



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2024/40

16 September 2024

OUTBREAK OF BLUETONGUE VIRUS IN AUSTRIA

Purpose

1. To inform you that, owing to recent outbreaks of bluetongue virus (serotypes 3 and 4) in Austria, consignments of live ruminants and ruminant germplasm from Austria should be held.

Background

2. 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.
3. As a result of these outbreaks Austria has lost its 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 entry for Austria. This will require live ruminants to be vaccinated for all serotype/s of BTV circulating in the country. 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 Austria 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 Austria's 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.

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