Animal & Plant Health Agency

Bluetongue Outbreak 3 August 2007 to 5 August 2011

Notes for Guidance for Official Veterinarians and Exporters

July 2021

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PB 8425BTVN

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

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Contents

Trade to Member States of the European Union (EU) in Ruminant Germplasm from GB Bluetongue Restricted Zones which were in place during 3 August 2007 to 5 July 2011

This document must be read in conjunction with the usual notes for guidance for the germplasm being certified.

Additional Requirements for Trade to Member States of the EU in Ruminant Germplasm under Article 8 and Annex III of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007 as amended. These requirements have to be met/certified for germplasm collected between 3 August 2007 and 5 July 2011.

1. Background

Directive 2000/75/EC (as amended) establishes an exit ban which prohibits movements of ruminant animals and their germplasm from bluetongue restricted zones (RZ). Commission Regulation 1266/2007 allows ruminant germplasm to be exempted from the exit ban provided that certain additional safeguard measures are applied. A map showing the current bluetongue RZ in the EU can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/controlmeasures/bluetongue_en.htm

Ruminant animals include:

Family	**Examples**
Antilocapridae	Pronghorns
Bovidae	**Cattle**, **Sheep**, **Goats**, Antelopes, Gazelles
Camelidae	Camels, Llamas, Alpacas
Cervidae	Deer
Giraffidae	Giraffes, Okapi
Moschidae	Musk deer
Tragulidae	Chevrotain (Mouse deer)

2. Area of Application

The additional *safeguard* measures (paragraphs 3 and 4 below) and the additional *health* attestations (paragraph 5 below) **do not** need to be applied to ruminant germplasm which is being produced **and/or** dispatched from an establishment located wholly **outside** any bluetongue RZ. If the germplasm is collected from donor animals outside the bluetongue RZ or legally imported, and stored within the RZ prior to dispatch, an additional *health* attestation is required; however, the additional *safeguard* measures do not have to be complied with. The health certificate accompanying the consignment in question **must** be consulted to determine which health attestation is applicable.

3. Additional Safeguard Measures

(a) The additional safeguard measures focus on the location of the donor animals at the time of collection of the germplasm and risk mitigation either through protection of the donor animals against vector attacks or satisfactory testing of the donor animals for the presence of antibodies or the virus.

(b) No method of protecting livestock against attacks from Culicoides is 100% effective. This means that the only practical way of certifying compliance with the requirements of Commission Regulation 1266/2007 is to rely on satisfactory testing of the donor animals. **However, if it is possible to construct a facility and manage it in such a way that vector attack can be mitigated, then this option may be used. The certifying official veterinarian may obtain from the operator of the facility - any relevant declaration(s)/undertaking(s) that s/he considers necessary and certify this option on such a basis and/or spot checks.**

(c) Samples must be sent, in good time, to an official laboratory (currently Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright – for the PCR, and the APHA Laboratory, Addlestone – for the ELISA) for testing. Guidance on submission of samples, including the submission forms to use, can be found at:

For APHA: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/laboratory-test-price-lists

For Pirbright:
http://www.pirbright.ac.uk/files/quick_media/Diagnostic%20Price%20List.pdf

4. Guidance on certification of Additional Safeguard Measures

Pre-existing EU trade rules require that donor animals are not under veterinary prohibition or quarantine measures. If such measures are in place as a result of bluetongue, this requirement can be waived if the relevant conditions of Regulation 1266/2007 have been met.
The relevant additional health statement (attestation – paragraph 5 below refers) on the Export Health Certificate (EHC) may be certified on the following basis:

Semen:

Points (a) through to (e) of Annex III.B to Regulation 1266/2007 refer.

The semen must have been collected from donor animals complying with **at least one** of the following options:

Point (a): the donor animals have been resident **outside a RZ** for at least **60 days** both before and during the collection of the semen being certified; semen collected during the 60 days prior to the centre/holding getting caught up in the RZ will be ineligible for export under this option. However, if the donors can be/have been tested serologically between 21 and 60 days after the final collection in accordance with Point (d), with negative results, then the semen can be certified for export under that option.

Point (b): the donor animals have been protected against attacks by vectors for a period of at least 60 days before commencement of, and during, collection of the semen;
Note: this option can be used if it is possible to construct a facility and manage it in such a way that vector attack can be mitigated. The certifying official veterinarian may obtain - Page **5** of **7**

from the operator of the facility - any relevant declaration(s)/undertaking(s) that s/he considers necessary and certify this option on such a basis and/or spot checks.
Point (c): the donor animals have been resident in a bluetongue seasonally-free zone during that zone's *seasonally vector-free period* for at least 60 days both before and during the collection of the semen being certified;
AND
the validity of the *seasonally vector-free period* has been substantiated by favourable epidemiological data obtained from the implementation of a bluetongue monitoring programme for the last 3 years.
Note: no seasonally-free zones have been established in Great Britain, therefore this option cannot currently be used.
Point (d): the donor animals have been subjected to a serological test (according to the OIE Terrestrial Manual) to detect **antibodies** to the bluetongue virus group, with negative results, at least every **60 days** during the collection period and between **21** and **60 days** following the final collection;

Point (e): the donor animals have been subjected, with negative results, to an **agent identification test** (according to the OIE Terrestrial Manual) carried out on blood samples collected:

(i) at the time of the first and final collection;
and
(ii) during the period of semen collection:
- at least **every 7 days**, in the case of a **virus isolation** test,
or
- at least **every 28 days**, in the case of a **polymerase chain reaction** test.

Bovine Embryos / Ova (*in-vivo* derived)

Point 1 of Annex III.C to Regulation 1266/2007 refers.

The *in-vivo* derived bovine embryos must have been collected in accordance with Council Directive 89/556/EEC, which means they must have been:

(i) collected by Article 3 approved embryo collection teams **and**
(ii) collected from animals meeting Annex B health requirements **and**
(iii) collected, processed and stored in accordance with Annex A i.e. washed, including with trypsin, as mentioned in the Annex of Council Directive 89/556/EEC
and
(iv) collected from animals which do not show any clinical signs of bluetongue on the day of collection.

Other Embryos / Ova

Points 2(a), 2(c) and 2(d) of Annex III.C to Regulation 1266/2007 refer.

The embryos/ova of ruminants other than bovines and the in vitro derived bovine embryos/ova, must have been obtained from donor females complying with at least one of the following options:

Point 2(a): the donor females have been resident outside a RZ for at least 60 days both before and during the collection of the embryos/ova being certified; ova/embryos collected during the 60 days prior to the holding getting caught up in the RZ will be ineligible for export under this option. However, if the donors can be/have been tested serologically between 21 and 60 days after the final collection in accordance with Point 2(c), or virologically on the day of collection in accordance with Point 2(d), with negative results, then they can be certified for export under these options.

Point 2(c): the donor females have been subjected to a serological test (according to the OIE Terrestrial Manual) to detect **antibodies** to the bluetongue virus group, between **21** and **60 days** following collection of the embryos/ova being certified, with negative results;

Point 2(d): the donor females have been subjected to an **agent identification test** (according to the OIE Terrestrial Manual) on a blood sample taken on the **day of collection** of the embryos/ ova being certified, with negative results.

5. Additional Health Attestation

Consignments of ruminant germplasm being dispatched from an establishment located either partially or wholly within a RZ must be accompanied by the standard EHC annotated with the relevant additional statement(s) to confirm that the conditions of the additional safeguard measures (as appropriate) have been met. It is possible to certify compliance with more than one Annex III B/C options, e.g. if semen is collected from animals located outside the RZ, and the donor animals have been tested by serology, it is possible to certify compliance with points **a and d**.

(a) semen in compliance with Article 8(1)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007
and
semen obtained from donor animals which comply with point **[(a), (b), (c), (d) or (e) as appropriate]** of Annex III.B to Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007;

(b) ova in compliance with Article 8(1)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007
and
ova obtained from donor animals which comply with point **[1, 2(a) 2(c) or 2(d) as appropriate]** of Annex III.C to Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007;

(c) embryos in compliance with Article 8(1)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007
and
embryos obtained from donor animals which comply with point **[1, 2(a), 2(c) or 2(d) as appropriate]** of Annex III.C to Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007;

The certifying official must select the appropriate BTB/C options on the EHC and/or manually annotate the EHC with the appropriate statements, as above. Any manual annotations must be made in Part II (Certification), below the health information and above the signature.