

Bovine TB Information Note 01/16

Compulsory post-movement testing in the Low Risk Area

10 March 2016

From 6 April 2016, farmers in the Low Risk Area (LRA) of England will need to arrange post-movement tests for cattle bought from herds in annual (or more frequent) surveillance testing areas of England and Wales. This enhanced control supports the important objective of achieving Officially TB free status for the LRA, which we are on track to do by 2019.

Post-movement testing will not be required for cattle slaughtered within 120 days of arriving in the LRA or that are moved to a Licensed Finishing Unit approved by APHA.

Herd owners will be responsible for ensuring they comply with TB testing rules and will need to organise and pay for the post-movement testing of cattle brought in from those parts of England and Wales where herds are subject to annual (or more frequent) TB surveillance testing. Tests must be completed between 60 and 120 days after an animal has joined an LRA herd. Government-funded TB tests scheduled to take place within the 60-120 day post-movement testing window can be considered valid post-movement tests.

Cattle that must be post-movement tested cannot be moved off the premises (other than to slaughter either directly or via a slaughter gathering, or a Licensed Finishing Unit or an Approved Finishing Unit) until the test has been completed with negative results.

Exemptions – Permitted Movements

In addition to cattle slaughtered within 120 days of arriving in the LRA there are a small number of further exemptions to the requirement to post-movement test i.e.

- i. The movement of a bovine animal directly to one of the following premises in the LRA:
 - a market from which all animals go directly to slaughter;
 - an exempt market;
 - an approved collecting centre; and
 - a Licensed Finishing Unit.
- ii. Movement to a place of veterinary treatment in the LRA provided that the animal is returned direct to its premises of origin after the treatment, or is killed, or goes directly to slaughter.

- iii. The movement of a bovine animal to an agricultural show in the LRA that does not involve a stay of more than 24 hours or housing of that animal at the showground, provided that the animal either goes directly from the show to slaughter or is returned directly to its premises of origin after the show.

If any bovine animal intended to be moved to slaughter, or to one of the premises listed above, remains on the holding of arrival for more than 120 days the post-movement test will be regarded as overdue. Movement restrictions will be imposed on the receiving herd until the moved animals have been tested, with negative results, at the owner's expense.

Further information

Guidance on [TB testing intervals for 2016](#) is available on GOV.UK, including a GB map of the TB testing intervals.

Please visit the [TB Hub](#) for more information on this new policy and more general information on Bovine TB.

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