

Bovine TB: Tackling infection in pigs, sheep, goats, captive deer and South American camelids

Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Chartered Trading Standards Institute response

8th November 2016

About The Chartered Trading Standards Institute

The Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) is a professional membership association founded in 1881. It represents trading standards officers and associated personnel working in the UK and also overseas – in the business and consumer sectors as well as in local and central government.

The Institute aims to promote and protect the success of a modern vibrant economy and to safeguard the health, safety and wellbeing of citizens by empowering consumers, encouraging honest business, and targeting rogue traders.

We provide information, evidence, and policy advice to support local and national stakeholders.

We have also, as part of our recently revised remit, taken over responsibility for business advice and education concerning trading standards and consumer protection legislation. To this end, we have developed the Business Companion website (www.businesscompanion.info).

The CTSI Consumer Codes Approval Scheme was launched in 2013, superseding the OFT scheme (www.tradingstandards.uk/advice/ConsumerCodes.cfm).

CTSI is a member of the Consumer Protection Partnership, set up by central government to bring about better coordination, intelligence sharing and identification of future consumer issues within the consumer protection arena.

We run events for both the trading standards profession and a growing number of external organisations. We also provide accredited courses on regulations and enforcement.

A key concern for CTSI is that of resources. UK local authority trading standards services enforce over 250 pieces of legislation in a wide variety of areas. They have suffered an average reduction of 46% in their budgets since 2010 and staff numbers have fallen by 53% in the same period.

This response has been composed by CTSI Lead Officer for Animal Health and Welfare, Stephanie Young. Should you have any queries or wish to discuss the response please do not hesitate to contact Stephanie Young at LO LOanimalhealth@tsi.org.uk.

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Intro

The Animal Health Act 1981 places a statutory duty on Local Authorities for enforcement with this role being carried out either Trading Standards or Environmental Health officers. Effective disease control, industry compliance and proportionate enforcement with the rules is essential for economic prosperity and growth.

Questions

Do you agree that we should apply the duty to report suspicion of TB in live bovine animals to all non-bovine species?

Yes

Please add any comments:

Bovine Tuberculosis is a notifiable disease and whilst it is recognized and appreciated that the control and eradication strategy differs from exotic notifiable disease, it is considered that where there is any disease risk which has an impact on public health, animal health and the economy, the suspicion of any such disease ought to be reported for veterinary risk to be assessed.

Do you agree that we should apply to all non-bovine species the duty on veterinary inspectors to carry out a veterinary inquiry where he or she has reason to believe that there is on any premises a live non-bovine animal or carcase affected by, or suspected of being affected by, TB?

Yes

Please add any comments:

This is proportionate to effective disease control and is in accordance with the provisions of the Animal Health Act 1981.

Do you agree that we should apply to all non-bovine species the powers that require a keeper to have any animal tested for tuberculosis with a relevant test by a specified date?

Yes

Please add any comments:

This is proportionate to effective disease control and ensures that control measures are not selective to species particularly as we are witnessing greater diversity on farm of animals susceptible to bovine tuberculosis that have very few movement controls placed on them.

Do you agree that government mandated testing of captive deer should be funded by Government, in line with the arrangements for other non-bovine species?

Yes

Please add any comments:

All sectors of the industry ought to be offered the same level of support.

Do you agree we should apply to all non-bovine species the prohibitions and consent requirements relating to testing, treatment and vaccination that currently apply to bovines?

Yes

Please add any comments:

It is considered that regardless of species, the same rules need to apply. For ease of interpretation and enforcement, the controls for bovine tuberculosis ought to be consolidated into one single piece of legislation.

Do you agree that we should apply to all non-bovine species powers that enable an inspector to require the isolation of specific animals and prohibit the movement of some or all animals on to or off of premises, except under licence?

Yes

Please add any comments:

As per 8 above.

Do you agree we should apply to all non-bovine species the powers for a veterinary inspector to require steps to be taken by the operators of markets, shows etc. to manage the risks posed by animals affected by, or exposed to TB and, if necessary, remove specified animals from such premises?

Yes

Please add any comments:

As per Q 8 & 9 above.

Do you agree the proposed compensation rates in the Annex are appropriate?

No view