Dealing with TB in your herd
What happens if TB is identified in your herd?

Contents

Section 1 : Breakdown in your herd ............................................................. 2
  Suspicion of TB in your herd ................................................................. 2
  Investigation of the TB breakdown .......................................................... 3
  Establishing the extent of movement restrictions ........................................... 4
  Dealing with milk quota ............................................................................. 5
Section 2 : Reactor animals ........................................................................ 6
  Valuation, slaughter and compensation ....................................................... 6
  Removal and slaughter of reactors by private arrangement ......................... 7
  Removal for slaughter ................................................................................. 8
  Post Mortem examination of reactor cattle .................................................. 9
Section 3 : Inconclusive Reactors ................................................................. 11
  Further testing of IRs identified within a breakdown ..................................... 11
  Private slaughter of IR ................................................................................ 12
Section 4 : Withdrawal of Officially Free TB status (OTFW) ......................... 13
  Cleansing and disinfection ......................................................................... 13
  Disposal of slurry and manure ...................................................................... 14
Section 5 : Testing during a breakdown ......................................................... 15
  Short Interval Tests ..................................................................................... 15
  Gamma Interferon tests for M bovis ............................................................ 15
  Further testing after removal of restrictions ................................................ 16
Section 6 : Movements on and off restricted premises .................................. 17
  Moving cattle between restricted linked holdings ..................................... 17
  Moving cattle off TB restricted premises ................................................... 17
  Movement to slaughter .............................................................................. 17
  Other requirements ...................................................................................... 18
  Movement to TB restricted and approved facilities in England .................. 18
  Moving cattle onto a TB restricted premises from an unrestricted premises ... 19
  Movement of carcasses from your premises ................................................. 19
  Further information ..................................................................................... 20
Section 1 : Breakdown in your herd

All herds will be classed as Officially TB Free (OTF) provided that they are up to date with their TB testing and there is no suspicion of TB infection. Once there is suspicion of TB in any animals within your herd, the herd will be put under restrictions and its OTF status will be suspended (OTFS).

If your TB status is suspended due to overdue testing, completion of that test will allow your herd to regain its TB free status. If your TB status becomes suspended due to suspicion of disease in an animal at a slaughterhouse inspection, but culture of the lesion is negative, your herd may regain its TB free status.

If at least one TB test reactor and/or an animal sent to slaughter as a culture-positive lesion is identified in your herd it will become a breakdown and your herd will be subject to all the actions applied to breakdown herds.

Suspicion of TB in your herd

Once we suspect infection with TB, your herd will be automatically put under movement restrictions.

Suspicion that animals in your herd may be infected with TB will occur when:

- at least one animal in your herd has failed the tuberculin skin test and is classified as a reactor
- an animal from your herd has lesions which are suspicious of TB when inspected in a slaughterhouse, at a knackers’ yard or hunt kennel
- one or more inconclusive reactors (IRs) have been found in your herd and you have had cattle infected with TB on your holding within the last three years
- clinical signs which are suspicious of TB are seen in a live animal and following slaughter lesions which are suspicious of TB are seen at the post mortem inspection. Clinical signs of TB can include weakness, lethargy, difficulty breathing, chronic coughing and emaciation

It is important that you comply with the following legal requirements that will automatically apply:

- you must restrict the movement of bovine animals 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 every reactor and IR must be isolated from the negative testing bovine animals and from other animals
- milk from TB reactors must not be placed in a bulk tank or used in any way for human consumption, and where the reactor resides on premises with a milking herd you must inform any commercial buyer of your milk of the loss of the herd’s OTF status
Milk from TB reactors

Milk from TB reactor animals must not be used for human consumption. It is not recommended that you feed milk from reactors or IRs to calves or other livestock, unless it has previously been boiled or pasteurised. 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. 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 the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

Investigation of the TB breakdown

A veterinary officer or inspector from AHVLA will contact you and undertake a disease investigation in the early stages of your breakdown. They will provide advice and complete a disease report on the incident in your herd. In order to complete this, the inspector will require information on your farming enterprise and how it is managed.

The investigation will assess the TB breakdown on your farm, attempting to identify its origin and instigating control measures to limit its spread to other herds. The veterinary officer/inspector conducting the investigation will give you advice to help you reduce the risk of spread of bovine TB and eradicate it from your herd, allowing the restrictions to be lifted as soon as possible.

Licences can be issued by your local AHVLA office where the conditions necessary to eliminate any risk associated with that movement can be satisfied.

Movements between parts of the premises under the same movement restrictions can be made without the need for a movement licence for TB purposes, although other legal requirements for movements still apply, such as livestock movement standstill and recording and reporting requirements.

You will be given appropriate advice on the following:

- public health issues and implications of the incident
- reducing the impact of the restrictions on your business
- managing the risk of infection spread in your herd and to other herds
- licences that can be issued or any additional conditions that may be necessary, to allow you to effectively manage your livestock and your business during the restriction period
The veterinary inspector will also:

- assess the possible sources of infection
- assess and advise on any permitted movements that are necessary to manage your enterprise whilst under restriction
- establish the boundaries of your holding and any possible contact with adjacent and other herds
- establish if there are other TB susceptible species on the farm
- explain the testing regime and how this may vary depending on the outcome of the post-mortem examinations and laboratory tests on reactors

You should have the following information available for the disease investigation:

- livestock movement records that will not be recorded on the Cattle Tracing System (CTS), going back at least two months before the last clear bovine TB herd test (for example movements where there is a BCMS link)
- any information that may help to establish the source, and the possible spread, of the disease

**Establishing the extent of movement restrictions**

All parts of your premises will be under automatic restrictions until the breakdown assessment has been carried out.

Once the assessment has been completed you may be issued with a revised movement restriction notice that amends the extent of the movement restrictions in place.

The inspector’s assessment will ensure that only those areas that need to be placed under restriction are included in the movement restrictions.

While the primary concern of AHVLA is to ensure disease is contained, controlled and eradicated, in exceptional circumstances it may be possible to exclude certain premises from your TB herd movement restrictions.
Dealing with milk quota

While your herd is under restrictions due to TB, you may need to consider how you will manage your milk quota. AHVLA strongly advises you to consult the relevant scheme rules or to contact the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) for the latest information.

You can get more information on milk quota from:

The Rural Payments Agency
Milk Quotas
PO Box 277
Exeter
EX5 1WB
Helpline: 01392 266466
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-milk-quota-scheme
Section 2: Reactor animals

A reactor is an animal that has failed a test for bovine TB. This may be the skin test, the gamma interferon blood test or any other approved test for TB. Animals that have inconclusive test results at two consecutive tests are also classified as reactors.

Reactor animals will be removed as quickly as possible to help control the disease, to help reduce the risk of spread to other animals in the herd and to help your herd regain its Officially TB Free status.

Reactor cattle should be considered as presenting a risk of infection to the rest of your herd and you must immediately isolate them until they are sent for slaughter.

Any reactors identified will be tagged using a reactor tag and orange marker spray along the back. This will enable us to ensure the correct animal is slaughtered.

Milk from any cow classified as a reactor must not be used for human consumption and must be withheld from the bulk tank pending removal of the animal to slaughter, as required by the TB herd restrictions. You should not feed untreated milk to calves or other livestock, as it could infect them and spread and prolong the TB breakdown on your farm.

The milk from reactor cows can be collected in the slurry system, but subsequent land spreading must be in accordance with a registered Waste Management Licence Exemption available from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency or the SEPA Helpline 08708 506 506.

AHVLA will arrange for valuation, transportation and slaughter of reactors and any associated costs will be met by the Scottish Government. The animals will be examined post-mortem to check for lesions that are typical of TB and to check the extent and location of these lesions. Samples of tissues from the reactors may be taken for laboratory culture and molecular (strain) typing of *M. bovis* to assist with the investigation into the origin of the TB breakdown. You will be notified by letter of the results of any investigations.

Valuation, slaughter and compensation

Any animals that have been classified as reactors or direct contacts to control bovine TB will be compulsorily removed from your herd and slaughtered. You will receive compensation for the loss of such animals.
Compensation is not paid for reactors:

- which die on your premises before slaughter, regardless of the cause of death
- which are born before 1st August 1996
- imported from the Republic of Ireland which do not pass the post import test
- which do not comply with the Cattle Identification (Scotland) Regulations 2007. You must ensure that the identification documents and tagging requirements for the animals that are to be valued are in order

For cattle without passports the presumption is that their market value will be zero, as those animals may not be traded on the open market.

Compensation for animals slaughtered because of bovine TB is normally determined by one of the following methods:

- agreement between AHVLA and the owner
- valuation by joint appointment of valuer

You should provide any relevant information at the time of valuation, for example, milk yield records and pedigree certificates.

An animal can only be classed as ‘pedigree’ when a full pedigree certificate, meeting the requirements of Commission Decision 84/419/EEC, has been issued by a recognised breed society by the date the animal is identified as a reactor. If a pedigree certificate is not available the animal will be valued as commercial stock. Cattle in the process of being graded-up will also be valued as non-pedigree stock.

**Removal and slaughter of reactors by private arrangement**

The removal, transport and slaughter is usually arranged by AHVLA though you can arrange the slaughter of the animals privately if you wish. Where an owner slaughters an animal voluntarily and privately (which must be agreed with the Scottish Government) no compensation is payable.

If you want AHVLA to arrange the slaughter, we will:

- arrange for the payment and removal of your animals to slaughter
- provide you with the relevant documentation to be completed
If you wish to arrange the slaughter privately, then:

- tell your local AHVLA office who will provide the relevant forms that you must complete and which must go with the animals to the slaughterhouse
- check that the ear-tag numbers on the documents match the numbers on the animals' official ear tags
- inform AHVLA where and when the animals are to be slaughtered
- AHVLA will provide the movement licence and will arrange the post mortem at the place of slaughter
- ensure that the relevant paperwork/forms accompany the animal/s to the slaughterhouse

If you choose to arrange removal of your animals to have them slaughtered privately, compensation will not be paid, and any salvage value will be paid directly to you by the slaughterhouse.

You need to be aware that the animal carcase may be condemned if TB lesions are found, and the salvage payable from the slaughterhouse may be reduced accordingly, or no payment made. If this is the case, AHVLA would not be responsible for compensating for the reduced payment, or for any costs associated with the disposal of the carcase.

**Removal for slaughter**

In exceptional cases reactors may be slaughtered on your premises and the carcass removed for post mortem examination and disposal. This will be arranged where your animal is unfit to travel or cannot be considered as fit for human consumption, for example within a drug withdrawal period.

In other cases AHVLA will be responsible for the arrangement and cost of removal of the reactor, subsequent slaughter and disposal of the carcass if it is unfit for human consumption. The haulier under contract to remove your animal will contact you to agree a mutually convenient time and place and you should assist with the loading of your animal.
You must ensure that:

- the correct documentation is sent with your animals to the slaughterhouse. Please check that the ear tag numbers and the documents match
- you present the correct animals for collection for slaughter. AHVLA will not be responsible for payment of compensation if the wrong animal is presented for slaughter and failure to present a reactor for slaughter could be a breach of the TB Order
- you are still responsible for the welfare of the affected animals prior to their removal to slaughter, in particular ensuring that they are fit to be transported in accordance with The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Scotland) Regulations 2006
- your cattle are of an acceptable state of cleanliness for hygienic slaughter in accordance with The Food Hygiene (Scotland) Regulations 2006, as amended

The legislation is available on the UK Legislation website http://www.legislation.gov.uk/. Alternatively, copies can be ordered from The Stationery Office Ltd (TSO) either via the TSO Online Bookshop, by e-mail to customer.services@tso.co.uk, or by post to:

TSO
PO Box 29
Norwich
NR3 1GN
Tel: 0870 600 5522
Fax: 0870 600 5533

**Post mortem examination of reactor cattle**

The reactor carcase will be examined, where appropriate, to look for evidence of infection and where necessary, to collect tissue samples for laboratory diagnosis. The nature and extent of the lesions in the carcase may indicate whether the disease was in an early or advanced stage or may indicate how the animal was infected. If your tuberculin test revealed several reactors, samples may not be collected from every animal slaughtered. The laboratory will attempt to isolate bovine TB from the samples, which will take at least six weeks. The results will help us to understand the nature of the outbreak.

AHVLA will write to you with the results of any post mortem examination undertaken and of any results of samples sent for culture.

If lesions are detected at the post mortem or if culture results are positive for *M. bovis*, the TB status of your herd will be withdrawn (OTFW). If your herd status is withdrawn, the results from the last skin test may be reviewed and re-interpreted using the severe interpretation where this is appropriate. This interpretation lowers the criteria for an animal to be declared a reactor and may result in further animals being classed as reactors.

If bovine TB is not detected in any reactors from your herd, either at the post-mortem examination or in the laboratory, your herd status will remain suspended (OTFS) and further herd tests will be required to make sure that no infection remains on your farm.
In certain cases your herd status may be withdrawn if a high risk of TB infection is identified.

Further testing of your herd will be required to make sure that no infection remains on your farm and the number of tests and the interpretation of those tests will depend on the status of your herd.

- If the OTF status of your herd remains suspended you will need to complete one clear test
- If the OTF status of your herd is withdrawn you will need to complete two clear consecutive tests

The interpretation of these tests will depend on the risk of infection in your herd. TB skin tests are usually carried out at a ‘Standard Interpretation’. Where there is a higher risk of infection in herds that are OTFW we may use a ‘Severe Interpretation’ for some tests in order to increase the sensitivity of the test and decrease the possibility of leaving infected cattle in your herd.

Please remember that if TB is not found by post-mortem examination or by culturing Mycobacterium bovis in the laboratory, this does not mean that the disease was not present in the animal, or that the animal had not been in contact with bovine TB. In the early stages of the disease (in particular), it is often not possible to see lesions with the naked eye and due to the nature of the organism, it is not possible to culture from samples in every case.
Section 3: Inconclusive Reactors

The TB infection status of Inconclusive Reactors (IRs) is uncertain. Any animal classed as an IR must immediately be detained on the farm and isolated from the rest of the herd to reduce the risk of spreading TB to other cattle. The identification of an IR will automatically result in movement restriction being applied to your herd until AHVLA advise you otherwise.

AHVLA will contact you to confirm you have an IR and give instructions on what you need to do. What happens next mainly depends on whether or not reactors have been found in the same herd.

The whole herd will remain under movement restrictions and the herd will lose its OTF status if there are:

- reactor animals in addition to the IR, or
- the herd has had a TB breakdown in the last three years that led to the withdrawal of its OTF status, or
- the OTF status has been withdrawn

In all other cases the herd movement restrictions will be lifted and only the IRs will be put under restriction and the herd will not automatically lose its OTF status.

Further testing of IRs identified within a breakdown

Inconclusive reactors (IRs) are tested again after 60 days, either on their own or, where reactors have also been found, with the rest of the herd:

- if the IR tests clear, it can rejoin the herd
- if it is still an IR it will be classed as a reactor and removed and slaughtered in the same way as a test reactor
- it may become a reactor
Private slaughter of IR

You can have an IR privately slaughtered at your own expense. You must tell the local AHVLA office giving at least five working days’ notice, as they will have to issue a licence allowing the IR to travel to a slaughterhouse of your choice. They will arrange for the IR to be examined in the slaughterhouse for any evidence of bovine TB and may take tissue samples for culture. Compensation will not be paid for any IR that is privately slaughtered.

If you opt to have an IR slaughtered rather than wait for the outcome of its next TB test, this could lead to additional testing and/or prolong the restrictions on your herd. You should discuss the consequences with your case veterinary officer or your local AHVLA office.

If an IR dies on the farm or has to be put down for welfare reasons you will also need to tell your local AHVLA office. You will not receive compensation for IRs that die on your farm before slaughter.

If an IR dies on the farm or is privately slaughtered and post-mortem examination indicates that the animal was infected with bovine TB, AHVLA will apply TB movement restrictions (unless they are already in place) and test the rest of the herd.
Section 4 : Withdrawal of Officially Free TB status (OTFW)

The TB status of your herd will be withdrawn as a result of:

- one or more reactors where lesions are detected at post mortem, or
- tissue samples taken from one or more reactors are culture positive, or
- tissue samples taken from a slaughterhouse animal are culture positive, or
- an epidemiological link which suggests your herd will have a further breakdown if no additional measures are taken

By considering risk factors at an early stage we could prevent disease spreading and reduce the long term impacts on the herd.

If the OTF status of your herd is withdrawn, additional measures will be taken to ensure all risks of spread of disease from the infected animals have been eliminated:

- any animals being moved from your herd during the infected period will be traced and tested if appropriate
- any neighbouring herds will be investigated and tested if appropriate
- any additional animals which are at risk of infection may be considered for slaughter as direct contacts (DCs)
- slaughter of remaining animals in the group or herd may be considered if infection is severe and extensive
- compulsory cleansing and disinfection

Where appropriate, for example if yours is a milk producing business, AHVLA will notify your local health and environmental health authorities with the results of the post mortems or the positive culture.

Cleansing and disinfection

Cleansing and disinfection (C & D) is important to reduce the risk of spreading infection to cattle or to other susceptible animals on your farm.

Under certain conditions *M. bovis* can survive in the environment for a long time and therefore it is a requirement under notice, served by AHVLA, to thoroughly clean and disinfect all buildings where reactor cattle have been kept. It is also good practice to consider biosecurity and possibly additional cleansing and disinfection of areas which may be a risk.
The disinfectant used for the C&D required by the Notice must be approved by Defra for use against bovine TB and must be used at the appropriate concentration. You should check the list of approved disinfectants on the AHVLA website:

It is particularly important to clean and disinfect any fittings or equipment that may have come into contact with sputum, faeces or milk from TB reactors.

AHVLA will serve the Notice (BT5), detailing the requirements for C&D at the beginning of your breakdown and you will need to sign the declaration and return the Notice to the local AHVLA office when the required C & D has been completed before TB restrictions can be lifted at the end of the breakdown.

There will be other circumstances when this Notice is served, for example extensive infection or vacation of a premises where reactors have been located.

If you are vacating the premises and other unrestricted cattle are to move to the premises, you would need to carry out full C & D of all the buildings used by any of your cattle and to leave the grazing ground empty of cattle for a minimum period of 60 days.

Therefore restrictions will normally remain in place until 60 days after the last of your cattle have vacated the premises.

Disposal of slurry and manure

You can use slurry or manure on your own farm land while TB restrictions are in place, although you should consider the risk of spreading the disease to other stock or wildlife.

If your status has been withdrawn the BT5 notice will specify if you require a licence to remove manure, slurry or other animal waste from the premises under restriction.

Best practice is that bedding and manure from premises under restriction should be sprayed with an approved disinfectant, then removed and stacked for at least three weeks prior to being spread. Slurry should ideally be stored for a minimum of six months before being spread.

Care should be taken to prevent any livestock coming into contact with this bedding and manure.

If at all possible, manure and slurry from premises under TB restrictions should be disposed of on land that is to be used for arable cropping. However, if manure or slurry has to be disposed on grassland, it should be spread at least 60 days before any cattle are allowed to graze. Where possible, methods of spreading potentially infected manure and slurry should avoid the generation of aerosols that can increase the risk of airborne transmission of M. bovis.
Section 5: Testing during a breakdown

To ensure TB infection is cleared from a herd a series of tests must be carried out. These skin tests are called short interval tests. Occasionally a blood test, the gamma interferon test, may be used.

Short Interval Tests

These short interval tests usually include all animals in the herd and are carried out at minimum intervals of 60 days.

The 60 day period is from the date the last reactor left your herd or from the date any reactors or inconclusive reactors were effectively isolated from the rest of the herd.

If the TB status of your herd is suspended (OTFS) it will need to pass one short interval test following removal of any reactors, including the resolution of any inconclusive reactors by re-testing.

If the TB status of your herd is withdrawn (OTFW) it will need to pass two consecutive short interval tests following removal of any reactors including the resolution of any inconclusive reactors by re-testing.

Where herds are OTFW and to ensure your herd is cleared of infection as quickly as possible, we apply severe interpretation at the first short interval test following disclosure of reactors where lesions are detected.

Gamma Interferon tests for *M. bovis*

The Gamma Interferon blood test is a supplementary TB test that may be used in some breakdown situations to improve the detection of infected animals.

This test does not replace the tuberculin skin test, which continues to be the primary screening test for bovine TB, but will improve the chances of detecting infected cattle, thereby speeding up the resolution of TB incidents.

The Tuberculosis Orders provide for compulsory slaughter of animals failing any diagnostic test for bovine TB, including the Gamma Interferon test. You are entitled to the same compensation arrangements for any Gamma Interferon test reactor and they will be removed in the same way as skin test reactors.
Further testing after removal of restrictions

After the movement restrictions have been lifted, your herd will have regained its OTF status but may still need to undergo further tuberculin tests to ensure that:

- no infected animals have been missed in previous tests, and
- no re-infection has occurred

OTFS herds return to routine testing after restrictions are lifted.
For OTFW herds that have regained OTF status a further skin test is needed 6 - 12 months later.
If the test is negative, your herd will return to its usual routine testing.
Section 6: Movements on and off restricted premises

There will be circumstances when you will wish to move cattle either on to or off your premises, either for management, breeding, slaughter, sale, or contract rearing.

No movements of cattle will be permitted unless under a licence issued by your local AHVLA office.

Your case officer will discuss what movements will be permitted for your business and how to apply for a licence. Alternatively, you should contact your local office to seek guidance.

Movements on and off your premises will be subject to a veterinary risk assessment.

Applications for any licence must be at least five days before the planned movement to guarantee receipt of a licence in time for the movement to take place.

If the restrictions are in place because TB testing on your premises is overdue (zero tolerance), the TB status of your herd will be unknown and licences to move cattle on to or off the premises will not be issued.

Moving cattle between restricted linked holdings

You can move animals between the linked holdings of your premises under the same movement restriction without a licence, though other regulations may still apply such as pre-movement testing, standstill rules and reporting of movements.

A licence is required to move animals between premises under separate movement restrictions.

Moving cattle off TB restricted premises

A licence may be issued, providing the risk of spread of disease is low, for movements off your premises. The following movements can be considered by your local office, but it is important to remember that licences are necessary for these movements and that they will only be issued if the movement does not present a risk to the spread of disease.

Movement to slaughter

You may be issued with a general movement licence, which will mean that you do not need to apply for a movement licence every time you take clear testing cattle to slaughter and the licence does not need to stay with the animals whilst they are moving.

In high risk situations, where a general licence cannot be permitted, you will need a specific movement licence which you must apply for beforehand and must stay with the animals during transport. Ear-tag numbers of cattle to be moved must be provided to the office for inclusion in this licence. It will specify which animals can move, only allows a single specific movement and is for a defined period.
You must apply for this licence at least 5 days prior to the planned movement in order to guarantee receipt of a licence in time for the movement to take place.

As well as the required movement licence, you must make sure that the animals travel to slaughter with their official identification documents (passport or certificate of Cattle Tracing System registration), and the necessary food chain information (FCI).

You will need additional, specific documentation to send reactors, IRs and DCs to slaughter and this will be provided by AHVLA. Additionally, there is a requirement to mark all animals being sent to slaughter from a TB restricted premises with an orange stripe along the back.

AHVLA is not responsible for any loss or inconvenience you may suffer if you fail to provide all the necessary paperwork for animals going to slaughter under licence.

Other requirements

When moving animals to slaughter there are other requirements you should take into account:

- Cleanliness - all cattle sent to an abattoir must be of an acceptable cleanliness for hygienic slaughter. The Food Standards Agency has a publication on the different aspects of clean livestock on its website www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/cleanbeefsaf1007.pdf or ordered from Food Standards Agency Publications by telephoning 0845 606 0667

- Cattle born or reared in the UK before 1 August 1996 are permanently excluded from the food chain and it is illegal to send them for slaughter for human consumption. At the end of their productive lives, they must be treated in the same way as fallen stock

Movement to TB restricted and approved facilities in England

Cattle may be licensed to move from one restricted premises to another, but the TB status at the premises of destination must be of the same or a higher risk than that at the farm of origin.

Slaughter gatherings, AFUs, AQUs, TB isolation units, dedicated sales and herd dispersal sales for TB restricted cattle cannot be approved in Scotland. Cattle from Scotland may be authorised by licence to move to any of these facilities in England, dependant on a satisfactory risk assessment. Cattle from dedicated sales in England cannot be moved into Scotland.

Further information on approved facilities for TB restricted cattle is available from your local AHVLA office or on the AHVLA website at www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/disease-control/bovine-tb/moving-cattle/
Moving cattle onto a TB restricted premises from an unrestricted premises

You may apply for a licence enabling the movement of any cattle from unrestricted premises on to your premises. It will be necessary to complete your first short interval test (SIT) before a licence can be issued to allow restocking of your herd.

You should contact your local AHVLA office if you need replacement suckler calves or a breeding bull. AHVLA will normally issue a specific licence for these classes of animals unless there is a high disease risk or your TB testing is overdue.

Movement of carcasses from your premises

If an inconclusive reactor (IR), direct contact (DC) or reactor dies or has to be slaughtered on your farm for welfare reasons, you should inform the local AHVLA office immediately. (All offices have a 24 hour contact service available).

You do not need a licence to move the carcase but you must tell us before moving it as AHVLA may wish to carry out a post-mortem.

Remember:

- never wait to contact us before arranging to have an animal slaughtered if the delay puts the animal’s welfare at risk
- you will not get compensation for reactors, IRs and DCs that die on your farm before they are due to be slaughtered
- any carcases of reactors, DCs or IRs sent to a slaughterhouse must have a notice issued by the local AHVLA office

In addition to these TB requirements, other conditions must be complied with when removing fallen stock.

For more information see the AHVLA website at: www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/disease-control/abp/fallen-stock-faq/

Details of the National Fallen Stock Company (NFSCo) can be found at www.nfsco.co.uk or telephone 0845 054 8888

Further information on approved animal by-product plants is available from your local AHVLA office or from the AHVLA website at www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla
Further information

Contact your local AHVLA office for further practical advice and guidance.

Devolution of the responsibility and powers in regard to animal health legislation has meant that there may be significant differences in the policies regarding bovine TB in England, Wales and Scotland. GOV.UK, and the Scottish Government and Welsh Government websites provide up to date detail on these policies.

If you farm on the border of England and Scotland, you should be aware that the location of your animals at the time of the test would influence which protocols are relevant to you.
Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency 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 the Food Standards Agency.

Publication reference number: AG-TBYHS-03
Published: April 2014

© Crown copyright 2012
You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/ or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk