



APHA Briefing Note 18/16

Bovine TB update –

LRA post-movement testing codes and advisory letters; testing interpretation in HRA and Edge Area of England

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) of changes in relation to bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) testing in England:
 - Low Risk Area (LRA) post-movement bTB testing codes in England
 - Advisory letters will now be sent to cattle keepers in the LRA of England who source cattle from other parts of England or from Wales
 - Interpretation of bTB test results in the High Risk Area (HRA) and Edge Area of England

Background

bTB test codes for post-movement testing in Low Risk Area (LRA) of England

1. Test code **POSTLRAOV** (*displayed in Sam as **LRA PostMT E***) to record and submit LRA post-movement test results has been available in Sam since 15 September 2016. In order for a 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.
2. A further test code **POSTLRANC** has been added for OVs to record and submit test results for LRA post-movement tests instructed by APHA. This is for cases where non-compliance with current rules has been identified or

APHA has authorised a movement before a LRA post-movement test has been completed.

3. Document TR15 (England) has been updated to reflect the new test codes.
4. These tests codes 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, or
 - allowed to move without a pre-movement test by APHA, in exceptional circumstances
5. OV's must not record LRA post-movement tests against the PRI test code.

Advisory letters sent to cattle keepers in the LRA of England who source cattle from other parts of England or from Wales.

6. In response to requests from industry representatives APHA will, from early November, send notification letters to cattle keepers in the LRA of England who bring in cattle from other parts of England or from Wales. These letters will remind keepers of their statutory obligation to organise post-movement tests.
7. The letter will also provide keepers with an estimate of the approximate number of animals brought in during the specified period specified, but will not provide details of individual animals.
8. Keepers will be reminded that they are responsible for arranging and paying for post movement testing with their veterinarian to arrange the test, requesting a **POSTLRAOV** (*displayed in Sam as **LRA PostMT E***).
9. This letter is for information purposes only. Any failure on APHA's part to notify someone of their statutory TB testing obligations or a failure to provide accurate and/or complete information (e.g. number of animals) does not discharge a cattle keeper from their responsibilities.

Interpretation of bTB test results in the High Risk and Edge areas of England

10. Since 6 April 2016 all new breakdown herds in the High Risk Area (HRA), regardless of post-mortem or laboratory culture results, will require two consecutive short interval herd tests with negative results, read under 'severe' interpretation, before restrictions are lifted. The initial disclosing test where

reactors are found will also be reinterpreted at 'severe' interpretation. Thereafter, any further tests that might be necessary would be read under 'standard' interpretation provided that no post-mortem or laboratory evidence of TB is found.

11. In introducing this measure the objective is to find more infected animals and to reduce the risk of prematurely lifting TB restrictions on infected herds, for the benefit of the directly affected herd owners and their trading partners. This policy already operated in the TB Edge Area of England and improves the sensitivity of the breakdown testing regimes markedly.
12. When finding reactors at the initial disclosing test of a new breakdown in the HRA or Edge area of England, **OVs are asked to inform the cattle keeper/owner of any Inconclusive Reactors at Standard Interpretation that will become Severe Reactors when the test is re-interpreted by APHA.** This will forewarn the cattle keeper/owner of the consequences of the re-interpretation.

Further Information

- OV Instructions on bTB pre and post-movement testing: http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/TB_Instructions/Updates/index.htm
- Post-movement testing: http://www.tbhub.co.uk/guidance/testing-and-compensation/post-movement-testing-in-lra/?cm_mid=6001831&cm_crmid=80f05562-7fe0-e511-a8bf-00155d0002df&cm_medium=email

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