



## TB Test Interpretation

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All skin swellings with an increase of more than 2mm in the thickness of the skin fold must be recorded as positive reactions, as should **any swelling irrespective of size, showing oedema**. The interpretation and decision on whether such an animal is a reactor depends on the comparative reactions (character and size) to the avian and bovine tuberculins. The Veterinary Lead Wales (VLW) is the final arbiter.

For the purpose of describing reactions to the test, the following abbreviations only should be used:

C = Circumscribed. A discrete non-oedematous reaction.

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

+ Positive – an increase of more than 2mm in skin thickness or **any reaction with oedema**.

- Negative – an increase of 2mm or less in skin thickness.

### 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 of not more than 4mm (i.e., 1-4mm) greater than a +ve avian reaction.
- Animals showing a +ve bovine reaction and a negative avian reaction where the difference is 4mm or less.

#### Fail (Remove)

- Animals showing a positive bovine reaction more than 4mm greater than a negative or positive avian reaction.

### B. Severe interpretation

#### REMEMBER

+ Positive – an increase of more than 2mm in skin thickness or **any reaction with oedema**.

- Negative – an increase of 2mm or less in skin thickness.

#### Pass (Retain)

- Animals showing a negative bovine reaction.
- Animals showing a +ve bovine reaction and +ve avian reaction, where the avian reaction is more than 2mm greater than the bovine reaction.

#### Inconclusive (Retest)

- Animals showing a +ve bovine reaction and +ve avian reaction, where the bovine reaction is 1 or 2mm less, equal to, or 1 or 2mm more than the avian reaction.

#### 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.

### C. Standard/Severe interpretation

When asked to carry out tests 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.