



APHA Briefing Note 14/18

Changes to compensation paid for cattle compulsorily slaughtered for bovine TB control in England

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians that from the 1st November 2018 there will be changes to The Cattle Compensation (England) Order 2012.
 - Reduction in compensation of 50% for animals which arrive at the slaughterhouse too dirty to process.
 - Reduction in compensation of 50% for animals brought into a herd during a TB breakdown which are subsequently removed as reactors or direct contacts (DCs) prior to the herd regaining official TB free (OTF) status
 - Compensation to be paid for privately slaughtered reactors if they are found to be totally condemned for reasons of TB only.

Background

2. In 2017 Defra carried out a public consultation on proposals to simplify surveillance testing in the High Risk Area of England and other disease control measures https://consult.defra.gov.uk/bovine-tb/simplifying-testing-and-other-control-measures/supporting_documents/Consultation%20document.pdf.
3. The Strategy for achieving OTF status for England noted the intention to adapt the way in which compensation funding is used, both to improve the implementation of control measures and to incentivise risk reduction actions at individual farms.

Cattle presented for slaughter in an unclean state

4. If carcasses are contaminated at the time of slaughter, there is a very real risk of the meat becoming contaminated with harmful bacteria, such as *E.coli* O157, *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella*. Research has shown that the dirtier the hide, the greater the potential for carcass contamination and the higher the risk to human

health. Wet hides may also increase the risk because bacteria may be transferred more readily.

5. In cases where herd owners fail to meet their responsibility to ensure cattle slaughtered for TB control are in a sufficiently clean state to be processed at a slaughterhouse, the costs for the taxpayer increase as Defra receives no salvage payment.

6. Therefore a 50% compensation rate for cattle that cannot be processed (for human consumption) at a slaughterhouse because they are unclean will be introduced to help minimise the likelihood of dirty cattle being sent to the slaughterhouse.

Restocking of TB Breakdown Herds

7. There are a number of reasons why owners of TB restricted herds may need to bring new cattle on to their holding. However, they are at a greater risk of becoming infected than cattle moved into OTF herds. Defra recognises the importance of enabling owners of TB-restricted herds to bring in new and/or replacement stock in defined circumstances, subject to a favourable veterinary risk assessment by APHA. However, the general taxpayer takes a disproportionate share of the financial risks associated with introducing new cattle into herds with an ongoing TB breakdown, in particular the cost of compensation if those animals become TB test reactors.

8. For that reason, Defra will pay 50% of the table market values used for TB compensation purposes (or 50% of market value for individually valued animals) for any animals brought into a TB breakdown herd, which are subsequently removed as reactors or direct contacts before the herd regains OTF status

9. Herds registered under a cattle health scheme accredited under the Cattle Health Certification Standards (CHeCS) for bovine TB will be exempt from this reduction, providing the accreditation was gained prior to loss of OTF status. Approved Finishing Units, Licenced Finishing Units and TB Isolation Units will also be exempt.

Compensation for Privately Slaughtered Animals which are totally condemned for reasons of TB only

10. Currently there is the option for owners to have their animals privately slaughtered if they think they can receive a greater payment in salvage than they would receive from TB compensation. However the present system means that if an animal is condemned in the slaughterhouse for TB, the owner receives nothing. This is deterring many owners from choosing the private slaughter option. Where owners opts to have their reactor or DC privately slaughtered they must arrange and pay for the haulage and slaughter of the animal(s) and recover

costs through the salvage payment from the slaughterhouse. Any private slaughter must have the approval of APHA and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) before being booked in.

11. Under the new legislation, if any reactor or DC which is privately slaughtered is totally condemned by the slaughterhouse for reasons of TB only (and therefore no salvage payment is paid by the slaughterhouse), then APHA will pay compensation. The owner may contact APHA to ask for compensation as per the table market values used for TB compensation purposes (or the value declared for individually valued animals).

12. It is thought that there will be benefits to the tax payer through the reduction of slaughter and haulage costs which would outweigh the increased compensation cost for those animals subsequently totally condemned for reasons of TB only, if more farmers were encouraged to send animals to private slaughter.

Action for OVs

13. Where reactors are found at a skin test and the animals are in a dirty condition, the owner needs to be advised of the requirement to present the animal clean enough to be processed at the slaughterhouse. The FSA have an information leaflet 'Clean Beef Cattle for Slaughter (a guide for producers)' which is available at www.food.gov.uk which defines the criteria for 'too dirty to be processed'. If found to be too dirty at the slaughterhouse, a welfare investigation visit is likely to be conducted and compensation reduced by 50% in addition to any other reductions already in force.

14. OVs are also encouraged to discuss with the owner/keeper why animals are too dirty and advise accordingly.

15. It is intended that this new process will be implemented from 1st November 2018.

Communications with Keepers

16. APHA will inform all owners by telephone at the point of valuation of the changes in the compensation measures.

17. Veterinary Surgeons carrying out TB tests are also encouraged to discuss these changes with keepers at the time of disclosure of any reactors especially if they are unclean.

Relevant Documents

18. None for PVSs/OVs

Further Information

- Detailed guidance on the new measures is available on the TB hub
 - <http://www.tbhub.co.uk/tb-policy/england/changes-to-compensation-paid-for-cattle-compulsorily-slaughtered-for-bovine-tb-control-in-england/>
 - <http://www.tbhub.co.uk/tb-policy/england/enhancing-private-slaughter-arrangements-for-cattle-compulsorily-slaughtered-for-bovine-tb-control-in-england/>
- Reactor removal team – csc.tbreactors@apha.gsi.gov.uk
- Tel - 03000 200301
- Email - TB Advice TB.Advice@apha.gsi.gov.uk

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