

Use of Bovine Gamma Interferon Test for Family Bovidae, Subfamily Bovinae Exports to Canada.

*The blood for the Bovigam test must be collected at the same time as the animal is injected for the second intradermal test. The Bovigam test results are to be sent to CFIA National Headquarters (LiveAnimalImportsNCR@inspection.gc.ca) for interpretation and a decision regarding the acceptability of the results will be made. **Only after these results are obtained and approved will the import permit be issued for the shipment. Please note that at least five to ten (5-10) business days must be allowed for the issuance of the import permits following the receipt of all the necessary information to complete the request.***

Only the USDA APHIS National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) may perform the gamma interferon test (BOVIGAM[®]) as an official export test for tuberculosis in Family Bovidae, subfamily boviniae animals.

- Sample collection:
 - Only accredited veterinarians may collect blood for the gamma interferon test (BOVIGAM[®]).
 - Collect 6 ml or more of blood in a heparinized (i.e., green-topped) blood tube. Other anti-coagulants interfere with this test.

- Packaging, Shipping, and Submission Instructions:
 - Ensure that samples are packaged in an acceptable shipping container and/or thermal packaging material that will help maintain ambient temperature.
 - The most critical consideration is to avoid extremes in temperature during the shipment and/or storage of the sample.
 - In the situation of extreme heat during shipment, ice packs could be placed at the bottom of a shipping container with sufficient packing material (i.e., pellets, Styrofoam “beans”, etc.) to ensure there is no direct contact between the blood sample tubes and the ice pack.
 - The package insert indicates blood should be shipped and stored at 22°±5° C (71.6°±9° F).
 - Comply with all the requirements of [49 CFR](#), International Air Transport Association (IATA), and your carrier (FedEx or UPS) when packaging and shipping samples to NVSL.
 - Label outside of the shipping container “UN 3373 Diagnostic Specimen”.
 - Submit a completed VS 10-4 specimen submission form with the blood samples. A State or laboratory equivalent form may not be used. A fillable pdf form is available at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/library/forms/pdf/VS_Form10_4.pdf
 - Fill in payment method in Box 5 on the VS 10-4. Current NVSL User Fees will apply.
 - Fill in “Bovigam-Export” for Box 9 on the VS 10-4.
 - Fill in time and date collected for Box 11 on the VS 10-4.
 - Number the Sample ID as 1, 2, 3, 4...in Box 21 on the VS 10-4.

- Notify NVSL immediately after shipping the samples by calling the NVSL Serology Section (515) 337-7563 with the number of samples and the shipping tracking number.
- Test interpretation:
The Bovigam test results are to be sent to CFIA National Headquarters (LiveAnimalImportsNCR@inspection.gc.ca) for interpretation and a decision regarding the acceptability of the results will be made.