

The Tuberculosis (England) Order 2006 - pre-movement testing of cattle

The above Order came into force on 27th March 2006.

With effect from that date, all cattle on farms that are required by DEFRA to be subject to routine testing for TB on an annual or biennial basis will be subject to pre-movement testing.

All cattle to be moved from the farm of origin will be required to have been tested negative for TB in the 60 days prior to the movement.

Exemptions to this rule are the following:

1. Calves under six weeks old.
2. Cattle that have been present on holding for no more than 30 days.
3. Cattle that are subject to annual TB testing for public health reasons only.
4. Bulls at an approved semen collection centre.
5. Cattle moved direct to a slaughterhouse or slaughter market.
6. Cattle moved to an exempt or approved finishing unit.
7. Cattle moved to an exempt market; an exempt market is one where cattle can only be moved to an exempt finishing unit, a slaughterhouse, or returned home.
8. Cattle moved to an approved 'collecting centre' for TB restricted cattle.
9. Cattle moved to common land over which the keeper has a registered right of common, or moved to a farm which shares the same rights to graze over the common land.
10. Movement of cattle within a sole occupancy group.
11. Movement of cattle for veterinary treatment and return to their premises of origin, or to be killed or go direct to slaughter.
12. Movement of cattle to a show or series of shows, provided they are returned direct to the premises of origin after the show or shows.
13. Movement of cattle from herds that are in a low risk area (i.e. routine TB tests are carried out at intervals of three or four years).
14. Any movement licensed by a Veterinary Inspector.

TB test records

As soon as practicable after the results of the test have been read by an Inspector, he/she will give the keeper of the animals a record in writing of the results of the test.

The keeper of any animal which has been tested shall:

1. retain the records of the results of the test for three years and 60 days from the date of the injection of tuberculin;
2. produce such records when requested by an Inspector.

Farmers are advised to take a copy of the results of the test (undertaken during the previous 60 days) with them when presenting cattle moved off a farm, subject to a one or two year TB testing regime, for sale at market.

Cost of testing

Herd owners are now expected to cover the costs of the Veterinary Inspector's time to carry out pre-movement tests, whilst the Government will continue to fund the provision of tuberculin and all routine surveillance testing.

Parish testing intervals

Details of testing intervals for each parish are available from the State Veterinary Service (www.svs.gov.uk).

Please note

This leaflet is not an authoritative interpretation of the law and is intended only for guidance.

For further information, please contact **Environmental Protection, Animal Health Section, Swindon Borough Council, Premier House, Station Road, SN1 1TZ**

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Review Date – 12 June 2007