



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2024/37

9 September 2024

OUTBREAK OF BLUETONGUE VIRUS IN CZECHIA AND NORWAY

Purpose

1. To inform you that, owing to a recent outbreak of bluetongue virus (serotype to be confirmed) in Czechia and Norway, consignments of live ruminants and ruminant germplasm from Czechia and Norway should be held.

Background

2. Czechia reported an outbreak of BTV on the government website on 6 September 2024. This occurred in a mixed holding with sheep, goats and cattle in the Sokolov Region in the west of Czechia. Norway reported an outbreak of BTV to WOAHA on 6 September 2024. This occurred in a holding with sheep in Kristiansand on the southern coast of Norway.
3. As a result of these outbreaks both Czechia and Norway have lost their BTV free status.
4. The UK Office for SPS Trade Assurance will update its [Live Ungulates](#) listing in due course to apply Supplementary Guarantee A to the entries for Czechia and Norway. A separate OVS note will be issued when this has taken place.
5. In the meantime, any consignments of live ruminants and ruminant germplasm from Czechia and Norway should be held, with The UK Office for SPS Trade Assurance contacted for advice at ukassurance@defra.gov.uk.
6. In addition to the above, the loss of BTV-free status for Czechia and Norway means that exports of ruminant germplasm from Czechia and Norway to GB will now also be required to comply with the relevant testing requirements for BTV set out in relevant health certificates.

7. We will keep you informed of any further developments.

Action for OVSs

8. To note the above information.

Contact point for enquiries

Email: ukassurance@defra.gov.uk

Imports and EU Trade Team