

# Working together for safe TB testing

It is important that we work together to ensure the TB testing process is safe and efficient for both you and your animals.

## Working together

### OSPRI's safety responsibilities

- Our TB testers are experienced and accredited testers with proven skills in animal awareness and handling. Our testers will work closely with you to ensure testing is carried out smoothly and safely as possible.

### Your safety responsibilities

- Meet on-farm with our TB tester to discuss the best and safest way to carry out testing based on your yard, facilities and animals.
- Ensure any hazards at the farm are controlled as far as practicable for testing, and that our tester knows about them.
- Have your animals mustered and secure, ready for testing.

## Handling facilities for TB testing

Farmers must ensure facilities are safe for testing and assist with holding, handling and restraining animals so they can be tested safely.

Testing will not go ahead if our tester considers conditions to be unsafe. Testing will be rescheduled after appropriate facilities are in place.



### Cattle testing

We want our testers to work in a safe facilities where they can focus on the job. These are the standards that are required:

- The tester must operate from behind a solid safe barrier.
- Milking platforms and dairy shed floors and surfaces are clear of slip and trip hazards.
- Machine safety controls in place, e.g., guards and E-Stops/lanyards.
- Kick rails in place, posts and rails in good condition.
- Stairs, ladder and platforms are in good condition, with anti-slip/tread, hand and mid rails.
- Lighting is adequate.

- Safe system in place to work at height – for example, an AI platform. Platforms should have stable steps, non-slip flooring and safety rails. Free-standing platforms must have footing wheels that are lockable.

### Cattle race

- Race must be structurally sound, with even and non-slip catwalks with guardrails. Rear race gates should be strong.
- The tester will ask you to draft the cattle through the race and separate off troublesome animals.
- Ensure that the animals are tightly packed in the race so that the tester can safely test from the outside.



## Deer testing

Our technician will assess whether the facilities are safe, and determine the safest testing method based on the deer type and temperament. This may be a crush, under sedation or in a pen. If none of these options are suitable or safe, testing will not go ahead. The tester will ask you to muster the deer for testing, move the deer through the race, crush or pen and separate off troublesome animals.

### Testing in a crush

- Pens should be designed to easily encourage deer into the crush.
- 'Drop floor' crushes and 'squeeze crates' (with collapsing padded sides) are suitable for restraint.

- Crush facilities must be able to cater for all types of deer, including mature stags.
- Restraint equipment must meet the requirements of section 4.5 of the Code of Welfare for Deer:
  - Restraint equipment used must be maintained in good working order.
  - Restraint equipment must minimise the risk of injury or unnecessary pain or distress to deer.
  - Restraint equipment used must be suitable for the class, age and type of deer.
  - Operators must be fully knowledgeable with the safe operating procedures of the restraint equipment.
  - Deer must not be held in a restraint for more than the time required to carry out the TB test.
  - Deer must be able to be quickly released from restraint equipment.

### Testing in a pen

The testing of hinds within a pen is permitted only when the animals have been assessed as safe to handle, and if this is the safest way identified by the tester.

Pens must meet the requirements of section 4.2 of the Code of Welfare for Deer:

- Facilities must be designed, constructed and maintained to prevent injury to animals during routine husbandry procedures.
- All protrusions, gaps and edges, including damaged flooring, likely to cause injury to deer must be removed, repaired or covered.
- The storage of all health remedies, toxic materials and associated equipment must be secure and inaccessible to deer.
- Ventilation must be sufficient to prevent a build-up of excessive heat, humidity and noxious gases.
- All deer facilities must have light at a minimum of 20 lux available at all times to enable safe inspection and handling of animals.
- All power cables and associated fittings must be inaccessible to deer.
- Floors must be constructed of non-slip material.



## Use of firearms

If animals are required to be euthanised, this must be carried out by a vet or a farm representative. The appropriate safety controls must be in place and the person handling the firearm must have the correct firearms license.



## Contacting your tester

Our testers have satellite-enabled phones to receive and send texts in areas without cellular or Wi-Fi coverage. You can text them at any time on the day of your test if you need to reach them.



## TB test reactors

If animals react to testing, the tester will discuss with you the best approach to tagging.

- For cattle, this will usually be in a race and head bail. Head bails must be solidly built, well maintained and function efficiently.
- For deer, this may be carried out in the crush or under sedation. Additional measures to settle the deer may be required, such as covering their eyes.

For more information visit:  
[ospri.co.nz/about-us/our-company/health-safety](https://ospri.co.nz/about-us/our-company/health-safety)