



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2024/39

11 September 2024

### OUTBREAK OF BLUETONGUE VIRUS IN CZECHIA AND NORWAY

#### Purpose

1. To inform you of new import restrictions on live ruminants and ruminant germplasm owing to a recent outbreak of bluetongue virus (serotype to be confirmed) in Czechia and Norway.

#### Background

2. Czechia reported an outbreak of BTV on its government website on 6 September 2024 [and to WOAAH on 9 September 2024](#). Norway reported an outbreak of BTV to WOAAH on 6 September 2024. As a result of these outbreaks both Czechia and Norway have lost their BTV free status.
3. On 9 September [OVS note 2024/37](#) was issued to inform of the BTV outbreak 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.
4. The UK Office for SPS Trade Assurance updated its [Live Ungulates](#) listing on 11 September 2024 to apply Supplementary Guarantee A to the entries for Czechia and Norway. This guarantee requires all live ruminants exported to GB from Denmark to be vaccinated against the serotype/s of BTV [circulating](#) in the country. Should these outbreaks be confirmed as bluetongue serotype 3 then, as there is currently no available vaccine with a determined duration of immunity this change to Czechia's and Norway's listings means that consignments of live ruminants would not be certifiable for export from these countries to GB.
5. 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

are now required to comply with the relevant testing requirements for BTV set out in relevant health certificates.

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

**Action for OVSs**

7. To note the above information.

**Contact point for enquiries**

**Email:** [ukassurance@defra.gov.uk](mailto:ukassurance@defra.gov.uk)

*Imports and EU Trade Team*