



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 14/23

Changes to bovine TB Controls and Compensation Arrangements in Scotland

Date issued: 12 April 2023

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (including those in England and Wales) of changes being introduced to TB control measures and Compensation arrangements in Scotland with effect from 18 May 2023.

Background

2. The Scottish Government's consultation 'Bovine Tuberculosis - proposals to amend the Tuberculosis (Scotland) Order 2007' took place from 9 May 2022 to 1 August 2022. This was seeking views on a number of changes to the Bovine TB Eradication & Control Programme. A summary of the responses is available on the Scottish Government's website.
3. The consultation included proposals to introduce changes to diagnostic testing, cattle movements, isolation requirements and compensation payment.
4. As a result of this, [The Tuberculosis \(Scotland\) Order 2023](#) is coming into force on the 18 May 2023 consolidating existing TB legislation and introducing the new TB policies shown below:
 - Shortening the period during which a pre-movement test with negative results remains valid, from the current 60 days to 30 days after tuberculin injection.
 - Ending the practice of accepting a clear final short interval test (SIT) (or other skin type test e.g., IR retest) at the end of a TB breakdown as a valid pre-movement test. Cattle to be moved out of such herds will need to have a further

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(bespoke) pre-movement skin test with negative results before they can be moved to herds in Scotland.

- Reducing compensation for unclean cattle presented for slaughter for TB control purposes by 50%.
- Including requirements for 'isolation' of reactors and inconclusive reactors (IR), direct contacts (DC) in legislation.
- Reducing compensation for reactors, IRs or DCs which are not properly isolated by 95%.

5. These legislative changes are intended to minimise the risks from all potential sources of infection and reduce the risk of disease spread as far as possible. They are specifically aimed to:

- reduce the risk of disease entering the country by adding extra precautions for animals coming from areas of higher risk of infection
- incentivise compliance with the rules and encourage cattle keepers to keep their animals clean and promote better animal health and welfare
- strengthen the protection of the main herd against onward spread of infection from any reactors or suspect animals

6. Scottish Government will be writing to all cattle keepers in Scotland later this month.

What's Changing?

Change to Pre-movement Testing Rules

7. All cattle 42 days of age or over moving to Scotland from England or Wales require a pre-movement test (PRMT) within 30 days prior to the move if tested on or after 18/05/2023 (this being the date of injection (TT1)), exemptions apply.
8. Furthermore, a short interval test or other skin test undertaken within a TB breakdown, that reinstates the officially TB free status of a herd conducted (TT1) on or after 18 May 2023 cannot be used as pre-movement test for cattle moving from premises in England or Wales into premises in Scotland.
9. For animals tested (TT1) prior to 18 May 2023, the requirement of being tested within 60 days prior to the move remains and the provision in paragraph 7 above does not apply.

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Isolation Requirements

10. The requirements for isolation facilities for reactors, IRs or DC have been defined in the legislation as 'premises or part of premises' where:
- no space, drainage or manure storage is shared with other bovine animals or any other animals kept on the premises,
 - no nose-to-nose contact is possible with other bovine animals or any other animals kept on the premises or adjoining premises, and
 - where kept inside a building, they are also separated by an airtight barrier from other bovine animals and any other animals kept inside the building.
11. Animals affected/suspected of being infected may be isolated together, although IRs should be kept separately from those identified for slaughter

Reduced Compensation

12. Compensation will be reduced by 50% for unclean cattle presented for slaughter for TB control, in contravention of food hygiene regulations.
13. Compensation can also be reduced by up to 95% for reactors, IRs or DCs which are not correctly isolated, in breach of a relevant isolation requirement.
14. The existing appeals process has been extended to cover these new policies to allow decisions on compensation reductions to be reviewed where the owner feels there are valid reasons for doing so.

Action for OVs

15. OVs should familiarise themselves with these changes in order to advise their clients accordingly.

Further Information

16. The consultation held in Summer 2022 and a summary of the responses is available on the Scottish Government's website at <https://consult.gov.scot/agriculture-and-rural-economy/bovinetb-the-tuberculosis-scotland-order/>
17. Bovine TB related information and advice held on the Scottish Government's website <https://www.gov.scot/publications/bovine-tb/>

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18. The guidance on pre- and post-movement TB testing on GOV.UK <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bovine-tb-pre-movement-and-post-movement-testing-in-great-britain> will be updated nearer to the date of implementation.
19. Please refer any queries to ScotlandEndemics@apha.gov.uk

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