



The Tuberculosis in Animals (England) Order 2021
The Tuberculosis (Scotland) Order 2023
The Tuberculosis (Wales) Order 2010 (as amended)

Automatic Animal and Public Health Restrictions after a Reactor or Inconclusive Reactor is found at an Official Diagnostic Test for Tuberculosis (TB) in Cattle, Buffalo or Bison

Your herd is under movement restrictions, and its Officially TB Free (OTF) status is suspended or withdrawn

You have been given this information note because the TB test carried out on your herd has found at least one reactor or inconclusive reactor (IR). Whether this is an initial test or a follow-on test after finding reactors and/or IRs at a previous test, the following legal requirements automatically apply to the herd keeper:

- you must restrict the movement of bovine animals (cattle, buffalo and bison) to the extent that they may not be moved on or off the premises on which the reactor or IR has been kept without a licence issued by APHA. “The premises” is defined as the holding and any land temporarily associated with it
- every reactor must be marked and isolated pending removal from your holding. Every reactor and IR must be isolated from negative testing bovine animals and from other animals. In Wales, unless a delay has been agreed by APHA, reactors must be removed within ten working days, otherwise compensation paid may be reduced
- the competent authorities Food Standards Agency (FSA) (England and Wales) and Food Standards Scotland (FSS) advise that once your herd’s OTF status has been lost, milk from TB reactors must not be placed in a bulk tank or used in any way for human consumption, and should not be fed untreated to calves or to other mammals in accordance with Assimilated Regulation (EC) 853/2004¹
- milk from IRs or negative testing animals can only be used for human consumption after heat treatment as per Assimilated Regulation (EC) 853/2004²
- where the reactor(s) or IR(s) reside(s) on premises with a milking herd, you must inform any commercial buyer of your milk about the loss of the herd’s OTF status at the start of the breakdown.

Failure to comply with these restrictions or observe these requirements is an offence under Section 73 of the Animal Health Act 1981

Any farm employee or agent authorised to act on the keeper’s behalf must, as soon as possible, inform the registered keeper of the test failure and hand over this information note to the keeper, and it should be kept for the duration of the TB restrictions. This note will be issued each time reactors and IRs are found at a TB test to remind keepers of their legal responsibilities.

¹ Assimilated Regulation (EC) 853/2004, Annex III, Section IX, Chapter I, Point 4

² Assimilated Regulation (EC) 853/2004, Annex III, Section IX, Chapter I, Part I, paragraph 3(a)

APHA will contact you about valuation of your reactors and to arrange for their removal. They will also provide advice and discuss with you how this TB breakdown will be managed and what further action may be required. Disease investigation visits by an APHA Veterinarian are not undertaken in every case in England but may be required in some incidents to provide specific advice and gather additional information from your breakdown. In Scotland, a disease investigation visit is carried out for all new TB breakdowns. In Wales, a disease investigation is performed by telephone contact rather than a visit.

Name of Approved Veterinary Surgeon/Lay Tester/APHA Veterinary Inspector:		Date	
Name of Recipient (the keeper or person authorised to act on keeper's behalf)			
Name of Registered Keeper		CPHH	
Address:			
	Postcode		

Movements

Any cattle movements into and out of the TB restricted herd must comply with all relevant disease control, livestock movement and identification legislation and must be accompanied by a licence issued by APHA. The prohibition on movement does not apply to bovine animals which are moved in an emergency to a place of slaughter or veterinary treatment to prevent the unnecessary suffering of that animal. In such cases full details must be given to APHA as soon as possible. APHA will normally arrange for the removal and slaughter of TB reactor cattle. However, if you choose to arrange removal of your animals to have them slaughtered privately, you must first inform APHA and obtain the necessary movement licences and forms to do so. In that case, government compensation will not be paid, and any salvage value will instead be paid directly to you by the slaughterhouse. In England only, if the carcase of a privately slaughtered animal removed for TB control purposes is totally condemned at the slaughterhouse for reasons of TB, government compensation will be paid.

Reactors and IRs could present a risk of infection to the rest of your herd and any neighbouring herds and must now be immediately isolated from other animals pending removal to slaughter or re-testing (as applicable). Reactors, in turn, should be isolated separately from IRs if possible. Lactating cows can move to and from a milking facility, provided they do not come into direct contact with any other cattle and the movement occurs after all other animals have been milked.

- (i) kept on land or in accommodation, where no space, drainage, or manure storage is shared with other animals
- (ii) no possibility of nose-to-nose contact with other animals on the same or adjoining premises
- (iii) when kept in a building, there must be an airtight barrier to separate reactors, IRs or DCs from other animals
- (iv) failure to isolate reactors, IRs or DCs would lead to a 95% reduction in the amount of compensation payable

In **Wales**, 'isolated' means kept on land or in accommodation, where no air space, drainage, or manure storage is shared with other cattle.

Milk from TB reactors

Assimilated Regulation (EC) 853/2004³, prescribes hygiene controls for raw milk, colostrum and dairy products and **prohibits milk from TB reactor animals being used for human consumption**. Milk from these animals must be withheld from the bulk tank. It is recommended that you do not feed milk from reactors or IRs to calves or other mammals on your holding. If fed, reactor milk may only be given to animals on the same farm, after suitable heat treatment, e.g. after boiling or pasteurisation. 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.

Animal By-Products Regulations apply to milk, colostrum and products made from them when disposed of or used other than on the farm of origin. Please refer to guidance available on GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-leftover-milk-and-milk-products-as-farm-animal-feed>.

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 and the Food Business Operator (FBO) or person in charge must contact their milk buyer to advise them of this.

Resolved Inconclusive Reactors (England and, from 1 January 2026, Wales Only)

IRs that are re-tested with negative results are known as 'resolved IRs'. All resolved IRs in the High Risk Area, Edge Area and TB breakdown herds in the Low Risk Area in England, and, from 1 January 2026, all resolved standard IRs in Wales, are **restricted for life** to the holding in which they were found. The only permitted off movements for resolved IRs are to a slaughterhouse or Approved Finishing Unit (AFU) under a licence issued by APHA. Cattle can move directly or via an Approved Slaughter Gathering or TB Dedicated Sale ('orange market'). Milk from resolved IRs can be used for human consumption, but while your herd remains under TB restrictions (OTF status suspended or withdrawn) it must first undergo heat treatment like the milk of other non-reactor animals in the same herd.

In **England only**, to release resolved IRs from life-long restrictions, you can request an interferon-gamma blood test through your Private Veterinarian at your own cost and with prior approval from APHA.

You can find more information about resolved IRs at:

- England: <https://tbhub.co.uk/tb-policy/england/resolved-inconclusive-reactor-policy/>
- Wales: <https://www.gov.wales/bovine-tb-whole-life-restrictions-resolved-standard-interpretation-inconclusive-reactors>

Protecting Your Family

To safeguard your own health and that of your family, it is strongly recommended by the FSA and FSS that you do not consume unpasteurised milk from your herd, and certainly not until the movement restrictions have been lifted by APHA at the end of the breakdown. For more advice on how to reduce the risk of farmers contracting TB from infected cattle or other susceptible animals, please read the relevant guidance available on GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mycobacterium-bovis-mbovis-reducing-the-risk-of-human-infection>

³ Assimilated Regulation (EC) 853/2004, Annex III, Section IX, Chapter I, Point 4

Cleansing and Disinfection

This is an important disease control measure. Under certain conditions the bovine TB bacterium can survive in the environment for a long time, so it is essential to thoroughly cleanse and disinfect (C&D) all buildings, fittings and equipment where any TB reactor or IR animals have been kept. You will receive a Notice (BT05) by post detailing the requirements for C&D. The disinfectant used must be approved for use against bovine TB and must be used at the recommended concentration. A list of Defra-approved disinfectants can be found on the GOV.UK website:

<https://disinfectants.defra.gov.uk/>

Please note that the Notice Requiring Cleansing and Disinfection (BT05) must be completed and returned to APHA before restrictions can be lifted at the end of the breakdown.

Due to the potential risks of spreading bovine TB more widely, whilst your farm is under TB restrictions you are advised to only apply manure and slurry from your cattle to your own land and not transport it over long distances. APHA may in certain circumstances prohibit removal of manure, slurry or other animal waste from premises affected by a TB breakdown, except under the authority of a license issued by an APHA inspector.

Take steps to minimise the risk of disease transmission to other livestock or wildlife through manure and slurry. You can find related advice at:

- England: <https://tbhub.co.uk/preventing-tb-breakdowns/protect-your-herd-from-bovine-tb/minimise-infection-from-cattle-manure/>
- Scotland: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-happens-if-tb-is-identified-in-your-herd/dealing-with-tb-in-your-herd-what-to-do-if-bovine-tb-is-detected-in-your-herd-in-scotland>
- Wales: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-happens-if-tb-is-identified-in-your-herd/dealing-with-tb-in-your-herd-what-to-do-if-bovine-tb-is-detected-in-your-herd-in-wales#biosecurity-measures-you-must-follow>

Biosecurity

Farm-to-farm movement of infected livestock is the most likely means of spreading animal diseases. Effective biosecurity and good animal husbandry practices are important in reducing the risk of TB infection in your herd. Feed stores and feeding areas should be protected from possible contamination from infected animals and wildlife such as badgers or deer. Ensure perimeter fencing, including gateways, is adequate to prevent nose-to-nose contact with other animals. Contaminated clothes, boots, equipment and vehicles can carry disease from one farm to another, so make sure you have effective cleansing and disinfection routines in place and that you and any visitors use them.

Your Private Veterinarian will be able to give you information and recommendations which are specific to your needs.

Further Information Sources

Further advice and guidance is available online.

For keepers in England: <https://tbhub.co.uk/advice-during-a-tb-breakdown/actions-once-tb-is-suspected-or-confirmed/>

For keepers in Scotland and Wales: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-happens-if-tb-is-identified-in-your-herd>.

Further information can also be found on the following websites:

- TB hub at <https://tbhub.co.uk/>

- TB Advisory Service in England at <http://www.tbas.org.uk/>
- ibTB at <https://ibtb.co.uk/>
- GOV.UK
- Scottish Government at <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/disease/tuberculosis>
- Welsh Government at <https://gov.wales/bovine-tb>
- Food Standards Agency at www.food.gov.uk
- Food Standards Scotland at www.foodstandards.gov.scot.

Owner Checklist

This checklist summarises the actions that you need to take, and it will help you prepare for reactor valuation and removal.

Immediate actions to take when reactor animals are found:

- ☐ **Isolate** reactors and IRs from the rest of the herd. Reactors should be isolated separately from IRs if possible
- ☐ Ensure that reactor animals are correctly **ear tagged**
- ☐ Ensure that **passports** are available for reactor animals at the time of the valuation call or visit (inform APHA immediately if any passport is missing or incorrect)
- ☐ If any of the reactor animals are in a **medicine withdrawal period**, please tell APHA at the time of the valuation call or visit
- ☐ If any of the reactor animals are pregnant and within the last 10% of gestation, please tell APHA at the time of the valuation call or visit
- ☐ Pedigree (pure bred) animals must have **full certificates** available at the time of the valuation call or visit. Failure to provide full pedigree certification could result in a lower market valuation, or compensation being paid at the non-pedigree rate. In Scotland, the compensation paid per animal cannot exceed £5,000 (or £7,500 for pedigree animals). In Wales, the compensation paid per animal cannot exceed £5,000
- ☐ In England and Wales only, discuss with your Private Veterinarian and APHA if removal for slaughter needs to be delayed in exceptional circumstances, e.g. for heavily in-calf reactor animals
- ☐ In Wales only, arrange for a pregnancy diagnosis (PD) certificate from your Private Veterinarian to be completed for valuation of in-calf reactor animals. This PD certificate will also be needed if you request delayed removal to allow for calving.

Additional actions for dairy herds:

- ☐ Inform your milk buyer that you are now under TB movement restrictions
- ☐ Stop sales of raw milk and/or raw milk products (if applicable)
- ☐ Ensure that reactor animals are milked last and that their milk is withheld from the bulk tank. **Milk from reactor animals is unfit for human consumption.** It should not be fed to calves and other mammals unless it is heat treated first.

Preparing for reactor removal and slaughter:

- ☐ Double check the passports and ear tags of reactor animals being sent to slaughter
- ☐ Complete the **Food Chain Information (FCI) declaration**
- ☐ Ensure that reactor animals are **fit to travel**
- ☐ Ensure that reactor animals are **clean** when presented to the haulier. In England and Scotland, compensation is reduced by 50% if reactor animals are found to be too dirty to process for human consumption at the slaughterhouse. A welfare investigation visit may also be carried out by APHA. In Wales, the haulier will refuse to collect animals that are too dirty to process for human consumption.

Actions to take after reactor removal:

- ☐ Clean and disinfect the area where the reactor animals were isolated and any associated equipment.
Remember to use an approved disinfectant for bovine TB at the correct dilution rate.
Return the BT05 notice of cleansing and disinfection to APHA to confirm that this has been done

- ☐ Arrange a **Free** visit from the TB Advisory Service if your holding is located in England. The service provides bespoke advice on biosecurity over the phone and face to face
- ☐ Arrange a **Free** Cymorth TB visit from your local Veterinarian if your holding is located in Wales.

Using and sharing your information

How we use your personal data is set out in our personal information charter and privacy notices:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/about/personal-information-charter>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-and-plant-health-agency-privacy-notice>

APHA 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 Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.