



## APHA Briefing Note 10/14

### Enhancements to TB Zero Tolerance policy in England - 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 Defra's TB eradication programme.
2. On 1 January 2014 Defra enhanced cross compliance controls for overdue TB surveillance and check tests – with deductions made to farm subsidy payments for claimants that failed to complete<sup>1</sup> their tests by prescribed deadlines. As a result of this measure the number of overdue TB tests dropped significantly. On 1 January 2015, as notified in their cattle measures consultation of June 2014, Defra will extend this approach to include most other types of TB tests.
3. From 1 January 2015 the existing cross-compliance approach to late TB tests will be extended to include all types of TB tests, except those which result from tracings of animals following a TB breakdown elsewhere. APHA will report these additional test types that are completed late, to the Rural Payments Agency, for cattle keepers that are in receipt of a test notification on or after 1 January 2015. Breaches under the cross compliance rules, will result in a financial penalty being applied to any Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) payments.
4. 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.

#### Background

5. The reduction in CAP payments will be on a sliding scale from 1% upwards depending on how many days the TB test is completed after the testing window has closed and other factors, such as repeat instances.

6. For the extended test types where the notification of the test requirement is issued on or after 1 January 2015, these will be subject to the same process as those currently included within the existing cross-compliance measures.
7. TB tests that are completed one or more days after the test window has closed will be reported to the Rural Payments Agency. If there are extenuating circumstances which mean that the test cannot be completed on time, the farmer must contact their local APHA office as soon as possible.
8. Defra will be providing further detailed information to stakeholders and organisations, and Bovine TB information notes can be found on the GOV.UK website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/bovine-tb-information-notes>

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

**Issued:** 05 December 2014