

ANIMAL GATHERINGS ORDER

Biosecurity guidance for operators and
users in England and Wales





The Animal Gatherings (England) Order 2010/ The Animal Gatherings (Wales) Order 2010 and its associated licence has been introduced to simplify and improve the biosecurity regime at animal gatherings. These changes followed extensive consultation with those who operate markets, who organise shows, who attend them and who enforce the rules. The changes assume that the industry will take responsibility for ensuring a standard of biosecurity necessary to reduce the spread of a disease such as foot and mouth disease before its presence has been confirmed. These measures can also help to ensure that farms are protected from the introduction of other endemic diseases which can be costly to control.

This guide gives **essential biosecurity advice** to supplement the requirements in the Order and Licence.

If you operate any gathering

- You should make sure that everyone who handles livestock is aware of the notifiable diseases in animals and how to initiate the gathering's Disease Control Contingency Plan
- You should make sure that everyone you engage who handles livestock has training sufficient for them to understand the risks of poor biosecurity and understands the consequences of disease spread
- Make sure you and your team set a good example and practice good biosecurity as part of your normal routine
- You should have good, clearly-identified facilities for people who handle animals to:
 - scrub and disinfect their boots when they go into and leave the animal area
 - wash their hands thoroughly
 - wash down any waterproof clothing
 - safely dispose of any used disposable clothing
- Organisers of shows should provide facilities for cleansing and disinfecting vehicles and equipment that has been used in the animal rings
- Be prepared to refuse entry to anyone attending your gathering whose clothing or vehicle poses a biosecurity risk to everyone else and advise them that they should clean their clothing /vehicle, and to resolve this problem as soon as possible by directing them to using the facilities provided.



If you attend a gathering

- Leave 'disease' where it is by following good biosecurity measures every time you leave a premises with livestock
- You should ensure that you know the signs of notifiable diseases in animals and, if in doubt, seek veterinary advice as soon as possible
- Don't come onto the premises with clothes or livestock vehicle (including a vehicle used to pull a trailer) contaminated with mud or other farm contamination
- Facilities are provided for you to cleanse and disinfect your boots and scrub your hands. If you need to, use them
- Handling animals can spread disease; you should wash your hands and clothing/footwear before you leave the premises
- You should cleanse and disinfect your livestock vehicle on site before leaving if at all possible
- Be alert for any signs of disease in animals – if there is a suspect case while you are on the premises, be prepared to co-operate with the authorities in implementing the Disease Control Contingency Plan.

If you operate a gathering on a farm

- You should take extra care to ensure that there is no contact between your stock and the animals coming to the gathering
- Equipment should either be dedicated to the gathering or fully cleansed and disinfected if moved between the farm and the gathering site
- Farm staff should operate strict biosecurity procedures if they move between the gathering and the farm (e.g. change clothes and cleanse and disinfect boots).

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