



## APHA Briefing Note 11/17

### APHA management of TB Test Chart Discrepancies

#### Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) that APHA has reviewed the process for dealing with discrepancies on TB skin test charts. As a result, a number of enhancements and improvements to the process have been identified. These will be implemented from 1 July 2017. APHA also requests that OVs communicate the requirements to cattle keepers when arranging and carrying out TB tests.

#### Background

2. A number of TB tests are submitted to APHA as complete but with animals that are missing and not accounted for. In some cases the animals are still present on farm but in many cases the cattle identification and/or movement records are inaccurate. These circumstances are leading to animals that are eligible for testing not being tested at the required intervals with the subsequent negative impact on bovine TB disease control. It is the responsibility of the cattle keeper to ensure that all eligible cattle are presented for testing and that records are up to date at all times.
3. From 1 July 2017 APHA will be implementing an improved process to deal with test chart discrepancies. When a test chart is submitted to APHA as complete and there are animals listed on CTS that are not presented for testing and which have not been satisfactorily accounted for, APHA will take the following actions:
  - Following review of the test chart by APHA the owner/keeper will be notified of the discrepancy in writing and asked to take action to resolve this.

- Until the discrepancy is resolved, APHA will reinstruct the test for the missing animal/s. In England and Wales the test will initially be instructed to APHA testers but may be referred to the OV if the animals are still located on the holding. In Scotland it may be reinstructed to OVs or APHA testers.
  - The case will be referred to British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) and the Local Authority if the discrepancy is not resolved to the satisfaction of APHA within 21 days of the letter being sent.
  - If this test has not been completed or any record issues remain unresolved by the time that the test goes overdue, TB02 restrictions will be issued if not already in place. If already in place they will remain. Overdue testing procedures will apply.
4. OVs are not expected to investigate or resolve these discrepancies themselves, but to accurately record any missing animals. However if the OV is presented with evidence that the animal is no longer located on farm and records this on the test chart, it will be taken into account when assessing what action should be taken on receipt of the chart by APHA.
  5. In order to reduce the number of test charts that are submitted to APHA with discrepancies, OVs are requested to inform keepers at the time of booking tests and again when carrying out the test that they must be compliant with the cattle ID and movement regulations (The Cattle Identification Regulations 2007, The Cattle Identification (Wales) Regulations 2007, The Cattle Identification (Scotland) Regulations 2007) and that all eligible animals must be presented for testing. Any discrepancies in their records must be addressed without delay prior to the TB test. They should be informed that if any animals remain unaccounted for when the test chart is submitted to APHA, the test will not be considered as complete. APHA will take actions as detailed above.
  6. APHA also request that the OVs complete the CTS download in Sam as close to the test start date as possible so that recent movements on or off are captured.
  7. OVs are reminded that if the location of any eligible animal is unknown then the test should be submitted as a part test until the matter is resolved.

## Further Information

- There will be a minor amendment to the OV Instructions from 1 July:  
[http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/External\\_OV\\_Instructions/TB\\_Instructions/Skin\\_Test/Action\\_on\\_Completion.html](http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/TB_Instructions/Skin_Test/Action_on_Completion.html).

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