

TR15(E) Tuberculosis test types and Sam codes: What to use and when (England)

August 2026

Change notice

The following changes have been made to Version 5:

- Check Test - CT(EM), columns 'Type of Test and Sam Code, When and Why' and 'Setting Next Testing Window', updated
- Radial Herd Test (RAD12), column 'Setting Next Testing Window', updated
- Twelve Monthly Hotspot Check Test - CT-HS2, column 'Setting Next Testing Window', updated

Any Official Veterinarians (OV's) who are not registered to use the Sam computer system, should ensure that a visit **notification form (NV1)** is completed to notify the relevant payment agency of any arranged **herd TB Tests**. This will enable them to combine Cattle Identification Inspections (CII) visits where possible. This does **not** apply for tests on **individual animals**. All herd TB Tests undertaken by Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) staff and OV's registered to use Sam will be notified to the relevant payment agencies by a centrally produced report.

Active Surveillance					
Note: For all test types - any animals that have been tested in the 60 days prior to the TT1 date must be excluded from the test.					
Type of Test and Sam Code When and Why	What to Test	Setting Next Testing Window	Overdue Testing procedures apply?	Auto TNL?	Full Purpose name (Short name - only visible in Worklists and Workbaskets)

New Herd Check Test - CT-NH1 Test carried out when a new or reformed herd has been identified, within 12 months (6 months in six-monthly surveillance testing herds and herds within TB hotspots) of arrival of the first bovine animal on the holding. Reformed herds following depopulation for TB reasons will require a second check test (CT-NH2) 12 months (6 months in six-monthly testing herds) after the CT-NH1. All other herds will revert to routine testing in line with the area testing interval for that holding.	All bovines except calves under 42 days of age	Veterinary discretion. Usually 12 months (6 months in six-monthly testing herds and herds within TB hotspots) from arrival of the first bovine animal onto the holding Testing window 60 days	Yes	Yes	CT-NH1 TB Skin Test - Enhanced Surveillance 12M (TB Check Test New Herd 1)
Second New Herd Check Test - CT- NH2 Test carried out 12 months (6 months in six-monthly testing herds) after a CT-NH1 test on reformed herds following depopulation for TB reasons.	All bovines except calves under 42 days of age	Latest Activity Completion Date 6 (in six-monthly surveillance testing areas) or 12 months from the previous Latest Activity Completion Date for a CT-NH1 Testing window 60 days	Yes	Yes	CT-NH2 TB Skin Test - Enhanced Surveillance (TB Check Test New Herd 2)

Routine Herd Test - RHT48 Carried out by default in the LRA where herds are routinely tested at 48 month intervals. Individual herds in the LRA can be placed on annual surveillance testing e.g. producer-retailer dairy herds, bull hirers, heifer rearers, city/open farms, AI centers.	The following categories of animals must be included in all RHTs, unless specifically exempted by the Veterinary Head of Field Delivery (VHoFD): • breeding bulls (i.e. entire male animals over 12 months of age) • females which have calved • young bovines which will be used for breeding whether they are home-bred or purchased (except	Latest Activity Completion Date 48 months from the previous Latest Activity Completion Date Testing window 90 days	Yes	Yes	RHT TB Skin Test - Surveillance 48M (TB Routine Herd Test 48 Month)
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	calves under 42 days old) • pet cows and other non-commercial cattle resident on the holding				
Whole Herd Test - WHT Carried out by default every six months in the HRA and certain counties and part counties of the Edge Area. Carried out routinely every 12 months: • in annual surveillance testing areas of the Edge Area • in individual herds in the four-yearly testing area requiring annual surveillance testing, e.g. producer-retailer dairy herds, bull hirers, heifer rearers, city/open farms, AI centres. • at VHoFD discretion in 48 month testing areas • in lower risk herds in the HRA and six-monthly	All bovines except calves under 42 days of age	Latest Activity Completion Date 6 or 12 months from the previous Latest Activity Completion Date When WHT follows RAD6 or RAD12 (for annually tested high risk herds in the LRA) the LACD is 12 months from TT1 of the Radial test Testing window 60 days	Yes	Yes	WHT TB Skin Test - Enhanced Surveillance 12M (TB Whole Herd Test 12 Month)

testing areas of the Edge Area					
Inconclusive Reactor Retest - IR Carried out on inconclusive reactors identified at an earlier test. To be conducted at least 60 days later. Currently, one retest of the same IR animal is permitted.	Individual animals	Earliest Activity Start Date 60 days from TT1 of the skin test that identified the animal as an IR Testing window 30 days	Yes	Yes	IR TB Skin Test - Investigation and Intervention (TB Inconclusive Reactor Test)
Short Interval Test - SI Carried out 60 days after removal of the last reactor in a previous test. If there are no reactors at a previous test, the subsequent SI test should be carried out a minimum of 60 days from the TT1 date of that previous test.	All bovines except calves under 42 days old. Where there is an epidemiological risk of infection within this age group, young calves must be tested	Reactors Disclosed Earliest Activity Start Date 60 days from the date of removal of last reactor Clear or IRs only Earliest Activity Start Date 60 days from TT1 date of previous herd test Testing window 30 days	Yes	Yes	SI TB Skin Test - Investigation and Intervention (TB Short Interval Test)
Partial Short Interval Test - PSI Carried out 60 days after removal of the last reactor If there are no reactors at a previous test, the subsequent SI test should be carried out a	All bovines except calves under 42 days old. Where there is an epidemiological risk of infection within this age group, young	Reactors Disclosed Earliest Activity Start Date 60 days from the date of removal of last reactor Clear or IRs only Earliest Activity Start Date 60 days from	Yes	Yes	PSI TB Skin Test - Investigation and Intervention (TB Partial Short Interval Test)

minimum of 60 days from the TT1 date of that previous test. To be used for the main herd when delayed testing has been authorised for a group of low risk cattle away at grass keep. It must be used in conjunction with Delayed Test Group (DTG) below.	calves must be tested	TT1 date of previous herd test Testing window 30 days			
Delayed Testing Group - DTG To be used for a group of low risk cattle away at grass keep during the course of a breakdown, following a VRA and authorisation. It must be used in conjunction with Partial Short Interval Test (PSI) above.	All bovines except calves under 42 days old. Where there is an epidemiological risk of infection within this age group, young calves must be tested	As established when authorisation was granted following a satisfactory VRA outcome. Testing window 30 days	Yes	Yes	DTG TB Skin Test - Investigation and Intervention (TB Delayed Test Group)
Approved Segregated Group - ASG To be used for TB Isolation Unit Testing Only	For all cattle licensed into the approved unit	Earliest Activity Start Date 60 days after: • movement of the last animal into the unit • removal of the last reactor, or • TT1 date of the previous ASG test	Yes	Yes	ASG TB Skin Test - Investigation and Intervention (TB Approved Seg. Group Test)

		Testing window 30 days			
Check Test - CT(I&I) Carried out outside the normal testing frequency for the herd, to determine its disease status when there is a suspicion of infection. Following, for instance: • voluntary slaughter or death of an IR identified in an IR-only herd • identification of a clinical case of TB • disclosure of lesions suggestive of TB at a slaughterhouse, knackers yard, hunt kennel, regional lab, etc. • identification of reactors at a routine herd test or other tests that included only part of the herd e.g. TR, PRMT, RHT etc. • in breakdown herds where SIT was undertaken less than 60 days from last reactor removal or when BT5 has not been returned and TB10 cannot be issued • for any other reason at the VHoFD's discretion	All bovines except calves under 42 days old. Where there is an epidemiological risk of infection within this age group, young calves must be tested	Usually immediate. Veterinary discretion in some cases. Where an immediate test is required the test window will open five working days from the date the test is scheduled. Testing window 30 days	Yes	Yes	CT TB Skin Test - Investigation & Intervention (TB Check Test (I&I))

Check Test - CT(EM) Carried out outside the normal testing frequency for the herd, to determine its disease status when there is a suspicion of infection. For instance: • source tracing of reactors found in another OTFW herd • for surveillance purposes around wild deer carcasses positive for <i>M. bovis</i>.	All bovines except calves under 42 days old. Where there is an epidemiological risk of infection within this age group, young calves must be tested	When used for source tracing purposes, the Earliest Activity Start Date is five working days from date CT(EM) WS is created. When used for surveillance around positive wild deer, Earliest Activity Start Date is one month from the date CT(EM) WS is created. Testing window 60 days	Yes	Yes	CT TB Skin Test – Exposure Mitigation (TB Check Test (EM))
Interferon-gamma Test e.g. IFN LOW IN, IFN PERSI, IFN NSR, IFN SLHERD, IFN ANOM, etc. In-vitro blood test for bovine TB, used to supplement the tuberculin skin test in a range of situations. The test is carried out as a mandatory test or as a discretionary test with VHoFD and/or Policy VA approval	All bovines over six months of age	Blood samples taken by APHA staff at any time except the three-day period between TT1 and TT2. Additional IFN-gamma tests may be required depending on the circumstances	No	No	IFN OTFW TB Breakdown in Lower TB Incidence Area - Investigation and Intervention (IFN Lower Incidence) IFN OTFW Herd with Persistent Infection - Investigation and Intervention (IFN Persistent Inf)

					IFN Non - Specific Reactor Herd - Investigation and Intervention (IFN Non Specific R) IFN Whole or Partial Slaughter of Reactor Herds - Investigation and Intervention IFN P/W Herd S'hter) IFN Anomalous Reactions Procedure (IFN Anomalous Reactions)
IDEXX Antibody Test In-vitro blood test for bovine TB, used to supplement the tuberculin skin and interferon-gamma test in certain chronic/persistent breakdown herds. The test is carried out as a discretionary test with Policy VA approval. It also requires prior consent and a written agreement from the herd owner to allow the removal of any TB antibody positive	All bovines or targeted group as authorised by TB Policy VA	Blood samples to be taken by APHA staff always within 10-30 calendar days of TT1 of a previous skin test	No	No	TB Antibody Test - Investigation and Intervention (Antibody Test)

animals with statutory compensation payments.					
Contiguous Herd Test - CON Carried out on annual testing herds contiguous to an OTFW herd in the HRA and counties and part counties of the Edge Area subject to six-monthly surveillance testing. Contiguous testing may also be instigated occasionally in the Low Risk Area (LRA) and annual testing parts of the Edge Area.	All bovines except calves under 42 days old. Where there is an epidemiological risk of infection within this age group, young calves must be tested	Immediate, unless the herd has completed a herd test within 60 days prior to or 60 days after the date relevant to withdrawal of OTF status in the index herd Testing window 60 days	Yes	Yes	CON TB Skin Test - Exposure Mitigation (TB Contiguous Test)
Radial Herd Test (RAD) Carried out on herds within a 3km radius of an OTFW herd in the LRA and annual testing counties and part-counties of the Edge Area.	All bovines except calves under 42 days old. Where there is an epidemiological risk of infection in this age group, young calves must be tested	Immediate unless a clear herd test has been performed within the previous 60 days Testing window 60 days	Y	Y	RAD TB Skin Test - Exposure Mitigation (TB RAD Test)
Radial Herd Test (RAD6) Carried out six months after a RAD (or substitute test) clear herd test in the LRA and	All bovines except calves under 42 days old. Where there is an epidemiological	Latest Activity Completion Date eight months from the previous TT1 date of the RAD/clear herd test (earliest test date	Y	Y	RAD6 TB Skin Test - Enhanced Surveillance 6M (TB RAD six month test)

annual testing counties and part-counties of the Edge Area.	risk of infection in this age group, young calves must be tested	will be at six months on Sam) Testing window 60 days			
Radial Herd Test (RAD12) Carried out 12 months after a RAD6 in the LRA. Not used in annually testing counties and part counties of the Edge Area as herd testing reverts to routine annual testing	All bovines except calves under 42 days old. Where there is an epidemiological risk of infection in this age group, young calves must be tested	Latest Activity Completion Date (LACD) 12 months from the previous TT1 date of the RAD6 test (earliest test date is at 12 months on Sam), by default. Testing window 60 days	Y	Y	RAD12 TB Skin Test - Enhanced Surveillance 12M (TB RAD 12 month test)
Six Month Test - 6M Carried out six months from the date of the clear short interval test which led to the lifting of restrictions. Not required in OTFS herds in four yearly testing areas.	All bovines except calves under 42 days old. Where there is an epidemiological risk of infection within this age group, young calves must be tested	Latest Activity Completion Date is seven months (six in herds in six monthly testing areas) from the TT1 date of the clear SIT. Earliest test date is five months (four in herds in six monthly testing areas). Testing window 60 days	Yes	Yes	6M TB Skin Test - Enhanced Surveillance 6M (TB six month test)

Twelve Month Test - 12M Carried out 12 months after a clear 6M test in annual and four yearly testing areas, or 6-12 months after the last SIT of an OTFS breakdown in four yearly testing areas	All bovines except calves under 42 days old. Where there is an epidemiological risk of infection within this age group, young calves must be tested.	Latest Activity Completion Date 12 months from the previous Latest Activity Completion Date for the clear 6M test Testing window 60 days	Yes	Yes	12M TB Skin Test - Enhanced Surveillance 12M (TB 12 month test)
TB Unit Test - TBU Test carried out every 90 days on Approved Finishing Units (AFUs) with grazing and Approved Finishing Units (Enhanced) with Grazing (AFUEs) (This is the former VE-90D)	All bovines within the unit, including calves less than 42 days old.	Earliest Activity Start Date 90 days from the Latest Activity Completion Date of the previous TBU test. Testing window 30 days	No	Yes	TBU TB Skin Test - Investigation and Intervention (TB Unit Test)
LRA (Pre-)sale TB CT - CT-LRA-SA Voluntary herd tests carried out in four yearly testing herds meeting certain criteria at the owner's request.	All bovines except calves under 42 days of age	RHT 48 months from the TT1 date of the CT-LRA-SA Testing window 90 days	No	No	Low Risk Area Pre-sale TB Check Test (LRA (Pre-)sale TB CT)
Six Monthly Hotspot Check Test - CT-HS1 Test carried out in herds in TB hotspot areas under six-monthly enhanced routine surveillance.	All bovines except calves under 42 days of age	Veterinary discretion. Usually two-three months from identification of the requirement and six-monthly thereafter. Two fixed testing windows per calendar year (i.e., Latest	Yes	Yes	CT-HS1 TB Skin Test - Enhanced Surveillance 6M (TB Check Test Hotspot 1)

		Activity Completion Date six months from the previous Latest Activity Completion Date). Testing window 60 days			
Twelve Monthly Hotspot Check Test - CT-HS2 Test carried out annually in herds in TB Hotspot areas under twelve-monthly routine surveillance.	All bovines except calves under 42 days of age	Veterinary discretion. Usually two-three months from identification of the requirement and twelve-monthly thereafter. One fix window per calendar year (i.e. Latest Activity Completion Date 12 months from the previous Latest Activity Completion Date). When CT-HS2 follows a RAD12, the Latest Activity Completion Date is 12 months from TT1 of the RAD12. Testing window 60 days	Yes	Yes	CT-HS2 TB Skin Test - Enhanced Surveillance 12M (TB Check Test Hotspot 2)
Whole Herd Test (2 Yearly) - WHT2 Test carried out every 24 months in herds located in	All bovines except calves under 42 days of age	Latest Activity Completion Date is 24 months from the previous Latest	Yes	Yes	WHT2 TB Skin Test - Enhanced Surveillance 24M

Enhanced Surveillance Areas or to ease cattle surveillance in TB Hotspot areas.		Activity Completion Date (previous test will most likely be a CT-HS1 or CT-HS2) Testing window 90 days			(TB Whole Herd Test 24 Month)
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Tests on Individual Animals					
Type of Test and Code When and Why	What to Test	Setting Next Testing Date	Zero Tolerance applies?	Auto TNL?	Purpose name
Traced Bovine Test - TR Test of bovines that have moved from OTFW herds prior to service of restrictions.	Individual animals	If the animal has been tested within the nine week target, the due date is 30 working days from the 120 day date or the date of identification, whichever is latest. If the animal needs a test in order to meet the nine week target date, the due date is 30 working days from the date of identification. Testing window 30 working days	Yes	Yes	TR TB Skin Test - Exposure Mitigation (TB Tracing Test)

Private TB test - PRI A test commissioned and paid for by the owner and carried out by an OV with the VHoFD's agreement.	Individual animals	N/A Testing window 21 days	N/A	No	PRI TB Skin Test - Private (Non PRMT) - Enhanced Surveillance (TB Private Test)
Pre-Movement Test - PRMT This code is to be used for a pre-movement test to be carried out 60 days or less prior to movement of an animal(s) from an annually (or more frequently) tested herd.	Individual animals	N/A Testing window 21 days	N/A	No	PRMT TB Skin Test - Enhanced Surveillance PRMT (TB Pre-Movement Test)
Post-Movement Test - POSTMT This code is to be used for a post-movement test to be carried out in circumstances where cattle have been moved into a holding without a required pre-movement test. (Not to be used for Post-movement test 60-120 days after arriving to the LRA. These should be recorded as POSTMOV OV or POSTMOVNC, as applicable).	Individual animals	Latest Activity Completion Date 60 days after the identification that no pre-movement test has been carried out. Testing window 60 days	Yes	Yes	POSTMT TB Skin Test - POSTMT - Investigation and Intervention (TB Post Movement Test)
Post-Movement Test – POSTMOV OV (formerly POSTLRAOV) To be used by OVs for post-movement testing from 60 days	Individual animals	Post-movement test should take place between 60 and 120 days of arriving in the LRA./Edge Area (annual testing parts)	N/A	No	Post Movement TB Test England and Wales (POSTMOV OV)

after arrival in the LRA or annual testing parts of the Edge Area.. (Not to be used when a required pre-movement test has not taken place - POSTMT should be used then).					
Post-Movement Test - Non Compliance POSTMOVNC (formerly POSTLRANC) To be used by OV's for post-movement testing in England as instructed by APHA when a breach has been disclosed. (Not to be used when a required pre-movement test has not taken place - POSTMT should be used then).	Individual animals	Between 60 and 120 days of arriving in the LRA/.Edge Area (annual testing parts) or within 30 days of identification of a breach of post-movement testing requirements(whichever is later, instructed by APHA)	Yes	Yes	Post Movement TB Test England and Wales - Non Compliance (POSTMOVNC)
Export Test - EX Test on cattle exported from Great Britain.	Individual animals	N/A Testing window 21 days	N/A	No	EX TB Skin Test - Private (Non PRMT) - Enhanced Surveillance (TB Export Test)
Post Import (Irish) Test - PII Test on cattle imported from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland 60 days after arrival.	Individual animals	Earliest Activity Start Date 60 days after import Testing window 60 days	Yes	Yes	PII TB Skin Test - Enhanced Surveillance (TB Post Irish Import Test)

Post Import (Other) Test - PIO Carried out, as prescribed by operational instructions, on cattle imported from any country other than the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland 60 days after import.	Individual animals	Earliest Activity Start Date 60 days after import Testing window 60 days	Yes	Yes	PIO TB Skin Test - Enhanced Surveillance (TB Post Import Test)
Test for AI Purposes - AI Carried out on bulls, teasers and embryo donors prior to admission to an Artificial Insemination Centre.	Individual animals	According to veterinary need Testing window 21 days	No	No	AI TB Skin Test - Private (Non PRMT) - Enhanced Surveillance (TB AI Centre Test)



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