



APHA Briefing Note 20/18

Update to bTB controls and compensation arrangements in Scotland

Purpose

To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) of changes being introduced to TB control measures and compensation arrangements in Scotland with effect from 12 December 2018.

Background

These changes follow the Scottish Government's consultation 'Proposal to introduce changes to compensation arrangements in Scotland and update the Tuberculosis (Scotland) Order 2007 on other disease control measures', which took place from 7 September 2017 to 30 November 2017. The consultation sought views on a number of changes to the TB eradication & control programme and a summary of the responses is available on the Scottish Government's website: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-bovine-tb-proposal-introduce-changes-compensation-arrangements-scotland-update/The> consultation included proposals to introduce changes to the requirements for post movement testing and to the way compensation is paid where the provisions of the TB Order have been breached.

A summary of the changes that will come into effect from 12 December 2018 is listed below.

Change to Post Movement Testing Rules

Animals moved to Scotland from a high TB incidence area which therefore must be Post Movement tested following their arrival in Scotland will need to remain at the first premises of destination, the receiving premises, until this testing is carried out. The post movement test must be completed within 60-120 days of arrival on farm and with negative results before that animal is permitted to move again. This restriction will also apply to cattle imported from Northern Ireland and the conditions of the general import licence have been amended to support this change. Exceptions to this are permitted for animals that move directly to slaughter within 120 days of arrival or are moved for veterinary treatment or under licence.

Non-payment of Compensation (£1 nominal payment) for Illegal Moves onto Restricted Herds

Provisions are being introduced to withhold compensation, paying only a £1 nominal sum where owners have broken the rules and animals illegally moved onto restricted herds go on to become TB reactors. An appeals process to allow the decision to be reviewed where the owner feels there are valid reasons for doing so is also being introduced.

Reduced Compensation for Overdue Testing

Provisions are being introduced to reduce compensation where an owner has failed to have his cattle TB tested within the allotted time period and TB reactors are subsequently disclosed. This will be on a sliding scale, i.e. the longer the delay in testing, the bigger the reduction in compensation. An appeals process to allow the decision to be reviewed where the keeper feels there are valid reasons for doing so is also being introduced.

Introduction of a Cap on Compensation Levels for Individual Animals

In order to provide a compensation system that is more financially sustainable for the future and to keep compensation values in Scotland relatively consistent with those in the rest of GB, a maximum amount of compensation payable for each individual TB reactor has now been introduced and will be set at;

- £7,500 for all pure bred pedigree bovine animals, and
- £5,000 for all other non-pedigree bovine animals.

Prohibition on Testing Bovine Animals

The prohibition on TB testing bovine animals without permission from the Scottish Ministers and written consent from APHA is being extended to include any test for tuberculosis applied to a bovine animal. This is to ensure newly developed serological tests, which, at present may be used without permission or condition, are fully captured.

Further Information

- It is important that all cattle keepers and OV's familiarise themselves with the new rules for TB and further details on the new arrangements, including the Post-Movement Testing requirements and exemptions, can be found at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/disease/tuberculosis>
- Contact the TB team at the local Service Field Offices with any queries;
 - Ayr – 03000 600703
 - Galashiels – 03000 600711
 - Inverness – 03000 600709
 - Inverurie – 03000 600708
 - Perth – 03000 600704

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