



## **Protocol for blood sampling for bovine tuberculosis using the Enferplex test.**

Please be aware that the following represents best practice. Serological samples are relatively tolerant of sub-optimum conditions but if maximum sensitivity and specificity are to be achieved then they need to be handled appropriately.

1. Collect samples at the beginning of the working week, to allow the samples to get to Sure Farm Ltd by Tuesday or early Wednesday morning at the latest.
2. Cleanly take a blood sample, minimum of 3-4 ml, into a serum (red top) glass vacutainer tube.
3. Clot the blood at room temperature (20 +/- 4 degrees Celcius) for 2-3 hours to allow good clot formation and initial clot retraction. Beware taking samples over prolonged period of time in very cold temperatures as this can result in a problem with clot retraction.
4. Store Cool to 4-8 degrees Celcius and keep at that temperature until they arrive at the destination lab. Transport should be in an approved transport container with samples appropriately labelled / supported so they don't shake about too much. Avoid having the samples delayed in the transport system over a weekend.