



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 26/23

Submission of part skin test results undertaken by different testers and/or on different dates

Date issued: 15 November 2023

Purpose

1. To remind Official Veterinarians (OV) in Great Britain and Approved Tuberculin Testers (ATT) in England and Wales that part tests undertaken by different testers and/or on different dates must be submitted separately to APHA and not grouped together.

Background

2. The submission of tuberculin test results via Sam (or in paper copies when allowed) are governed by the principles of certification, and testers must only confirm and submit the test results and other relevant details i.e. test date, tuberculin batch number, etc. of the animals tested by themselves.
3. In the case of ATTs, the nominated Authorised Veterinary Supervisor (AVS) or nominated deputy AVS must countersign the results and other relevant details of the test undertaken by the ATT.
4. APHA have recently come across cases where skin test results undertaken at a holding by the same tester on different dates and/or different testers on the same date have been submitted via Sam as single part or complete test. This certifies that the animals were tested by one tester and all on one day.

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.

Action

5. OVs, ATTs and AVSs must ensure that any part test results are submitted separately from any other part tests undertaken by other testers and/or on different dates.
6. Veterinary practices need to have arrangements in place to ensure that when different testers complete separate part tests in the same holding or when the same tester completes part tests at the same holding on different dates, each tested animals can specifically be assigned to the actual tester, the correct test date and the specific tuberculin batch number. This applies regardless of whether on farm recording is undertaken on paper or on handheld devices.
7. In those cases where the tester is not available to submit the results due to force majeure, APHA must be contacted with details of the circumstances and to agree how the test results need to be submitted to APHA. To note that planned leave is not an acceptable reason as to why a tester cannot submit a test that they have carried out.

Further Information

8. OV and ATT instructions in the APHA Vet Gateway <http://apha.defra.gov.uk/vet-gateway/index.htm>
9. Principles of Certification <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/>