THE TUBERCULOSIS (ENGLAND) ORDER 2007
PRE-MOVEMENT TESTING OF CATTLE

From 1st January 2013, a new TB surveillance testing regime will be introduced for cattle herds in England. TB testing intervals for cattle will be determined on a county basis rather than by parishes. England will be divided into two cattle TB testing frequency areas one annually and the other four yearly.

Individual high risk cattle herds in the four-yearly testing area of England will continue to be tested for TB every year as currently. For example bull hire herds, heifer rearing herds, producer-retailers of raw drinking milk, regular purchasers of cattle from high incidence countries or counties in England and Wales. Herds located near to or epidemiologically linked to OTF-W herds in the four-yearly tested area will be tested more frequently and be subject to pre-movement testing requirements for a while.

All cattle on farms that are required by DEFRA to be subject to routine testing for TB on an annual basis will be subject to Pre-movement Testing.

All Cattle to be moved from the premises they are on will be required to have been tested negative for TB in the previous 60 days, prior to the movement.

Moving to grass keep, will involve a movement to other premises and testing will be required before the movement and on return if the cattle have stayed on the keep for over 60 days (unless the keep has been added to your sole occupancy authority licence) (SOA).

Your routine TB test also counts as a pre-movement test and you can with consent of a veterinary inspector adjust the time of year that this is carried out to fit in with the farming practice and the disposal of stock.
EXEMPTIONS TO THIS RULE ARE:-

1. Calves under 6 weeks old.
2. Cattle that are subject to Annual TB Testing for Public Health reasons only.
3. Bulls at an approved semen collection centre.
4. Cattle moved direct to a slaughterhouse or slaughter Market.
5. Cattle moved to an exempt or approved finishing unit.
6. Cattle moved to an exempt market; an exempt market is one where cattle can only be moved to an exempt finishing unit, a slaughterhouse, or returned home.
7. Cattle moved to an approved “collecting centre” for TB restricted cattle.
8. Cattle moved to common land over which the keeper has a registered right of common, or the movement to a farm, which shares the same rights to graze over the common land.
9. Movement of cattle within a sole occupancy group approved by AHVLA.

HOWEVER this exemption does not apply where the SOA group comprises

(a) Premises situated in an area where routine testing of cattle herds for tuberculosis occurs annually, and

(b) Premises situated in an area where routine testing of cattle herds for tuberculosis occurs four yearly

NOTE
As now, holdings in the annual testing area will not be able to apply for CTS links to holdings in the four-yearly testing area. Pre-existing CTS links between holdings in annual testing areas and holdings in four-yearly testing areas will be phased out or removed. CTS links between holdings on the same testing frequency (either annual or four-yearly) will not be affected.

10. Movement of cattle for Veterinary treatment and return to it’s premises of origin or is killed or goes direct to slaughter.
11. Movement of cattle to an agricultural show that does not involve a stay of more than 24 hours OR housing of the cattle at the showground and provided the cattle go directly from the show to slaughter or are returned directly to the premises of origin after the show.
12. Movement of cattle from herds that are in a low risk area (ie; routine TB tests are carried out at four yearly intervals).

13. Any movement licensed by a Veterinary Inspector.

**TB TEST RECORDS**

As soon as practicable after the results of the test have been read by an Inspector he will give the keeper of the animals, a record in writing of the results of the test.

The keeper of any animal which has been tested shall:-

1. Retain the records of the results of the test for 3 years and 60 days from the date of the injection of Tuberculin.

2. Produce such record when requested by an Inspector.

3. The test details should be entered into your on farm veterinary medicine record.

Farmers are advised to take a copy of the results of the test (undertaken during the previous 60 days) with them when presenting cattle moved off a farm, subject to the pre movement TB testing regime, for sale at market.

**COST OF TESTING**

Herd owners are must cover the costs of their vet.’s time to carry out pre-movement tests, whilst the government will continue to fund the provision of tuberculin and all routine surveillance testing.

**TB TESTING INTERVALS**

Please note that the new TB Testing Intervals in England come into effect on 1st January 2013

Details of testing intervals for each County is shown on the map below.
These are general guidance notes only and not an authoritative document on the law. In the interests of brevity, some details have been omitted. More information and advice can be obtained from: