



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 37/24

# Increase in the number of digits in Tuberculin batch numbering system UPDATE

**Date issued: 16 October 2024**

### Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs), Approved Tuberculin Testers (ATTs) and other iSam users that changes to iSam to allow entering 7-digit batches of Tuberculin have been implemented.

### Background

2. APHA's tuberculin supplier (Prionics-ThermoFisher) informed the Veterinary Medicine Directorate of an increase in the number of digits (from 6 to 7) in their tuberculin batch numbering system.
3. APHA requested an urgent coding change to iSam to enable the recording of 7-digit tuberculin batch numbers on the "Test Details" tab on iSam.
4. Pending the implementation of iSam code changes, APHA Briefing Note 32/24 detailed a temporary solution requesting the record of the first six digits of the longer batch numbers, followed by a record of the full batch number in the free text "comments" box.

### Action

5. With the completed iSam upgrade, Official Veterinarians (OVs), Approved Tuberculin Testers (ATTs) and other iSam users must now record the full tuberculin batch numbers in the designated fields on the "Test Details" tab. It is no longer necessary to add the full tuberculin batch number in the free text "Comments" box.

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

## Further Information

6. OV and ATT instructions on Tuberculosis Testing:  
[http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External\\_OV\\_Instructions/index.htm](http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/index.htm)
7. OVs and ATTs delivering TB testing under one of the Veterinary Delivery Partners (VDPs) should address any queries to the relevant VDP in the first instance who will collate and escalate to APHA as necessary.
8. OVs in Scotland and non-VDP OVs in England should refer any queries to [ScotlandEndemics@apha.gov.uk](mailto:ScotlandEndemics@apha.gov.uk) and [TBAvice@apha.gov.uk](mailto:TBAvice@apha.gov.uk) respectively.

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.