

How is the CHeCS programme different?

The CHeCS programme differs from statutory bTB control in several ways. If an animal coming into the herd from a low risk (testing four-yearly or OTF) area has spent any time in a high risk (testing annually or six-monthly) area, it must be pre-movement tested. Post-movement skin testing of added animals between 60 and 120 days after introduction is also compulsory unless they have resided since birth in a CHeCS Status 10 herd where there is no statutory requirement to pre-movement test. On arrival, it is recommended that all added animals are placed in quarantine; if the added animal then fails the bTB skin test, this should not affect the CHeCS bTB Herd Status Accreditation score.

Summary of testing requirements

Originating from a...	Having a CHeCS bTB Herd Status Accreditation of...	Moving to an area which ...	Pre-movement testing by seller	Post-movement testing by buyer
Six-monthly or annual testing area	None/not applicable	Test six monthly or annually	✓	✓
		Test four-yearly or is OTF	✓	✓
	0-10	Test six monthly or annually	✓	✓
		Test four-yearly or is OTF	✓	✓
Four-yearly area but not OTF (Officially TB-Free)	None/not applicable	Test six monthly or annually	†	✓
		Tests four-yearly	†	✓
		is OTF (Scotland)	✓*	✓
	0-9	Test six monthly or annually	†	✓
		Tests four-yearly	†	✓
		is OTF (Scotland)	✓*	✓
	10	Test six monthly or annually	†	
		Tests four-yearly	†	
		is OTF (Scotland)	✓*	✓*
OTF (Scotland)	None/not applicable	Test six monthly or annually	†	✓
		Tests four-yearly	†	✓
		is OTF (Scotland)		✓
	0-9	Test six monthly or annually	†	✓
		Tests four-yearly	†	✓
		is OTF (Scotland)		✓
	10	Test six monthly or annually	†	
		Tests four-yearly	†	
		is OTF (Scotland)		

✓ Statutory ✓ CHeCS

✓* Statutory pre-movement unless animal has spent whole life in 4-yearly test or OTF area

† CHeCS pre-movement testing if animal has spent any time in annual or 6-monthly testing area.

✓* CHeCS post-movement if animal has statutory pre-movement testing

CHeCS bTB Herd Status Accreditation

- › Easy to join
- › Voluntary
- › Effective and cost-effective



Remember: It is illegal to knowingly sell or move an animal that has tested positive for bTB to an Officially TB Free (OTF) herd. However, no test is 100% accurate and a negative test does not guarantee that an animal is free from the disease. CHeCS Herd Status Accreditation can help you communicate the genuine risk presented by or to your herd and make informed purchasing choices, but it does not eliminate that risk.

Reduce Risk – Improve Rewards

Speak to your vet today

www.checs.co.uk

www.tbhub.co.uk



CHeCS

Bovine TB

Herd Status Accreditation

Reduce Risk. Improve Rewards

- › Sell animals with an accredited Herd Status Accreditation
- › Buy animals with less chance of spreading bTB
- › Build on existing CHeCS disease control programmes
- › Protect and promote your low risk status
- › Systematically reduce bTB risk

Cattle farmers who take a proactive approach to controlling bovine TB (bTB) can now get the recognition they deserve.

Introduction

From November 2016, bTB Herd Status Accreditation will be available through participating cattle Health Schemes accredited by Cattle Health Certification Standards (CHecs).

With CHecs already providing frameworks to control Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD), Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), Leptospirosis, Johne's Disease & Neospora, it is well-placed to recognise on-farm efforts to reduce risk of a bTB breakdown. This is because good biosecurity practice is central to existing CHecs programmes, as is a planned approach to disease reduction with the herd vet.

Who benefits?

If you are...

- In a high risk area with a low-risk holding
- Selling livestock and want your low-risk status recognised
- Buying livestock and want to minimise risk of introducing bTB
- Already using other CHecs programmes
- Looking for a systematic, supported way to reduce bTB in your herd
- Or keen to complement Government and industry efforts to control infection

..this voluntary programme could suit you.

Herd Status Accreditation approach

A similar approach is already being used to help control bTB in New Zealand. However, this CHecs scheme adds biosecurity as a factor. The Risk scores run from 0 (lowest) to 10 (highest), and are awarded from a combination of compliancy with CHecs standards and years since the last herd breakdown, with each year being signified by the score awarded. The difference between a breakdown in the herd and a breakdown of added animals in quarantine is also recognised.

How it works

The farmer or cattle owner first finds a participating CHecs-accredited Health Scheme (list available at www.checs.co.uk) and working with his/her herd vet, agrees to implement CHecs requirements on-farm.

CHecs handles bTB Herd Status Accreditation differently from other diseases, as the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) co-ordinates a centralised statutory testing regime. So rather than testing animals themselves, the Health Schemes, with the agreement of the farmers involved, will access test results data direct from APHA. Accessing the last 10 years of test data will allow the Health Scheme to award the farm a starting Herd Status. This means homebred animals marketed from these herds can then be sold with that status.

To move up through the scores within the programme, herds must meet the requirements of the statutory scheme and be deemed to be adhering to CHecs standards.

For the purposes of this programme, the different scores are:

- 10: (lowest risk): 10 years or more since the last bTB breakdown within the herd
- 9: 9 years since the last bTB breakdown within the herd
- 8: 8 years since the last bTB breakdown within the herd

There will then be a score corresponding to each number of years since the herd regained OTF status after a breakdown, down to:

- 0: (high risk): The herd is Officially bTB Free (OTF) at this point but has had a bTB breakdown within the past year.

Unclassified/not stated (highest risk):

Not participating, or the animal is bought-in and cannot use the herd status.

