

Veterinary Service

Trade Section



Department of

Agriculture and Rural Development

www.dardni.gov.uk

Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast BT4 3SB
Tel: 028 9052 4275
Fax: 028 9052 5472
Email: lisa.reid@dardni.gov.uk

Your reference: ANI/APNI/2008//BT2

Our reference: SMB 14.40

Date: 08 May 2008

To: Interested Parties

Dear Sir/Madam

CHANGES TO THE TRADE RESTRICTIONS DUE TO BLUETONGUE IN EUROPE

Purpose

1. This letter is to advise you of changes to the import position in relation to the Bluetongue situation in Great Britain and Continental Europe

Background

2. Customer Information Note ANI/APNI/2008/BT1 which issued on 28 February 2008 advised of the latest situation concerning outbreaks of Bluetongue in Europe.
3. There have been a number of outbreaks in Europe, which has resulted in Bluetongue restricted zones being established in most of Continental Europe including, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Austria, the Czech Republic and Denmark. Bluetongue restricted zones are also in place in parts of Great Britain.
4. Commission Regulation 1266/2007/EC permits the movement of Bluetongue susceptible species animals from Bluetongue restricted zones provided they adhere to conditions contained within the regulation.
5. It had been recently determined that it may be possible to spread the virus by means other than insect vectors. It is now believed that pregnant cattle and sheep pose an increased risk in regard to the spread of the disease.
6. As a result of this new evidence the Minister for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development had taken the Decision to prohibit the import of all female cattle over 12 months of age and female sheep over six months from Bluetongue restricted zones in Great Britain and other member States.

Update

7. In light of the new evidence on the possible transmission of the virus and in recognition that more stringent measures should be applied to control the spread of the Bluetongue virus, the Commission has amended Commission Regulation 1266/2007 to allow Member States to apply additional import controls.



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Mánnystrie o Fairms an Kintra Fordèrin

8. The first change to the regulations adds conditions for the movements of pregnant animals. These animals must either be naturally immune or have been vaccinated prior to mating or insemination
9. Additional new controls also mean that animals from Bluetongue restricted zones over 90 days can only be imported if they are naturally immune or are Bluetongue vaccinated against the serotype(s) present in that zone. Animals under 90 days of age from Bluetongue restricted zones will only be permitted for import if they have been held in vector free confinement since birth and have tested negatively to a bluetongue test within 7 days prior to movement.
10. The temporary import controls imposed on the 28 February, prohibiting the importation of female cattle over 12 months and female sheep over 6 months of age from Bluetongue zones will be replaced by the new arrangements detailed in point 8 which came into force on 5 May 2008. The additional controls in point 9 will come into force on 8 May 2008.
11. These changes do not affect Bluetongue susceptible species being imported from free areas for the purposes of breeding or production nor does it change the rules governing the import of animals for direct slaughter.
12. Imports of species susceptible to Bluetongue being imported from free areas can transit a Bluetongue restricted zone if they comply with the conditions of the Commission Regulation which includes a requirement to treat the animals with insecticide.
13. All susceptible species from continental Europe and Great Britain will be restricted and subjected to post import testing upon arrival in Northern Ireland. Animals will not be permitted to leave the premises of destination until given approval by a DARD Official.
14. Importers should note that imported animals found to be infected with Bluetongue will be slaughtered at the owner's expense. No compensation is payable in such cases.
15. Declaration D10/08 has been revoked and replaced by Declaration 11/08.

Contact point for enquiries

If you have any queries regarding this letter please contact Amy Masterson by telephoning 90 524664 or by email: amy.masterson@dardni.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully



Lisa Reid
Veterinary Service Trade Implementation