

Changes to TB Cattle Movement Controls

Bovine TB Information Note 05/12

October 2012

From **1st January 2013**, there will be some changes to the rules around movements of cattle on and off TB-restricted premises in England. These build upon other tightening of cattle controls introduced in July 2012. See <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animal-diseases/a-z/bovine-tb/publications/> for details.

What is changing?

The following changes will be introduced from 1st January 2013:

1. Re-stocking of Officially TB Free status suspended (OTFS) herds will only be permitted after the herd's first post-breakdown test (after any identified reactors have been removed) and subject to a satisfactory veterinary risk assessment. This change will bring such herds in line with the conditions already in place for OTF status withdrawn (OTFW) herds;
2. The window for movements of cattle from TB restricted herds will be reduced from 60 to 30 days from the day of their last tuberculin skin test with negative results. However, movements to slaughter (direct or via an Approved Finishing Unit or slaughter gathering) will continue to be permitted within 60 days of a test with negative results;
3. The current moratorium on new Approved Quarantine Units (AQU) will continue, and existing AQUs will be phased out, i.e. from 1st January 2013 existing AQUs will not be able to re-stock; and
4. Sanctions against operators of Approved Finishing Units (AFU) that breach operating conditions will be reviewed on a case by case basis, with the licence to operate being removed for serious breaches.

What will cattle owners need to do and when?

All cattle keepers should familiarise themselves with these changes. Further information will be available from your local AHVLA office and the AHVLA website, details below.

Why are these changes being made?

These changes will help further reduce the risks of spreading TB through cattle movements whilst maintaining opportunities for cattle keepers affected by TB movement restrictions to continue trading. They will also ensure our cattle movement controls are compliant with EU legal requirements and help us to continue to secure much needed EU co-financing for our TB eradication plan.

Q&A

Have these measures been discussed with industry representatives?

Yes. Stakeholder groups provided feedback on our proposals. The Animal Health and Welfare Board for England (AHWBE) and its TB Eradication Advisory Group for England (TBEAG) considered the feedback from stakeholders and endorsed the proposed changes.

Will I be affected by these changes?

Owners of TB breakdown herds and AQUs will be most directly affected. However, those with a business operating model that depends on the continuous throughput of replacement stock (e.g. beef finishers) should consider putting in place contingency plans to mitigate the impacts of their herd being restricted for TB control purposes.

I operate an Approved Quarantine Unit, what are my options now?

You should contact your local AHVLA office to discuss what might be possible. There are a number of options – for example, provided the calves you purchase are only moved from the AQU to slaughter (either directly or via an Approved Finishing Unit) you could consider applying to the AHVLA for the unit to be re-registered as a 'rearing' AFU.

Will reducing the movement off window to 30 days effectively mean that TB affected farm businesses will no longer be able to sell cattle at the TB restricted sales?

TB affected farm businesses will be able to continue to sell cattle at TB restricted sales. However, the option of moving cattle from TB restricted sales to live on other farms (except AFUs) will no longer be available from 1st January 2013. Currently over 80% of movements from these sales are to slaughter, either directly or via an AFU. Restricting

movements from TB restricted sales to slaughter either directly or via an AFU will mean that farmers will continue to be able to move cattle off their farms to these sales within 60 days of a clear test.

Contacts

If you have any further questions on how these changes will affect you, please contact your local AHVLA office. Contact details are available at:

<http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/contact-us/index.htm>

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www.defra.gov.uk/animal-diseases/a-z/bovine-tb