



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 27/20

### Advice for OVs to pass on to cattle keepers regarding passports of TB reactor animals during the COVID-19 outbreak

**Date issued: 20 August 2020**

#### Purpose

To recommend that Official Veterinarians (OVs) undertaking TB skin testing in England, Scotland and Wales during the COVID-19 outbreak advise cattle keepers to check that any reactors disclosed have a valid passport. If a passport is found to be incorrect or is lost, missing or destroyed, the keeper should contact APHA immediately for specific advice before contacting BCMS.

#### Background

1. TB reactors should have passports available at the time of the valuation. Cattle with a passport that has incorrect details (e.g. incorrect sex or breed) must not be consigned to an abattoir.
2. Cattle without the correct documents will be deemed to have no market value and will not be valued. They will also require on-farm slaughter.
3. Due to the current coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, BCMS may experience delays in dealing with requests for passport amendments or for replacement passports.
4. Temporary changes to requesting passport amendments have been implemented by BCMS with guidance on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

## Specific Instructions

1. OV's are kindly requested that on disclosure of reactor animals when undertaking TB skin testing in England, Scotland and Wales, they advise the cattle keeper to check that they have a valid passport for each animal at the earliest opportunity.
2. Cattle keepers should also be advised that if the passport of any reactor animal is incorrect, so needing amendment, or is missing, so that they will need to request a replacement from BCMS, they should contact APHA immediately.