



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara**  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

# Frequently Asked Questions

## EU Animal Health Law TB Testing Requirements

Effective 01 February 2023



[www.bovinetb.ie](http://www.bovinetb.ie)

Published July 2023



## **1. Are all farmers affected by the new requirements?**

No. Only farmers who buy or sell cows of any age or males over the age of 36 months are affected by the new requirements

## **2. What are the new requirements if I buy or sell cows of any age, or males over the age of 36 months?**

Cows of any age or males over the age of 36 months, moving from one herd to another, through a mart or farm to farm, must be tested within the last 6 months and the herd that is moving them out must also be tested within the last 6 months. If not, these animals must be tested in the 30 days prior to or after movement.

## **3. Do all farmers now have to have a TB herd test every 6 months?**

No. All cattle farmers can continue to test their herd once a year as normal.

## **4. Do all animals have to have a valid TB test within the last 6 months to move via the mart or farm to farm?**

No. Only cows of all ages and males over the age of 36 months moving from one herd to another, through a mart or farm to farm must have a TB test within the 6 months prior to the move and the herd that is moving them out must also be tested within the last 6 months. If this requirement is not met these animals can be individually pre movement tested in the 30 days preceding the sale or post movement tested in the purchasing herd inside 30 days of the movement

## **5. What happens if a cow of any age or a male over the age of 36 months I want to sell has not been tested in the last 6 months or my herd has not been tested in the last 6 months?**

You may pre-movement test the animal in the 30 days prior to movement or it will require a test in the 30 days after it moves out of your herd.

## 6. How long is a pre-movement test valid for?

For the purpose of these new requirements a pre-movement test is valid for 30 days. If you delay selling the animal beyond the 30 days, the buyer may have to post movement test it.

## 7. What happens if I don't want to pre-movement test the animal, can I still move it out?

Yes. You can still move the animal out but the person who moves it in will have to test it.



## 8. How will I know before I purchase an animal if it needs a test?

All mart boards display the earliest date of test for the batches of animals being presented for sale and most marts now also display the latest date of test for the seller herd. Compliance certificates display the latest date of test for each animal and the latest date of test for the seller herd. If in doubt, ask the seller the test status of animals.

## 9. What happens if I move in an animal that needs a test?

The animal will be restricted to your herd, and you will be required to TB test it within the following 30 days. You will receive a notification to this effect from this Department.



## **10. What happens if I don't test or slaughter the animal within 30 days?**

After 30 days, your herd will be restricted from outward movements. You can move animals into your herd, and you will have another 60 days to test or slaughter the animal. You will receive a notification to this effect from this Department.

## **11. Can I test this animal as part of any other test?**

Yes, you may test this animal as part of any other herd level test, e.g., Department paid tests where one is scheduled for completion, e.g., contiguous tests, post de-restriction check tests or your annual herd test.

## **12. Can I move the animal to slaughter without testing it?**

Yes, you may move the animal direct to slaughter within 90 days without having to carry out a test. After 90 days your herd will have to be tested.

## **13. When will the restriction on my herd be lifted?**

If you test or slaughter the animal between day 30 and 90 the restriction will be lifted. If you don't test or slaughter the animal between day 30 and 90, your whole herd will be scheduled for a herd test. You will receive a notification to this effect from this Department. Once your herd tests clear the restriction on your herd will be lifted provided you are not restricted for any other reason. This test date will become the anniversary date for your next annual herd test.

## **14. If the animal is slaughtered or dies after a herd test is scheduled, do I still have to do the test?**

Yes.

## **15. Can I move animals in or out while I am restricted?**

You may move animals in provided your herd is not already restricted from doing so for any other reason. You cannot move animals out except direct to slaughter.

## 16. Can I move out calves less than 6 weeks of age while I am restricted?

Yes, you may move out calves less than 6 weeks of age, but these calves are not eligible for export while your herd remains restricted

## 17. How long will I be allowed to move animals in?

You will be allowed to move animals in until the day before the day the test is due to take place. This allows farmers almost 90 days to buy in animals and test the ones that need a post movement test before a full herd test is required. After 90 days a full herd test will be required.



## 18. My annual herd test is usually in March, and I don't want to have a second test before I sell cows in the autumn what are my options?

You can arrange to have your annual herd test postponed for up to 3 months by contacting your local Regional Veterinary Office in advance of the due date. Your herd will be restricted from the original due date until the test is completed. You won't be able to sell any animals, except direct to slaughter, until you have conducted the test. You will be allowed to move animals in while awaiting the test and you may move out calves less than 6 weeks of age, but these are not eligible for export while your herd is restricted. The new date will become the anniversary date for your next annual herd test. This means your animals can be sold within 6 months of your herd test. You may also pre movement test the individual animals. Next year you may also apply to postpone next years' annual herd test for up to 3 months.



## **19. I usually sell cull cows in the mart. Will I have to pre movement test them before I move them?**

Cull cows being bought directly by a Controlled Finishing Unit (CFU) (Feedlot) or going direct to slaughter will not be impacted by this change, as animals going direct to a CFU or to slaughter do not need a pre or post movement test. Cull cows being bought by another farm will have to meet the requirements. The requirements allow for cull cows to be within the new herd for up to 90 days without a whole herd test requirement.

## **20. I bought animals that need a post movement test, can I move them on to a restricted CFU (Feedlot) without testing them?**

No. You may not move animals requiring a post movement test on to another herd without testing them first.

## **21. Is a farmer eligible for all TB compensation in the event of continuing to purchase animals up until the 90 days have elapsed?**

Yes. A farmer is eligible for all TB compensation where they continue to purchase animals up to the day before the herd test is due.

## **22. How do I apply for the transitional contribution towards the AHL testing?**

The once-off contribution of up to a maximum of €70 will be provided to breeding herds in 2023, who need to carry out required necessary additional testing on cows of any age or, males over 36 months moved from one breeding herd to another breeding herd. (A breeding herd is defined as a herd with a birth registered in 2023). Application for the payment will be made on [www.agfood.ie](http://www.agfood.ie) once the process is in place. A further notification will issue when this is ready.



For further information please contact your Regional Veterinary Office (RVO).  
You can find your RVO by scanning the QR Code below or visiting  
[gov.ie](http://gov.ie) - [Contact the Department \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie).



To learn more about reducing the risk of bovine TB entering your herd please scan  
the QR code below or visit  
[gov.ie](http://gov.ie) - [TB Leaflets, Videos and Posters \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

