welsh Government website](#).
5. Other changes being made:

Animals brought into a restricted herd

There are times when there is a need for cattle to be moved on to a restricted farm, such as for the welfare of the animal, to fulfil a contract and for breeding. In these circumstances, WG may licence a farmer to bring an animal into a herd,

but in the event that the animal is then slaughtered because of TB before the herd becomes TB free, the compensation for that animal will be reduced.

This allows the farmer to restock, but means they also share the financial risk of bringing healthy cattle into a herd with a known TB problem. Cattle will not be allowed to move into a restricted herd before the first short interval test because there is a high risk this could lead to more animals becoming infected and prolonging the breakdown.

Approved Units

The new Order will allow WG to approve:

- an Approved Finishing Unit (AFU) – a unit that can take clear tested cattle from restricted herds;
- an Exempt Finishing Unit (EFU) – a unit that takes cattle from TB-free farms without them having a pre-movement test.

If the conditions of the approval are not followed, compensation will be reduced for any animal slaughtered because of TB.

Delayed removal

It is important that diseased animals are removed from the breakdown farm as quickly as possible after they have been identified as being infected. Because of this, WG will reduce compensation when a herd owner has not cooperated with the removal of an animal to be slaughtered and because of this the removal has been delayed for longer than 10 working days. Compensation will not be reduced where the 10 day target has been missed through circumstances outside of the control of the farmer.

Recovery of costs and payments

The TB Order previously allowed WG to recover their costs, such as the cost of equipment and/or staff, where they have carried out a TB test because the farmer has failed to have an animal tested. WG will now also be able to recover their costs:

- where the farmer has failed to allow a reactor animal to be valued;
- where a farmer fails to allow a reactor animal to be removed.

WG will also be able to delay compensation payments or offset them against future compensation payments.

Further information

There is further information on the [Welsh Government website](#), including an [information sheet](#) detailing the circumstances when compensation may be reduced.

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