



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 22/23

Alternative Multi-Dose TB Testing Syringe for use in GB

Date issued: 11 September 2023

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) in Great Britain and, in England and Wales, Approved Tuberculin Testers (ATTs) that the Dairy Insight V-Grip TB Injector manufactured by N J Phillips (DI V-Grip TB Injector) will be included in the equipment that can be used to inject tuberculin in APHA's skin testing instructions for OVs and ATTs.
2. To remind OVs and ATTs that only equipment listed in APHA's instructions can be used when performing tuberculin skin testing.

Background

1. APHA does not endorse any specific type, design or model of TB testing syringes as long as they can all consistently deliver 0.1 ml of tuberculin intradermally, leading to the formation of a skin nodule ('bleb') shortly after injection. However, before any novel TB testing equipment can be used in the field, APHA as the Competent Authority in GB needs to be satisfied that it is fit for purpose.
2. On 15 October 2018 APHA issued [OV Briefing Note 16/18](#) reminding OVs that the use of 'V-grip' syringes for tuberculin skin testing was in breach of the standing tuberculin skin testing protocol as these syringes were not specifically mentioned in the APHA tuberculin skin testing instructions for OVs (and ATTs).

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3. APHA advised that the position would be reconsidered once it has had the opportunity to evaluate that supported the suitability of the new multi-dose syringe for the purpose of carrying out tuberculin skin tests.

Information

1. The distributor of the DI V-Grip Tuberculin Injectors in GB has provided evidence that the guns can deliver the correct dose of tuberculin as an intradermal injection and capable of producing a skin bleb that can be palpated to confirm intradermal administration. APHA is now satisfied that the equipment can perform the required tasks.
2. OVs and ATTs instructions have been updated to include the DI V Grip Tuberculin Injector as equipment that can be used to perform the injection of tuberculin for skin testing.

Reminder

1. Only equipment listed in the APHA skin testing instructions must be used to perform tuberculin skin testing.
2. OVs and ATTs, who during audits are found using novel TB testing equipment that is not included in the APHA skin testing instructions while carrying out official tuberculin skin testing will have their audit result recorded as non-compliant and the test will be considered invalid.
3. Manufacturers or distributors of novel TB testing equipment that wish their products to be included in the APHA skin testing instructions as suitable to be used for tuberculin skin testing will need to contact APHA for guidance on what evidence supporting the suitability of the new equipment they will need to provide.

Further Information

1. OV instructions on Skin Testing: Equipment:
http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/TB_Instructions/Skin_Test/Equipment.html
2. OVs and ATTs delivering TB testing under one of the Veterinary Delivery Partners (VDPs) should address any queries to the relevant VDP in the first instance who will collate and escalate to APHA as necessary.

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3. OVs in Scotland and non-VDP OVs in England should refer any queries to ScotlandEndemics@apha.gov.uk and TBAAdvice@apha.gov.uk respectively.

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