

# Herd Keeper's Guidance on Requirements for TB Testing

This document is for informational purposes only and does not purport to be a legal instrument.

This document aims to summarise the requirements and prohibitions which arise for Herd Keepers engaged in TB Testing. Herd Keepers' must adhere to a number of legal requirements arising from the Domestic and EU provisions detailed below.

- Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 (No 15 of 2013).
- Animal Health and Welfare (Bovine Tuberculosis) Regulations 2015 (S.I. No 58 of 2015).
- Bovine Tuberculosis (Attestation of the State and General Provisions) Order, 1999 (S.I. No. 277/1999).
- European Communities (Animal Remedies) (No. 2) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 786/2007).
- European Communities (Identification of Bovines) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 77/2009).
- Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs.
- Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008

## DO – General Advice

- ✓ Complete form ER83 (if you are a dairy farmer) – pre-declaration of Beef Breed Suckler Cows and submit to your RVO before commencement of the test. It is available from the RVO or online at the Department's website at <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie>.
- ✓ Once your herd test has been completed and is clear, before moving animals off your holding check with your Veterinary Practitioner to ensure that the test results have been reported on the Department's Animal Health Computer System (AHCS).
- ✓ Notify your RVO if your herd no longer has stock.

## **DO before and during the test – Summary of Legal Requirements**

- ✓ Ensure there are adequate handling and testing facilities on your holding to allow the test to be completed accurately and safely on the scheduled date.
- ✓ Ensure adequate assistance is provided to allow the test to be completed accurately and safely.
- ✓ Ensure any routine medication (e.g. worm and fluke dosing) has had its withdrawal period expired before the commencement of the test.
- ✓ Ensure all treatments are recorded on your Animal Remedies Register.
- ✓ Obtain veterinary certification where animals require urgent treatment prior to a test.
- ✓ Notify the testing practitioner of any medication administered.
- ✓ Ensure all animals are properly tagged and registered.
- ✓ Ensure any temporary brass tagged animals are properly identified with two plastic tags.
- ✓ Account for all animals listed on your AIM herd profile or herd register.
- ✓ Keep your herd register up to date.
- ✓ Complete the herd test on time.
- ✓ Present for testing all animals, regardless of ownership, on your holding. It is optional to test calves born on your holding that are less than 6 weeks of age.
- ✓ If animals move into your holding between starting and completing a test, present them for testing.
- ✓ Present all animals on both days of the test.
- ✓ Notify the Regional Veterinary Office (RVO) and the testing Veterinary Practitioner of any animals that die between injection on day 1 and reading on day 2.
- ✓ Notify the testing Veterinary Practitioner of any animals on your herd register that are not present for the test and the reasons why.
- ✓ Give all passports to your Veterinary Practitioner prior to commencement of a test.
- ✓ Complete and sign an ER11 form if requested declaring that all eligible animals have been presented for test.
- ✓ Present any animal for testing when requested to do so, including additional blood tests.

## **DO after the test – Summary of Legal Requirements**

- ✓ Only move clear animals from a restricted holding direct to slaughter. Such animals do not need a movement permit and may be moved with their passport and the FCI declaration (Food chain information for cattle) available from the RVO or online at <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/foodchaininformation>.
- ✓ Isolate reactors and inconclusive reactors on your holding.
- ✓ Ensure milk from reactors, inconclusive reactors or animals showing signs of TB is immediately withheld and not included in the milk dispatched to the processor.
- ✓ Facilitate the removal of reactors.
- ✓ Retain a record of disposal of milk from any reactors or inconclusive reactors from the date of test.
- ✓ Disinfect your holding or other land as directed.
- ✓ Give all surplus passports to your Veterinary Practitioner.
- ✓ Co-operate with herd inspections.

## **DO NOT – Summary of Legal Requirements**

- ✗ Do not treat animals with veterinary medication including wormers and flukicides once you receive a notification to test, from the Department, except if treatment is urgently advised and certified by a veterinary practitioner.
- ✗ Do not treat reactor herds with veterinary medication including wormers and flukicides except if treatment is urgently advised and certified by a veterinary practitioner as further tests may be required.
- ✗ Do not move animals off your holding between starting and completing a test.
- ✗ Do not allow your stock to mix with stock from another herd or keep animals under more than one herdnumber on your holding.
- ✗ Do not slaughter animals treated with veterinary medicine prior to the expiry of the withdrawal period.
- ✗ Do not drink raw milk from reactor or inconclusive reactor animals.
- ✗ Do not feed milk, from reactors or inconclusive reactors, that has not been heat treated to calves or other animals – this milk may be fed to reactor animals.
- ✗ Do not interfere with the integrity of a TB test.

# POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

- ! Invalidation of test.
- ! Liability to pay for the test.
- ! Re-test at your expense.
- ! Restrictions on the movement of animals into and out of your herd.
- ! Seizure and destruction of animals without compensation.
- ! Movement of animals to a knackery at your expense.
- ! Possible consequences for compensation pursuant to the TB Eradication Scheme and/or the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013.
- ! Possible Penalties on Farm Scheme Payments under EU Cross Compliance Rules.
- ! Withdrawal of herd health certification.
- ! Prosecution pursuant to Statutory Instrument 58/2015.

## Biosecurity Advice

- ✓ Maintain the security of boundary fences.
- ✓ Ensure there is no contact between cattle in your herd and other cattle.
- ✓ Isolate cattle entering your holding either from another holding or on return from a mart or show, etc.
- ✓ Isolate sick animals.
- ✓ Provide disinfection footbaths and overalls for personnel visiting your holding.
- ✓ Provide clean drinking water for all animals.
- ✓ Secure feedstores to prevent access by livestock, wildlife or vermin.
- ✓ Provide secure, clean feeding troughs not accessible to wildlife.
- ✓ Control rodents.