



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 34/19

Change in the application of movement restrictions on TB breakdown holdings in Wales from 13 January 2020.

Date issued: 31 December 2019

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) that in Wales, from 13 January 2020, the management of TB breakdown herds which have cattle on multiple holdings, where these holdings are run as one business, will change.
2. A single movement restriction Notice Prohibiting the Movement of Bovine Animals (TB02) will no longer be used to place these separate holdings under the same TB restrictions. This means that unlicensed movements of cattle between the holdings will no longer be possible.

Background

3. As part of the Welsh Government's TB Eradication Programme, the approach to managing TB breakdowns is being strengthened. Cattle movements play a significant part in the spread of bovine TB, particularly in cases where cattle are moved between holdings which can be some distance away.
4. A key aim is to reduce the number of movements of restricted cattle to locations where no disease has been detected, or that are geographically distant from the main location in order to contain the breakdown and reduce the risk of onward disease transmission. If a keeper decides to take the risk of moving cattle between their holdings, where the movement is allowed, they should share the potential costs of that risk should the moved cattle be removed for TB control during the breakdown.

What is changing?

5. For cattle herds in Wales that experience a new TB breakdown on or after 13 January 2020, where the cattle are kept on multiple holdings and these holdings are run as one business, a single movement restriction Notice Prohibiting the Movement of Bovine Animals (TB02) will no longer be used to place these separate holdings under the same TB restrictions. This means that unlicensed movements of cattle between the holdings will no longer be possible.
6. At the start of a TB breakdown (or suspected TB breakdown, for example due to a slaughterhouse case of suspected TB), the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) will initially restrict, under separate TB02 Notices Prohibiting the Movement of Bovine Animals, all temporary (tCPH) and permanent holdings (pCPH) with different CPH numbers, which are associated with the same cattle business operation.
7. Once all of the appropriate information is available, the APHA case vet will then usually automatically remove the TB restrictions on those holdings, where no cattle are currently kept, which are located more than 10 miles away from the main holding, or where no evidence of TB has been found on the skin test and there have been no recent movements onto the holding from affected holdings.
8. If the above criteria are not met, then the holding(s)/CPH will remain under TB restrictions and undergo appropriate skin TB testing until either:
 - the end of the TB breakdown on all of the holdings in the TB breakdown; or
 - all cattle present on that particular holding have undergone two clear skin TB tests:
 - i. the first must be at least 180 days and the second at least 240 days after the last movement onto the premises; and
 - ii. the first must be at least 60 and the second at least 120 days after any animal removed for TB control purposes from any holding in the breakdown has left this holding.

The removal of restrictions is dependent on satisfying additional criteria, including ensuring the status of all animals move from the holding has been determined (e.g. any IRs have been retested with negative results or culture results for a suspect slaughterhouse case have been reported).

9. Licensed movements between the holdings will not usually be considered until after the first Short Interval Test (SIT). Following this, any movement of cattle between premises on separate TB02 notices will be subject to the outcome of a veterinary risk assessment and, if allowed, will need to be licensed.
10. Any cattle moved under licence that are subsequently disclosed as reactors during the same breakdown will be subject to a 50% reduction in compensation. If it is found that cattle have been moved between holdings which are under separate

TB02 restrictions without this move being licensed, not only is this a breach of the legislation which will be referred to the Local Authority for investigation, but also, any cattle moved without a licence that are subsequently removed for TB control, during the same breakdown will be subject to a 95% reduction in compensation.

What will happen to herds already under restriction because of a TB breakdown?

11. Cattle keepers with herds already in a TB breakdown on 13 January 2020 will have separate TB02 restrictions applied for each pCPH or tCPH used by the cattle business.
12. The APHA case vet will review and then usually remove the TB restrictions on those holdings where:
 - no cattle are currently kept, which are located more than 10 miles away from the main holding.
 - all cattle present have undergone two clear skin TB tests as explained at point 8, above.
13. If the above criteria are not satisfied, then the holding will remain under TB restrictions and undergo appropriate skin TB testing until either:
 - the end of the TB breakdown on the whole premises; or
 - until two clear skin TB tests have been completed, as above

Communications

14. Cattle keepers in Wales were sent a letter from the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer explaining the changes being introduced in September 2019 for new breakdown herds.
15. They have been sent a leaflet offering guidance on measures that they can take to reduce the risk of their herd suffering a TB breakdown.
16. Cattle keepers with ongoing breakdowns where the herd is managed on more than one CPH, where these holdings have different tCPH and/or pCPH numbers, were also sent a letter in September explaining what these changes mean for them. They are being sent a further letter in December 2019 giving them notice of the issue of separate TB02 movement restrictions.

Further Information

17. A comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions and Answers document is available on the Welsh Government's website here:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-12/bovine-tb-eradication-programme-frequently-asked-questions.pdf>

18. Further information on the Welsh Government Bovine TB eradication plan is available here:

<https://gov.wales/bovine-tb-eradication-programme>