



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2024/42

17 September 2024

### OUTBREAK OF BLUETONGUE VIRUS IN AUSTRIA

#### Purpose

1. To inform you of new import restrictions on live ruminants and ruminant germplasm owing to recent outbreaks of bluetongue virus (serotypes 3 and 4) in Austria.

#### Background

1. Austria reported an outbreak of BTV-3 to [WOAH](#) on 13 September 2024. This occurred in a cattle holding in Bregenz. Austria also reported an outbreak of BTV-4 to [WOAH](#) on 13 September 2024. This occurred in a cattle holding in Leoben.
2. On 16 September [OVS note 2024/40](#) was issued to inform of the BTV outbreaks and request that consignments of live ruminants and ruminant germplasm be held, as an interim measure, while the UK Office for SPS Trade Assurance assessed the situation and the need for additional import restrictions.
3. In response, we have amended our [live ungulates list](#) to add supplementary guarantee 'A' to Austria's entry. This guarantee requires all live ruminants exported to GB from Austria to be vaccinated against the serotypes of BTV in the country. As there is currently no available vaccine for BTV-3 in Austria, this change to Austria's listing means that consignments of live ruminants are not certifiable for export from Austria to GB.

4. In addition to the above, Austria's loss of BTV-free status means that exports of ruminant germplasm from Austria to GB will now also be required to comply with the relevant testing requirements for BTV set out in relevant health certificates.

#### **Action for OVSs**

5. To note the contents of this OVS note.

#### **Contact point for enquiries**

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*Imports and EU Trade Team*