



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 46/22

New Scottish TB Amendment Order

Date issued: 25 November 2022

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) that [The Tuberculosis \(Scotland\) Amendment Order 2022](#) comes into force on 28 November 2022.
2. This amendment to the Tuberculosis (Scotland) Order introduces a new requirement for prior permission to be obtained from Scottish Ministers before taking samples from cattle located in Scotland with the intention of applying a test for tuberculosis.

Background

1. In 2009 Scotland achieved Officially Tuberculosis Free (OTF) status in recognition of the low and stable incidence of TB found in Scottish herds. The Scottish Government is committed to a comprehensive, practical and proportionate programme of actions to maintain Scotland's current low levels of TB and safeguard the country's officially TB free status.
2. Until now consent from Scottish Ministers was required to apply a private diagnostic test for TB on a bovine animal, to vaccinate a bovine animal against TB, or to treat a bovine animal for TB.
3. The policy has been expanded so that permission is now also required for taking any biological samples (i.e. blood, milk, faeces) for the purpose of applying a diagnostic test for tuberculosis. As part of this, conditions may also be applied to permissions, for example to require that the results are reported to the Scottish Ministers.
4. This change provides Scottish Government with oversight of results where any biological samples are taken by third parties but sent outside Scotland for diagnostic testing, where the Scottish Government would have no jurisdiction. This policy is to ensure that there is full awareness of any infection found.

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.

5. In order to facilitate the delivery of the statutory pre and post-movement testing requirements, a [General Authorisation](#) is in force allowing Official Veterinarians (OVs) to perform tuberculin skin testing for pre and post-movement testing purposes. This authorisation does not cover TB testing undertaken for other statutory purposes or other types of lawful privately funded TB testing.

Further Information

1. Current instructions regarding [Private \(Skin\) Tests including test for Exports](#) can be found in the OV Instructions in the APHA Vet Gateway. Requests for any private skin tests should be sent to [your local APHA office in Scotland](#).

2. The **private use** of the interferon-gamma test, IDEXX antibody test or any other validated or unvalidated TB test in Scotland **is not currently permitted**. Any exceptional request for the use of any of these tests privately, including the testing of samples, should be referred to Scottish Government at animal.health@gov.scot