

TB Isolation Units (TBIU) in England

TBIUs provide an outlet for calves or store cattle from TB-restricted holdings lacking the facilities for rearing. Animals that enter a TBIU can regain officially TB free (OTF) status once they have completed the necessary testing regime. Approvals for TBIUs are issued by the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA).

Basic requirements

- Can be approved in the **High Risk Area (HRA) and Edge Area**, and in exceptional circumstances in the Low Risk Area (LRA)
- Can only be approved on an OTF holding and a separate CPH number is required i.e. the unit must be an entirely separate holding
- Can only source cattle from a **single TB-restricted holding** and are given a limited period (six weeks) for each batch to fill the unit
- **Prescribed biosecurity measures** must be in place to protect local cattle herds and wildlife from the risk of spread of TB from the TBIU
- Only units in the HRA of England where TB is endemic in the badger population are considered for approval with grazing

Testing & movements

- Cattle moving to a TBIU must have completed a skin test with a negative result within **60 days** before being moved, except calves under 42 days old
- Once in the unit cattle must have **at least two consecutive negative skin tests at severe interpretation** in order to regain OTF status, regardless of the TB status of the origin herd. The first test must take place at least 60 days after the last animal entered the unit
- Until OTF status has been regained, cattle can't leave the TBIU except under licence direct to slaughter or to an approved finishing unit (AFU)
- Once OTF status is regained, movement restrictions are lifted and cattle can be traded freely

Implications for the origin herd

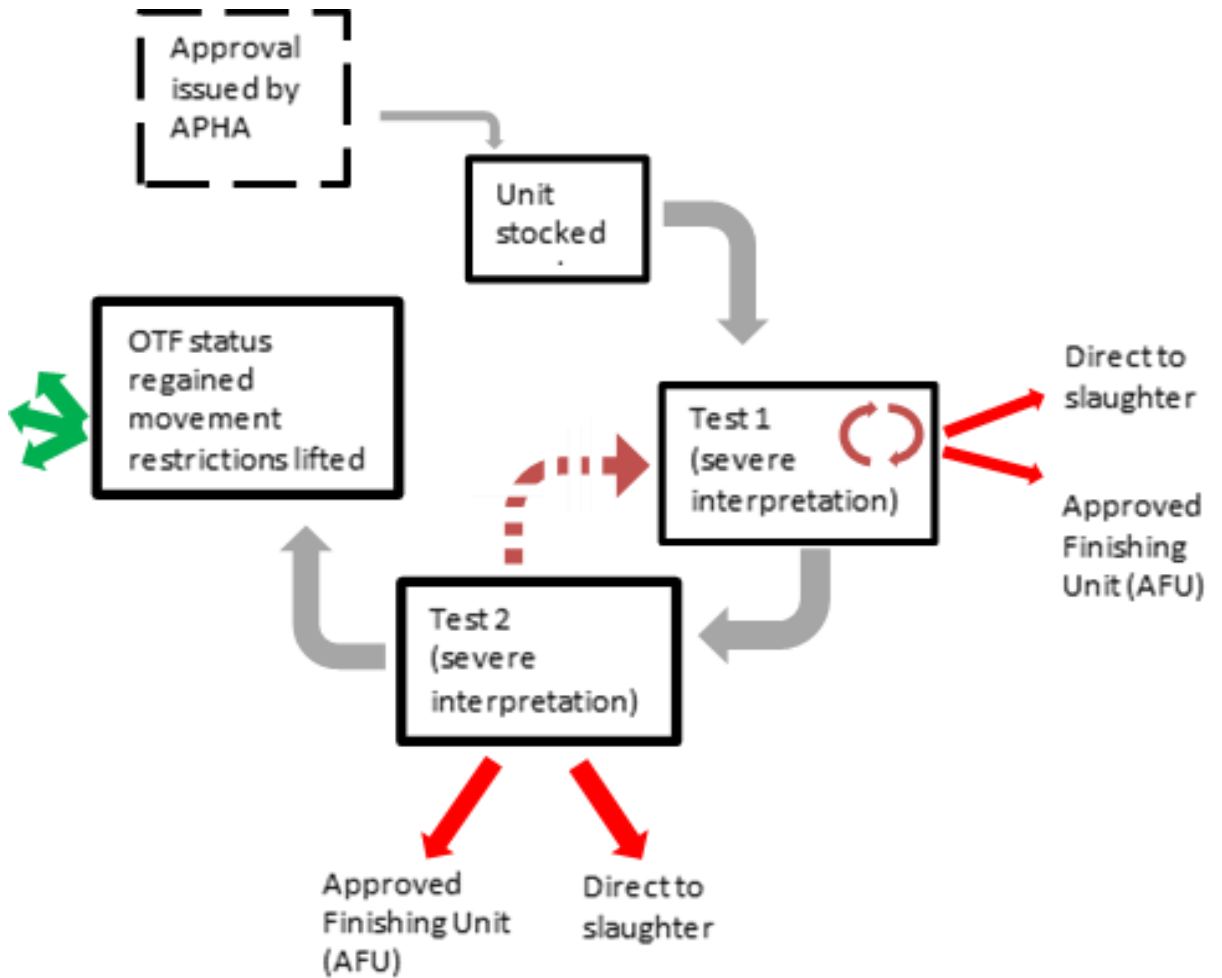
- Cattle in the breakdown herd of origin and TBIU share the same risk of exposure to TB infection which means that any worsening of disease in the TBIU has implications for the origin herd
- The required regime of skin testing must be completed by both the origin herd and cattle in the TBIU to avoid lifting restrictions prematurely and allowing movements of cattle with undisclosed infection to other herds

Biosecurity

- Each TBIU should be a **discrete, self-contained cattle unit, clearly isolated from other cattle herds**. Biosecurity requirements depend on whether grazing is included in the unit:

- No opportunity for nose-to-nose contact with other livestock
- No other livestock should have access to the unit
- The unit can't be located on a farmyard where other cattle are kept
- All equipment must be dedicated to the unit, especially yard scrapers
- Feed stores must be wildlife-proof
- Buildings must be wildlife-proof if the unit
- Manure must be stored securely with no access by livestock or wildlife

Operation of a TBIU



Where can I find more information?

An application form and the full terms and conditions for approval and operation of an TBIU can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/approved-tb-isolation-unit-application> Further information is also available on the TB hub.



Who should I speak to?

If you are considering applying for a TBIU, please contact APHA:



03000 200 301

Email: TB.Advice@apha.gov.uk