



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 32/24

# Increase in the number of digits in Tuberculin batch numbering system

**Date issued: 30 September 2024**

### Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs), Approved Tuberculin Testers (ATTs) and other iSam users about requested changes to iSam and the required workaround until those changes are implemented.

### Background

2. APHA's tuberculin supplier (Prionics-ThermoFisher) has informed the Veterinary Medicine Directorate of an increase in the number of digits (from 6 to 7) in their tuberculin batch numbering system.
3. On the "Test Details" tab on iSam there is only space for a 6-digit tuberculin batch number.
4. APHA has requested a coding change to iSam to enable recording of the longer tuberculin batch numbers.

### Action

5. Pending implementation of the iSam upgrade, Official Veterinarians (OVs), Approved Tuberculin Testers (ATTs) and other iSam users should, for tuberculin with a batch number longer than 6 digits, record the first 6 digits in the designated fields on the "Test Details" tab and then record the full batch number in the free text box underneath labelled "Comments".

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.

## Further Information

6. OV and ATT instructions on Tuberculosis Testing:  
[http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External\\_OV\\_Instructions/index.htm](http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/index.htm)
7. 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.
8. OVs in Scotland and non-VDP OVs in England should refer any queries to [ScotlandEndemics@apha.gov.uk](mailto:ScotlandEndemics@apha.gov.uk) and [TBAvice@apha.gov.uk](mailto:TBAvice@apha.gov.uk) respectively.

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