

New arrangements for TB testing of cattle moving to agricultural shows in England

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From 1st July 2012, the exemption which allows cattle to move to agricultural shows from higher TB risk herds (i.e. those subject to annual or biennial routine TB tests) without a pre-movement test is being changed.

For certain types of show there has been shown to be an increased risk of spread of TB due to close contact between stock from farms of different TB risk status.

The risk has been identified as higher when cattle are housed in a shared/confined airspace and/or when together for over 24 hours.

The cattle from higher risk parishes or premises (i.e. where they are required to have an annual or biennial tuberculin test) have a raised risk of having undisclosed disease, hence the contact cattle have a higher risk of exposure to TB.

From 1st July 2012, a clear pre-movement TB test will be required before an animal can be moved to a show if (i) the cattle are expected to be kept inside ('housed') at the show *and/or* (ii) cattle are resident on the showground for more than 24 hours. Pre-movement testing will **not** be required for movements to shows if all the cattle at the show are on the showground for less than 24 hours and are not housed.

Revisions to a further two pre-movement exemptions – the 30 day herd residency exemption and movements within a Sole Occupancy Group – will also be implemented on 1 July. More information on Defra's TB pre-movement testing policy and TB controls generally (including advice on what cattle keepers can do to reduce their risks) can be found on Defra's website at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animal-diseases/a-z/bovine-tb/animal-keepers/biosecurity/>

Housing

The risk of TB transmission is high when infected cattle share airspace with other cattle in an enclosed environment. To reduce the risk of transmission from cattle with undetected disease pre-movement testing will be required if animals from multiple holdings are to be housed i.e. kept in a structure with a roof and walls (N.B. this includes marquees with 'sides')

24 hours

Pre-movement testing of cattle from higher-risk herds is also required if any of the cattle from those herds are to be kept on the showground (whether housed or not) for more than 24 hours.

The 24 hour time period starts on arrival at the showground, *not* at the point an animal leaves the farm/home premises.

General information

For shows that cannot be classed as exempt, pre-movement testing of cattle from higher risk parishes will apply.

- From 1st July, if cattle move to a show from herds with a routine TB testing frequency which is either annual or biennial, they will require a clear pre-movement TB test prior to attending a show.
- This test must be applied to individual animals in the 60 days prior to arrival at the show i.e. date of injection must be no more than 60 days before arrival at the show.
- This requirement will NOT apply to calves under 42 days of age on the day of arrival at the show.

A clear pre-movement test is valid for 60 days from the date of the test. Therefore animals can be moved to more than one show during that post-test period provided that the last movement back to the home premises – or to slaughter, if applicable – is completed within 60 days of the test date.

Owners must ensure they do not book a TB test to take place within 60 days of completion of the previous TB test as this will not be regarded as an authorised test.

For general information on pre-movement testing, please see the Defra website:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animal-diseases/a-z/bovine-tb/animal-keepers/testing/>

**Defra TB Programme
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