



APHA Briefing Note 16/16

bTB testing procedures update –

New post-movement testing code; TB181 update; changes to overdue testing procedures

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) of some small changes to bTB testing procedures, including:
 - A new post-movement testing code for the Low Risk Area (LRA) of England
 - Amendments to TB181 (issuing of restrictions following disclosure of a reactor or inconclusive reactor) and clarification by FSA/FSS on milk use and treatment (GB)
 - Overdue testing procedures (England and Wales)

Background

New Sam test code for post-movement testing in Low Risk Area (LRA) of England

2. A new test code **POSTLRAOV** to record and submit LRA post-movement tests results is expected to be available in Sam from 11 August 2016.
3. OV Instructions will be updated accordingly when the new test code is available in Sam. Once these are released OVs must stop recording LRA post-movement tests against the PRI test code.

4. This test should not be confused with the post-movement test (code POSTMT), necessary when animals that required a pre-movement test have been either:
 - identified as having moved without such test
 - allowed to move without a pre-movement test by APHA, in exceptional circumstances
5. In order for a bTB test to be eligible for LRA post-movement testing purposes it must not be completed before 60 days of the animals arriving to the LRA and/or within 60 days of a previous skin test.

Amendment to Information Note TB181 – restrictions following disclosure of a reactor or inconclusive reactor

6. Information Note TB181 has been amended. The note should now be issued on every occasion where reactors or inconclusive reactors (IRs) are disclosed at a bTB test.
7. This applies not only after the initial reactors and IRs are found, but also subsequently if further reactors and IRs are disclosed. Issuing this note on all such occasions will act as a reminder to farmers to meet certain requirements such as isolation of reactors and IRs.
8. TB181 has also been amended to clarify that:
 - Milk from reactors must be heat treated before it is fed to other animals on the same farm
 - Milk from restricted herds may only be used for human consumption after heat treatment

Changes to overdue testing procedures

9. APHA will no longer contact OV practices in England and Wales to check whether a skin test reaching their Latest Activity Completion Date has been completed or scheduled when the scheduled date has not been entered in Sam.
10. OV practices are requested to enter the scheduled dates for bTB tests in Sam.

11. APHA will still contact practices where there a scheduled date in the past and the test is about to become overdue, to avoid unnecessary restrictions and referrals to payment agencies.
12. OV's could help their clients by reminding them of the adverse consequences of overdue testing (i.e. restrictions and referral to payment agencies) where possible and applicable.
13. APHA will monitor this change in order to identify any adverse impacts.

Further Information

- OV Instructions on bTB testing:
http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/TB_Instructions/Updates/index.htm
- TB181 (for use in England, Scotland and Wales): [TB181 - Information Note Automatic Animal and Public Health Restrictions following Disclosure of a Reactor or Inconclusive Reactor at an Official Diagnostic Test for Tuberculosis \(TB\) in Cattle, Buffalo or Bison](#)
- TB181 ((W) (Welsh language version): [TB181\(W\) - Information Note Automatic Animal and Public Health Restrictions following Disclosure of a Reactor or Inconclusive Reactor at an Official Diagnostic Test for Tuberculosis \(TB\) in Cattle, Buffalo or Bison \(Welsh\)](#)

Issued: 05 August 2016