



TB Test Interpretation in England and Scotland from 01/01/2010

All skin swellings with an increase of more than 2.0mm in the thickness of the skin fold measured 72 hours after tuberculin injection must be recorded as positive reactions, as should **any swelling irrespective of size, showing oedema**.

The interpretation and decision on whether an animal showing a positive bovine reaction is a reactor, an inconclusive reactor or a pass will depend on how this compares (in character and size) to the contemporaneous reaction to avian tuberculin, if any. If there is any doubt, the Veterinary Head of Field Delivery (VHoFD)/Veterinary Lead Scotland (VLS) will be the final arbiter.

For the purpose of describing reactions to the intradermal injection of tuberculin, only the following two abbreviations should be used:

C = Circumscribed. A discrete non-oedematous reaction.

SO = Some Oedema. Any reaction where oedema is present.

When using either standard or severe Interpretation:

+ Positive – an increase in skin thickness of more than 2.0mm or **any** reaction with oedema.

- Negative – no swelling or a small increase in skin thickness not exceeding 2.0mm.

A. Standard interpretation

Pass (Retain)

- Animals showing a negative bovine reaction and a positive or negative avian reaction.
- Animals showing a positive bovine reaction equal to or less than a positive avian reaction.

Inconclusive (Retest)

- Animals showing a +ve bovine reaction not more than 4.0mm greater than a +ve or -ve avian reaction.

Fail (Remove)

- Animals showing a positive bovine reaction more than 4.0mm greater than a negative or positive avian reaction.

B. Severe interpretation

Pass (Retain)

As for standard interpretation, i.e.:

- Animals showing a negative bovine reaction and a positive or negative avian reaction.
- Animals showing a positive bovine reaction equal to or less than a positive avian reaction.

Inconclusive (Retest)

- Animals showing a +ve bovine reaction of not more than 2.0mm greater than a +ve avian reaction.

Note: these animals would also be considered IRs under standard interpretation.

Fail (Remove)

- Animals showing a positive bovine reaction and negative avian reaction.
- Animals showing a positive bovine reaction more than 2mm greater than a positive avian reaction.

Note: the net effect of all this is that the “upper tranche” of the inconclusive reactor range at standard interpretation (i.e. B - A reaction >2.0mm but ≤4.0mm) become reactors under severe interpretation.

C. ‘Standard/Severe’ interpretation

When asked to carry out a test using standard/severe interpretation the test should be read initially at standard. If any inconclusives or reactors are detected then the whole test should be re-interpreted using severe interpretation.

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.