

Temporary Operational Instruction

Action note: 2024-08-29 - Chapter 6 of the Manual for Official Controls (MOC) – Review of Bluetongue Virus (BTV) designations in slaughterhouses

Purpose

This action note is to inform operational staff of a new temporary operational instruction regarding the review of designations for the 2024/25 BTV outbreak.

Background

[In preparation for a BTV outbreak, 33 slaughterhouses in England and Wales were pre-designated during the last few months. With the recent cases confirmed w/c 26 August 2024, a BTV outbreak has been declared and subsequently the designations issued in season 2023-24 have been revoked and designations re-issued. Defra has asked FSA to

carry out a review of all the BTV designations that have been just re-issued for the 2024-2025 season.

Procedure

This review will consist of a plant-based exercise where the establishment's OV will undertake an on-site assessment of the FBO SOPs and structural facilities, using the BTV designation document as baseline.

To facilitate this, the Notifiable Disease portfolio has created a short questionnaire to be completed for each plant by the lead OV. The questionnaire has 5 questions related to the designation procedures and their implementation (see annex 2).

The main purpose of the review is to ensure that the operational procedures have not changed since the initial designation, and that the establishment can receive and handle the animals from the controlled zone adequately to minimise the risk of the disease spreading.

E and J will coordinate the distribution of the questionnaire through the designated abattoirs - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bluetongue-movement-licences-and-designated-slaughterhouses>. Once the review is carried out and the questionnaire is completed by the OV, this will be forwarded to the local Field Operational team (FVL and/or FVC) for a quick sense check (please include Approvals in this exchange), who will be sending this back to the Approvals team for final processing once satisfied that the controls are in place.

Time spent in BVT controls, including designation, can be charged by OVs using "GDIS", and the review of the designations must be completed during normal operating hours. We aim at completing this exercise by Friday the 6th of September 2024 but can adjust if there are time constraints in some establishments. Priority plants are the ones located in the East of England, near the outbreak

Front line staff are required to note the following action

- **OVs** are requested to carry out the review of the BTV designations as soon as possible in liaison with the FBO. Once the check list is completed submit this to their FVC/FVL for clearance, and to approvals team for tracking.
- **FVC/FVLs** should carry out a sense check of the form submitted by the OV, and once satisfied the controls in place are satisfactory, to confirm to the Approvals team.
- **Approvals team** to coordinate and keep track of the process and liaise with Defra and Welsh Government as required.
- **ND portfolio** to provide support to all involved in the process and liaise with Defra and Welsh Government on any BTV related issue.

Note the contents of the action note, ensuring it is read by all front-line staff. Where necessary, print a copy for the plant file.

Distribution

This action note will be:

- uploaded to the [Temporary Operational Instruction Folder held in the MOC area of SharePoint](#) (accessible only on an official FSA device)
- logged on the [Temporary Operational Instruction tracker](#) (accessible only on an official FSA device)
- published alongside the [MOC chapters on food.gov.uk](#)

The action note will remain live until either incorporated into the MOC or revoked.

Annex 1

Action note drafted by and date	Action note agreed by and date	Published and date
Laura Mistreanu 29/08/2024	Laureano Garcia-Munoz - 30/08/2024	30/08/2024

Annex 2

Review of the Bluetongue Designation – 2024-25 Season

Plant details

Approval number

Address

Question	Yes/ No	Comments
Have the Bluetongue operational procedures been amended since the designation was granted?		
Are these procedures still in line with the designation requirements as per Annex 29?		
Has the establishment received any animals from the controlled zone since the designation was granted?		
If so, were the designation conditions adequately implemented?		
Has any enforcement activity or non-compliances, related with the requirements of the designation, been raised since the designation was granted?		

I confirm that a review of the Bluetongue designation has been carried out and this still meets the requirements of Annex 29.

Official Veterinarian:

Signature:

Date:

List of designated abattoirs at 29/08/2024 as published in the Defra website

- 2056 Linden Foods Burradon (NE23 7NB)
- 2077 Foyle Melton Mowbray (LE14 3PR)
- 2095 Hartshead Meats Ltd (OL5 0JL)
- 2141 ABP York (YO19 5GH)
- 2161 J A Jewitt (Meat) Ltd (DL16 7QD)
- 2172 Foyle Gloucester (GL14 2PH)
- 2241 Woolley Brothers (Wholesale Meats) Ltd (S20 3RW)
- 2388 Dunbia Cumbria (LA12 0LT)
- 2536 Pickstock Telford Ltd (TF1 7FA)
- 2569 Severn Valley Lamb Ltd (WS6 6AY)
- 4071 Dunbia Preston (PR5 6AJ)
- 4073 ABP Ellesmere (SY12 9BL)
- 4109 ABP Shrewsbury (SY1 4AH)
- 4133 Farmers Fresh Ltd (CV8 1NN)
- 4168 R B Elliott and Son Ltd (S44 5UN)
- 4182 ABP Kingswinford (DY6 7JS)
- 4471 Woodhead Bros, Colne (BB8 8LH)
- 4486 Dunbia Sawley (BB7 4LH)
- 5106 Dunbia Cardington (MK44 3SB)
- 5116 Dovecote Park (Skellingthorpe) (LN6 5TX)
- 5207 HG Blake (Costessey) Ltd (NR10 4DU)
- 5280 Fowler Bros (Latchingdon) Ltd (CM0 8NA)
- 5319 Romford Halal Meats Ltd (RM4 1TH)
- 5513 Woodhead Bros, Spalding (PE11 3YY)
- 6238 ABP Guildford (GU1 1RP)
- 6326 J R Meats Ltd (CT3 3HN)
- 7015 Dunbia Llanybydder (SA40 9QE)
- 7132 Farmers Fresh Wales Ltd (LL13 0TS)
- 7135 Pilgrims UK Lamb (SY18 6LX)
- 7176 St Merryn Foods, Merthyr (CF48 2TA)
- 8071 Dunbia West Devon (EX20 3HT)
- 8073 St Merryn Foods (Bodmin) (PL31 2QB)
- 8207 ABP Sturminster (DT10 1HA)
- 8216 ABP Yetminster (DT9 6HQ)
- 8285 ABP Langport (TA10 9HG)