



## APHA Briefing Note 19/17

### Update on pre- and post-movement testing requirements in Wales from 1 October 2017 and advice on test codes (for England and Wales)

#### Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) of changes to pre-movement testing requirements in Wales, and that post-movement testing for bovine TB will be required for cattle moved in to the Low TB Area of Wales on or after 1 October 2017
2. To inform OVs carrying out post-movement tests in the Low Risk Area of England and the Low TB Area of Wales of the appropriate test codes.

#### Background

3. The Welsh Government's strengthened TB Eradication Programme commits to a more regionalised approach to eradicating TB in Wales, with Low, Intermediate and High TB Areas being established from 1 October 2017.

#### Pre-movement testing in Wales from 1 October 2017

4. From 1 October 2017, cattle moving within or from the Low TB Area will not need to be pre-movement tested unless moving from a:
  - herd under TB movement restrictions
  - herd that has had OTF status for less than 18 months (the herd is due to have a six month 6M or twelve month 12M post-breakdown test)
  - herd that is subject to contiguous testing (the herd is due CON, CON6 or CON12 contiguous tests)

5. Cattle 42 days old and over moving to Scotland from any area of Wales are still required to have a valid pre-movement test.
6. For herds in the Intermediate or High TB Areas of Wales with a persistent breakdown (breakdowns of 18 months or more) that concludes on or after 1 October 2017, the releasing test cannot be used as a pre-movement test. Cattle not required to have a pre-movement test may still be moved from these herds:
  - calves under 42 days old
  - cattle moving to slaughter directly or via a slaughter gathering
  - cattle moving directly to a (Pre-Movement Testing) Exempt Finishing Unit
  - cattle moving to un-housed shows of less than 24 hours in duration and returning to the holding from which they travelled
  - cattle moving directly to an Approved Finishing Unit for cattle under movement restrictions for TB or an approved TB collection centre
  - to a place for veterinary treatment
7. For these post-persistent breakdown herds, there may be circumstances when a pre-movement test could be carried out less than 60 days after the releasing test, for example:
  - if confirmation of the releasing test is through further testing of inconclusive reactors only (but not for the retested inconclusive reactors)
  - if purchased cattle were not included in the releasing test as they were still within 60 days of their pre-movement test
  - or calves not born at the releasing test but which are now 42 days old and over

### **Post-movement testing in the Low TB Area of Wales from 1 October 2017**

8. The majority of TB in the Low TB Area of Wales is as a result of infection brought in through cattle movements. Because of this, farmers in the Low TB Area will need to Post-Movement Test (PoMT) cattle which move from a herd in:

- an Intermediate or High TB Area in Wales
  - the Edge or High Risk Area of England.
9. If the movement is via a livestock market it is the location of the herd that applies, not the market. The best way to identify animals from these areas is they will have had a Pre-Movement Test. The CPH checker can also be used: <http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/tb-test/index.asp>. APHA will be writing to keepers to alert them to an animal movement that requires a PoMT, but it is the keeper who is ultimately responsible for carrying out the test.
10. The PoMT is to be arranged and paid for by the farmer. It must be completed between 60 and 120 days after the movement. Cattle requiring a PoMT cannot be moved off the farm until the test has been completed.
11. A PoMT is not needed if the animal is tested as part of an annual surveillance test, or other government funded test. This is as long as it takes place within the 60 to 120 days PoMT window. A PoMT will not be needed for animals moving from the receiving herd in the Low TB Area to:
- slaughter
  - a slaughter market
  - an approved finishing unit
  - an exempt finishing unit
  - a licensed finishing unit
  - a show which is less than 24 hours in duration and where no cattle are housed
  - a place for veterinary treatment.

Or if the animal is:

- returning from a show outside the Low TB Area which is less than 24 hours in duration and where no cattle are housed
- moving from a herd which is a member of a CHeCS TB health scheme and classified as level 10 (unless not homebred there).

### **Private Post-Movement Testing**

12. OV's must contact APHA for authorisation to carry out any private post-movement testing, which is non-statutory.

## Post-movement Test codes

13. On 3 October 2017, the current PoMT test codes of **POSTLRAOV** and **POSTLRANC** are being replaced (see point 14 a) and b) below). Tests already instructed with the code **POSTLRANC** should be completed within the testing window instructed.
14. For post-movement testing of cattle in the Low TB Area of Wales and the Low Risk Area of England, the following test codes will be available from 3 October 2017:
- a) **POSTMOVOV** to record and submit post-movement tests requested by cattle keepers. This must not be completed before 60 days of the animals arriving in the area or within 60 days of a previous skin test. Passports should be checked to confirm that the test is within the appropriate window.
  - b) **POSTMOVNC** to record and submit test results for 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 post-movement test has been completed.
15. These test codes should not be confused with the post-movement test code **POSTMT** used when animals that required a pre-movement test have been either:
- identified as having moved without a pre-movement test or
  - allowed to move without a pre-movement test by APHA, in exceptional circumstances
16. OVs must not record post-movement tests in the Low TB Area of Wales or the Low Risk Area of England against the **PRI** test code
17. The PoMT will help identify if cattle are infected as soon as possible after they have moved. Farmers are advised to keep the cattle separate until they have been tested to help prevent disease spreading to the rest of the herd. Farmers can also help protect their herd by asking about the TB history of the herd they are buying from. Herds which have recently had TB are more of a risk than those which have not.

18. The Welsh Government is considering introducing similar PoMT requirements for the Intermediate TB Area of Wales in October 2018.

### **Further Information**

19. Guidance on pre- and post-movement testing:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-movement-and-post-movement-tb-testing-of-cattle-in-great-britain>

20. Further information on the changes being introduced on 1 October 2017 in Wales is available in other OV briefing notes and on the Welsh Government website:

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/bovinetberadication/?lang=en>

**Issued:** 19 September 2017