

Conditions for the approval and supervision of quarantine/isolation units on farms/holdings and at the pre-entry isolation units of the Semen Collection Centre (SCC)

1) Management of isolation

Animals may be isolated either in a fully enclosed building or on pasture.

a) Buildings used for the on farm and SCC quarantine/isolation must be dedicated to the animals in question and be physically separate from any buildings used for other livestock.

b) Pastures used for quarantine/isolation must be dedicated for isolation and be physically separate from any pastures or buildings used for other livestock on the premises. A minimum distance of 10 metres is required between the perimeter of the isolation fields and any other livestock. Alternatively, stockproof double fencing at least 5 metres apart, made from heavy gauge woven wire at least 1.8 meters high, is acceptable; the space between the fencing must be kept free of all vegetation. Sections of the perimeter where a wall of an enclosed building or other solid barrier forms part of the perimeter do not require fencing.

c) Animals may only be moved between quarantine/isolation units at the farm and/or to pre-entry quarantine/isolation units at the SCC, to continue the isolation period, only if they are the same health status, and subject to approval by the Official Veterinarian (OV).

The animals in question must be transported in a vehicle that has been cleaned and disinfected prior to use and must be kept separate from other animals during the journey to the SCC. The transport of the animals from their last holding to the SCC isolation unit to complete the required 120-day isolation period should be done under seal¹ and under the oversight of the OV. Defra recommend the second set of isolation tests to be performed prior to entry into the isolation unit in the SCC, so the animals can move into the isolation/quarantine unit in SCC as an individual farm group.

2) Construction for buildings

a) Any buildings used for quarantine/isolation must be designed such that contact with other livestock is prevented.

b) A dedicated loading/off-loading facility must be provided for each quarantine/isolation unit. This unit shall be fully cleansed and disinfected after each use.

3) Operating procedures

a) Dedicated protective clothing for staff must be provided for the quarantine/isolation unit.

b) Protective clothing to be provided for visitors.

c) Disinfectant footbaths to be provided and used at the entrance(s) to the quarantine/isolation units.

d) Any person entering the isolation unit must wear protective clothing and footwear and use the disinfectant footbaths at the entrance(s).

¹ Reference to seal for this purpose may mean any mechanism or means to avoid entry into the transport vehicle or manipulation during travel e.g. padlock on doors.

e) Any unused feeding stuffs, fodder, bedding etc, intended for animals in the isolation unit must remain there while animals are present.

f) All equipment, pens, hurdles, etc in the isolation premises must remain there until the 120-day period has been satisfactorily completed.

g) No pets are allowed in the quarantine/isolation unit.

4) Supervision

a) The OV must visit the holding at the beginning of the isolation period to approve the quarantine/isolation unit on the basis of the above requirements. If the isolation period is to continue at the isolation unit in the SCC, then they must visit the SCC to approve the pre-entry quarantine/isolation unit, where collection will take place on the basis of the above requirements.

b) The OV must then ensure the animals continue to be isolated as required above every time the OV visits the quarantine/isolation unit to take samples for laboratory tests, carries out the tuberculin test and reads it 72 hours later, and to sign off the support certificate (7852SPT) at the end of the 120-day isolation period.

c) If the animals are to return to the holding following semen collection for post-collection sampling, the OV must ensure they are isolated again until the post collection samples are taken.

d) The OV must record in a register all the visits and activities undertaken. If an animal tests positive to any test or has breached the requirements for isolation, it must be removed from the group and the Centre for International Trade (CIT) in Carlisle / DAERA HQ in Belfast as well as the centre veterinarian must be contacted for advice on next steps.