



APHA Briefing Note 01/18

TUBERCULIN SKIN TESTING OF CALVES UNDER 42 DAYS OLD

Purpose

1. This information note is intended to clarify the requirements for the testing and recording of testing for calves that reach 42 days of age between day 1 (TT1) of the test and the final reading day (TT2) of the completing part of the test.
2. This is only relevant to herd tests where calves under 42 days of age are not required for testing.

Background

3. It has become apparent that there is some confusion as to the eligibility of calves for TB testing at herd tests, particularly when tests are completed in different parts over more than one day. In some cases this confusion has led to TB restrictions being served on holdings either because eligible animals have not been tested or because it appears from the test record that eligible animals have not been tested.

Action

4. For any herd tests where calves under 42 days of age are exempt from testing, the qualifying date for the exemption is TT1 of the test. Any calves that are not 42 days of age at TT1 do not need to be tested.
5. When all the herd is tested at TT1 in a single day, if a calf reaches 42 days of age between TT1 and TT2 of the test it does not need to be tested. The test will be considered complete.
6. The above also applies if an OV is completing a test in multiple parts at DIFFERENT LOCATIONS over more than one day. At each location the OV would be expected to only test cattle that are eligible for TB Testing at TT1 of

the test at the location they are testing at. They do NOT have to return to previous locations to test calves that reach 42 days of age prior to the completion of the final part of the test.

7. However, if a test is not complete and the OV has to return to the SAME LOCATION to inject further animals, then any calves that have since become eligible must be tested with the rest of the herd. The exception to this is in the scenario where all eligible cattle over 42 days of age in an ENTIRE GROUP of cattle were tested on an earlier part of a test and the OV has to return to the same location to test a different group (e.g. beef on P1, dairy C2). In this case the OV would not be expected to identify and test calves within the previously tested group that have since reached 42 days of age between the 2 parts of the test.

Submission of part tests on iSam

8. Any calves under 42 days should be recorded by the OV as ineligible **on the part at which they were ineligible**, not on a later part. However, if the OV did not record them on the appropriate part of the test, but instead records them when submitting the completing part of the test, they MUST add a comment to clarify that they were not tested because they were ineligible on the TT1 date when all eligible cattle in the same group were tested. The relevant TT1 date must be noted.

Escaped animals

9. OVs returning to test escaped animals are required to test any calves that were part of the group that escaped that have since become 42 days or older.
10. OVs are reminded that a test must not be submitted as complete until all eligible animals have been tested. If an animal is injected on day 1 and the test is not read, this must be recorded as a part test.

Animals tested within 60 days

11. The same principles as for calves above can be applied for animals that have been tested in the last 60 days and are therefore not required to be tested. However, they will need to be submitted with the not tested reason when the rest of the animals for that part of the test is submitted.

Further Information

If you have any queries, please contact:

- England: Email TB.Advice@apha.gsi.gov.uk or call 03000 200 301.

- Wales: Email APHA.CymruWales@apha.gsi.gov.uk or call 0300 303 8268.
- Scotland: Contact your local Field Services Office
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening>

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