Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

For Laboratory Use Only		
Lab Reference (affix barcode label here)	Temperature Checked and within range (as per SOP BAC0099) and samples sprayed with 70% ethanol.	
	Initial:	
	Date:	

Animal & Plant Health Agency

Submission of Blood Samples for Private TB γ-Interferon Testing of Cattle

Number of Samples		Collection Start Time	
Date of Sampling		Collection Finish Time	
Case PVS or other contact name		Veterinary Practice	
Email Address			
Herd Owner/Keepers name		CPHH	

Reason for testing (OTF herds)

Pre-movement	☐	Post-movement	☐	Rapid testing of IRs	☐
Additional testing following negative skin test results	☐	Resolved IRs	☐	Other	☐

Submitting Blood Samples for Private γ-Interferon Testing

Pre-testing approval from APHA
Prior to commencement of testing, written approval must be sought from Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services. The test approval form can be found at http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/vet-gateway/surveillance/forms.htm
Email details of your approval request to the APHA TB Customer Service Centre (CSC) TB.Advice@apha.gsi.gov.uk

Written approval from the APHA office must accompany this form to the laboratory.

Reason for Test:

High Specificity Test (PRV-SP) ☐ (tick if appropriate)
Does **not** replace statutory testing, but may be used as a supplementary test for additional assurances as to TB-free status of animals, **Officially Tuberculosis Free (OTF) herd cattle only**: for movement/sales, testing Inconclusive Reactors (IRs), testing Resolved IRs and additional surveillance following negative routine testing).

High Sensitivity Test (PRV-SE) ☐ (tick if appropriate)
Skin test-negative cattle in **TB-restricted (breakdown) herds** that do not qualify for a government funded TB γ-Interferon test and testing of Resolved IRs.

Conditions and requirements for testing:

- blood must be collected into heparin tubes labelled with a barcode with the following prefix, GAxxx xxxx (contact the laboratory for details of suppliers)
- 6ml of blood should be collected (a full tube)
- the tube should be gently inverted approximately eight times immediately after collection to avoid clotting
- for resolved IRs only - the blood sample must be collected within 40 calendar days of the injection date (TT1) of the clear inconclusive reactor retest
- during transport to the laboratory, the blood samples should be kept at a temperature of 22+/- 5 ^{o}C. This is achieved by using a temperature controlled delivery box (refer to instructions for use on page 3)
- private tests are carried out on **Thursday** only - samples must therefore be taken on a Wednesday and arrive at the laboratory by either 16:00 on the day of sampling or by 09:00 Thursday morning.

Positive Results
Samples yielding a positive result will be reported to the relevant APHA Regional Field office and APHA TB CSC. This may affect the Officially TB status of the holding of origin and require statutory restrictions to be implemented.

Rejects and Resamples
Failure to comply with the above criteria may result in the samples being deemed unsuitable for testing and being rejected. Rejected samples will not attract a laboratory testing fee.

Due to the nature of the γ-Interferon test, approximately 5% of samples may not yield a valid result on the first submission and a new blood sample would then be required from that particular animal. Samples with a 'Resample' result issued against them will still be charged for. If you submit a new sample following a 'Resample' result, it will be charged as a new submission.

Official Animal Identifier	Vacutainer Barcode

Return Address for Delivery Boxes

Practice Name

Practice Address

Postcode

Box return will be charged according to APHA courier contract pricing - plus VAT

Preparation and Packing of Samples

Samples **must** be packed and delivered using a temperature controlled delivery box system (e.g. battery-powered) that maintains sample temperature within the range 22+/- 5 ^{o}C during shipment - this is the range specified by the test manufacturer. Submissions will be temperature checked upon arrival at the laboratory and any falling outside of these limits will be rejected (not tested). Contact the laboratory for details of box suppliers if required. The following describes the use of battery heated boxes. If using non-battery boxes ensure that the manufacturer's instructions for using the box are followed to obtain the ambient temperature of delivery required for this test.

1. Pack no more than 50 heparin (green top, GAxxx xxxx-bar-coded, 6ml size) blood tubes in a Veterinary Field Kit.

2. Check battery and heat pad before leaving for the test. Only use a fully charged battery for dispatch to the laboratory. Two fully charged batteries are recommended if a large number of animals are being sampled and/or there is a prolonged time taken to collect all the samples; one battery to be used in the box at pen-side in which to place samples immediately after drawing, and a replacement battery for the box containing all samples just prior to posting to the laboratory.

3. Prepare the delivery box for use by:

- opening the delivery box and connecting the battery to the heat pad. As soon as connection is made, the heat pad will be drawing on the battery power
- placing the battery in the base of the box with the heat pad on top
- putting the Field Kit containing sample tubes on top of the heat pad.

4. When collecting samples pen side remember to replace the lid to reduce the samples being exposed to adverse cold conditions.

5. When the Veterinary Field Kit has been filled/all samples collected:

- check that all blood samples are secure in the Field Kit
- add the absorbent pad
- close the polystyrene lid and seal
- label with the CPHH
- place the Field Kit inside the clear bag and seal (do not place the Field Kit directly back into the outer cardboard box)
- make a copy of the γ-IFN testing form
- place the copy of the γ-IFN testing form in a waterproof zip seal plastic bag in the delivery box (if more than one delivery box is used, place the form in the first)
- prior to dispatching samples to the laboratory:
  - remove the battery used at pen side and replace with a fully charged battery
  - place the Field Kit (inside sealed bag) into the delivery box
  - seal the delivery box and ensure the APHA Newcastle address is clearly visible on the outer carton
  - if more than one delivery box is used, clearly mark the boxes with sequential numbers according to the order in which samples were collected (e.g. '1 of 5', '2 of 5' etc.)
  - mark the packing systems with 'IFNG test'.

Dispatch of Delivery Boxes

1. Delivery systems are reusable and the APHA Laboratory will return them to the submitting practice. To assist the laboratory staff in dispatching the boxes to the correct office, make sure that the outer cardboard box is **clearly marked with the name of the originating Practice**. Send the sealed delivery boxes by courier, to arrive at APHA Newcastle **by next day delivery before 09:00 on Thursday**.

2. Send the box(es) to the following address:

APHA Newcastle
Whitley Road
Longbenton
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE12 9SE

Direct queries to:

Gamma Interferon Testing Laboratory:
Tel: 0300 303 8269
Email: gammatest.newcastle@apha.gsi.gov.uk

Data Protection Act 1998: In addition to reporting the results back to the people named on this form, we may also use the data provided and the results produced for other purposes. Please see the data protection statement in our Price List or on our website www.gov.uk/apha

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.