



The Tuberculosis (England) Order 2014
The Tuberculosis (Scotland) Order 2007 (as amended)
The Tuberculosis (Wales) Order 2010 (as amended)

Automatic Animal and Public Health Restrictions following Disclosure of a Reactor or Inconclusive Reactor at an Official Diagnostic Test for Tuberculosis in Cattle, Buffalo or Bison

Your herd is under movement restrictions and its Officially Tuberculosis Free (OTF) status is suspended or withdrawn

You are receiving this information note because the Tuberculosis (TB) test carried out on the herd detailed below has revealed one or more reactors or inconclusive reactors (IRs). Whether this is the initial disclosing test or a follow-on test after finding reactors and inconclusive reactors at a previous test, the following legal requirements automatically apply to the herd keeper:

- you must restrict the movement of bovine animals (cattle, buffalo and bison) to the extent that they may not be moved on or off the premises on which the reactor or IR is kept without a licence issued by an Inspector
- every reactor must be marked and isolated pending removal from your holding. Every reactor and IR must be isolated from the negative testing bovine animals and from other animals. In Wales reactor(s) must be removed within ten working days, otherwise compensation paid may be reduced
- milk from TB reactors must not be placed in a bulk tank or used in any way for human consumption, and should not be fed untreated to calves or to other mammals in accordance with Regulation (EC) 853/2004¹
- where the reactor(s) or IR(s) reside(s) on premises with a milking herd you must inform any commercial buyer of your milk of the loss of the herd's OTF status at the outset of the breakdown.

Failure to comply with these restrictions or observe these requirements is an offence under section 73 of the Animal Health Act 1981

Any farm employee or agent authorised to act on the keeper's behalf must, as soon as possible, inform the registered keeper of the test failure and hand over this information note to the keeper, and it should be retained for the duration of the TB restrictions. This note will be completed each time reactors and IRs are disclosed at a TB test to remind keepers of their legal responsibilities.

What Happens Next

A Veterinary Inspector (VI) or Inspector from the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) will contact you and undertake a disease investigation. They will provide advice and discuss with you how this TB breakdown will be managed and what further action may be required. Visits are not undertaken in every case in England but may be required in some incidents to provide specific advice and gather additional information from your breakdown.

Name of Approved Veterinary Surgeon/Lay Tester/APHA Veterinary Inspector:	<input type="text"/>	Date	<input type="text"/>
Name of Recipient (the keeper or person authorised to act on keeper's behalf)	<input type="text"/>		
Name of Registered Keeper	<input type="text"/>	CPHH	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>		

¹ Regulation (EC) 853/2004, Annex III, Section IX, Chapter I, Point 4

Action You Must Now Take

Movements

Any cattle movements which do take place into and out of the restricted herd must comply with all relevant disease control, livestock movement and livestock identification legislation and must be accompanied by a licence issued by APHA. The prohibition on movement does not apply to bovine animals which are moved in an emergency to a place of slaughter or veterinary treatment so as to prevent the unnecessary suffering of that animal. In such cases full details must be given to an APHA Inspector at the earliest opportunity. APHA will normally arrange for the removal and the slaughter of TB reactor cattle. However, if you choose to arrange removal of your animals to have them slaughtered privately, you must first inform APHA and obtain the necessary movement licences and forms to do so. In that case, government compensation will not be paid, and any salvage value will be paid directly to you by the slaughterhouse.

Isolation

Reactors and IRs could present a risk of infection to the rest of your herd and any neighbouring herds and must now be immediately isolated from other animals pending removal to slaughter or re-testing (as applicable). Special consideration should be given to the suitability of facilities used for isolation, which should provide all possible protection against the risks of contamination or infection.

Milk from TB Reactors

The Food Standards Agency is the Central Competent Authority for food hygiene in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and Food Standards Scotland is the Central Competent Authority for food hygiene in Scotland. Together with the Local Authority they are the enforcing authorities for EU hygiene legislation. Regulation (EC) 853/2004², prescribes hygiene controls for raw milk, colostrum and dairy products and prohibits milk from TB reactor animals being used for human consumption. It is recommended that you do not feed milk from reactors or IRs to calves or other livestock on your holding. If fed, reactor milk may only be given to animals on the same farm, after suitable heat treatment e.g. after boiling or pasteurisation. The milk from TB reactors can be collected in the slurry system, but subsequent land spreading must be in accordance with a registered Waste Management Licence Exemption. To register contact either the:

- Environment Agency (EA) in England (or use the Defra Whole Farm Approach in England only)
- Natural Resources Wales (NRW), or
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) in Scotland.

Animal By-Products Regulations apply to milk, colostrum and products therefrom, when disposed of or used other than on the farm of origin. Please refer to guidance available on GOV.UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-for-the-animal-by-product-industry#using-milk-as-farm-animal-feed-or-disposing-of-it>

Until the OTF status of your herd is restored, milk from IRs and negative testing cows in your herd may only be used for human consumption if it is heat treated before it is placed on the market and the Food Business Operator (FBO) or person in charge must contact their milk purchaser to advise them of this.

Protecting Your Family

To safeguard your own health and that of your family, it is strongly recommended by the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland that you do not consume unpasteurised milk from your herd, and certainly not until the movement restrictions have been lifted by APHA at the end of the breakdown.

Cleansing and Disinfection

This is an important disease control measure. Under certain conditions TB bacteria can survive in the environment for a long time, so it is essential to cleanse and disinfect (C&D) thoroughly all buildings, fittings and equipment where TB test reactor animals have been kept. This applies not only after the initial reactors and IRs are found but also subsequently, if further reactors and IRs are disclosed. APHA will shortly serve a notice (BT05) on the keeper in cases where reactors have been identified detailing the requirements for C&D. The disinfectant used for C&D required by the notice must be approved for use against bovine TB and must be used at the recommended concentration. A list of approved disinfectants can be found on the Defra website. Please note that this notice (BT05) must be completed and returned to APHA before restrictions can be lifted.

Whilst your farm is under TB movement restrictions, manure and slurry must not be removed to other farms without prior written authorisation from APHA.

² Regulation (EC) 853/2004, Annex III, Section IX, Chapter I, Point 4

Biosecurity

Farm-to-farm movement of infected livestock is the most likely means of spreading animal diseases. Effective biosecurity and good animal husbandry practices are important measures in reducing the risk of TB infection in your herd. Feed stores and feeding areas should be protected from possible contamination from infected animals and wildlife TB hosts such as badgers or deer. Ensure perimeter fencing, including gateways, is adequate to prevent nose-to-nose contact with other animals and their excrement, saliva or urine. Contaminated clothes, boots, equipment and vehicles can carry disease from one farm to another so make sure you have effective cleansing and disinfection routines in place and make sure you and any visitors use them.

Your private vet will be able to assist you further in providing information and recommendations which are specific to your needs. A series of publications containing further advice and guidance, including the leaflet 'Dealing with TB in your herd' are available online through the APHA website with variations for England, Scotland and Wales.

Further Information Sources

Further information can be obtained from the following websites:

- GOV.UK
- Scottish Government
- Welsh Government at <http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/?lang=en>.
- Food Standards Agency at www.food.gov.uk
- Food Standards Scotland at www.foodstandards.gov.scot
- Your Local Authority Animal Health team

The Animal and Plant Health Agency is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs working to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.