



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 15/23

Change to post-movement TB testing requirements in England from 1st August 2023

Date issued: 12 April 2023

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) and Approved Tuberculin Testers (ATTs) of the extension of post-movement TB testing (PoMT) requirements to the annual TB surveillance testing parts of the Edge Area of England. From 1st August 2023, PoMT will be required for cattle moved from higher TB incidence areas of England, and from Wales, into the annual surveillance testing parts of the Edge Area.

Background

2. The Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) estimated that inward movements of cattle with undetected TB infection were the source of 17% of new TB breakdowns in the Edge Area in 2021, although this proportion varied from county to county.
3. PoMT will reduce the risk of disease spread through cattle movements and is an important measure to protect the lower TB incidence parts of the Edge Area. It will detect brought-in cases of TB earlier to minimise the scale and impact of the TB breakdown in the herd of destination and reduce the risk of further spread of TB to other herds.
4. Following a public consultation in January 2021, Defra committed to introducing PoMT in annual surveillance testing parts of the Edge Area.

What's changing?

5. From 1st August 2023, any cattle (which includes farmed bison and Asiatic water buffalo) moved to herds located in annual surveillance testing parts of the Edge

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Area from higher TB incidence areas of England and from Wales, will require compulsory PoMT between 60 and 120 days after their arrival. There are some specific exemptions listed in the Annex below.

6. Higher TB incidence areas are:
 - Six-monthly surveillance testing parts of the Edge Area of England
 - High Risk Area (HRA) of England
 - Wales
7. This policy change applies to direct movements of cattle from one holding to another, and to indirect movements of cattle via markets and shows.
8. Cattle moving from **annually tested herds** in the higher TB incidence areas of England (HRA and six-monthly surveillance testing parts of the Edge Area) will still be eligible for compulsory PoMT.
9. APHA will write to all cattle keepers in the annual surveillance testing parts of the Edge Area to inform them of this policy change.
10. Compulsory PoMT must be arranged and paid for by the keeper. The skin test must be completed between 60 and 120 days after arrival in an annual testing part of the Edge Area. Cattle requiring a PoMT cannot be moved off the holding until the test has been completed with negative results. There are some specific exemptions to PoMT which are listed in the Annex below.
11. A PoMT is not required if the animal is tested as part of an annual surveillance test, or other government-funded test as long as it takes place within the 60 to 120 day PoMT window.
12. APHA will write to keepers monthly for a time-limited period to alert them of cattle movements that may require a PoMT. Ultimately it is the keeper's responsibility to arrange the test and ensure that it is completed within the required timeframe.

Further Information

13. TB Hub <https://tbhub.co.uk/tb-policy/england/post-movement-testing-in-annual-surveillance-testing-parts-of-the-edge-area/>
14. The guidance on pre- and post-movement TB testing on GOV.UK will be updated on the date of implementation: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bovine-tb-pre-movement-and-post-movement-testing-in-great-britain>

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15. Information on TB risk areas can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bovine-tb-testing-intervals>

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ANNEX

What cattle or type of movements are exempt from post-movement testing?

- cattle slaughtered within 120 days of arrival in the herd
- cattle moved solely for veterinary treatment, provided they are returned directly to the herd of origin after treatment or are killed or go directly to slaughter
- cattle moved to an **exempt** agricultural show in the annual testing parts of the Edge Area, or that return to holdings in this area from an **exempt** agricultural show elsewhere. Cattle must return directly to their holding of origin, be killed, or go directly to slaughter after the show. An exempt agricultural show is one where cattle do not stay on the showground site for more than 24 hours and they are not housed
- cattle moved directly to one of the following:
 - a market from which all animals go direct to slaughter
 - an exempt market
 - an approved collecting centre
 - an approved finishing unit
 - an exempt finishing unit
- cattle moved under the authority of a movement licence issued by APHA

What type of movements for cattle that require post-movement testing are allowed before the test has been completed with negative results?

- movements direct to slaughter
- movements to slaughter via a TB slaughter gathering
- movements direct to a licensed finishing unit, an approved finishing unit or an exempt finishing unit
- movements to an approved finishing unit or an exempt finishing unit via an exempt market
- other movements made under the authority of a movement licence issued by APHA

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