



International trade: Customer Information Note (CIN) API/09/82

## REVISION OF THE CURRENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR TUBERCULIN TESTING OF BOVINE ANIMALS EXPORTED FROM GREAT BRITAIN (GB) TO OTHER EU MEMBER STATES (MSs)

### Purpose

1. The purpose of the Customer Information Note (CIN) is to advise exporters and Official Veterinarians (OVs) that bovine animals intended for intra-Community trade will now have to be subjected to a stricter ('intra-Community trade') interpretation as far as the tuberculin test is concerned. Exporters and Official Veterinarians must **ensure that any bovine animals tested on or after 07/09/2009 for intra-Community trade are subjected to the 'intra-Community trade' interpretation in paragraph 2 below.**
2. The normal comparative intradermal test must continue to be applied. However, **only the bovine reaction should be considered** when interpreting the test results in bovine animals intended for intra-Community trade. Those animals showing an increase in the skin fold thickness greater than 2 mm or the presence of oedema 72 hours after tuberculin injection (i.e. a positive bovine reaction) will not be eligible for intra-Community trade, and should not be so certified. This interpretation is referred to as the 'intra-Community trade' interpretation in this CIN, and is in line with Community legislation (Council Directive 64/432/EEC – point 2.2.5.3.4 in Annex B refers).
3. The avian reaction must be ignored for the purposes of intra-Community trade, but it will have to be taken into account (and recorded on the tuberculosis test chart) to assess whether any restrictions under national requirements are necessary, for which the standard test interpretation will be used.
4. If any of the animals subjected to tuberculin test for intra-Community trade is deemed to be a reactor or an inconclusive reactor (IR) according to the standard test interpretation, none of the other animals on the holding can be certified for intra-Community trade. This is because the holding is no longer considered officially tuberculosis free (OTF). The OV must serve the usual (TB2) restriction notice and immediately notify the local Animal Health office of these results. However, if no reactors or IRs according to the standard test interpretation are detected, then all the other animals tested in the batch on the holding which pass the 'intra-Community trade' interpretation can be certified for intra-Community trade.
5. The notes for guidance (NFG) for the relevant certificate will be revised accordingly and the website updated.

### Background

6. To be eligible for intra-Community trade, bovine animals must meet a number of animal health requirements (Council Directive 64/432/EEC refers). In the case of tuberculosis, the bovine animals must originate from an OTF herd. If intended for breeding or production and over 42 days old, they must be subjected to a tuberculin test within 30 days prior to movement from the holding of origin. However, if the holding is situated in an OTF region or country, such a test is not required.
7. None of the regions in GB are currently OTF, so a tuberculin test is required. If intended for intra-Community trade, the tuberculin test results need to be subjected to a stricter ('intra-Community trade') interpretation, and not the standard test interpretation (used for routine monitoring of the national herd), which has been the case in GB since the resumption of trade in bovine animals in 2006. NI already apply the 'intra-Community trade' interpretation for cattle exported to another MS. To ensure consistency with NI and compliance with Community legislation, GB needs to follow suit.

### Further enquiries

8. In the case of any comments concerning this CIN, please contact Central Operations for Exports Carlisle.

Issued by: **Veterinary Science Team**

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