



APHA Briefing Note 26/17

Identification of Non Bovine TB Reactors

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) in England and Wales that from 4th December 2017 non bovine reactors of the following species will require application of a unique identifier on day two of the tuberculin skin test (TT2) : goats, sheep, pigs and deer.

Background

2. Previously there has been no requirement to provide a unique identifier for non-bovine reactors to the tuberculin skin test. In order to assist with identification and removal of these reactors, APHA will now require application of a tag to all reactor goats, sheep, pigs and deer located in England and Wales.
3. Marking tags should be applied to animals identified as reactors at day two of the skin test. DNA tags as used for cattle should be applied but there is no requirement to collect a sample.
4. There will be occasions when reactors will be identified after day two (TT2) of the skin test. In those cases, OVs are not required to undertake specific visits to apply a tag
5. OVs must ensure that:
 - The applicator and tag are free from visible contamination
 - The ear tags appear to be undamaged and that both parts carry the same number

- The ear is free from visible contamination and ensure the ear tag is inserted into the ear avoiding other tags and using good and safe practice and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions (included within the tags), either ear can be used. Unlike cattle, the tag can be placed in an existing hole in the ear.
 - If the tag becomes damaged and cannot be applied, use a new tag
6. The number on the marking tag must be recorded on the test chart TN52A/TN52A(Welsh)/TN52B/TN52B(Welsh))
 7. No sample capsule is required and no skin sample must be submitted.
 8. A tag must not be applied if access to the ear is not safe. If applicable this must be noted on the test chart.

9. Further Information

Please direct any queries as follows:

OVs in England email TB.Advice@apha.gsi.gov.uk or call 03000 200 301.

OVs in Wales email APHA.CymruWales@apha.gsi.gov.uk or call 0300 303 8268

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