



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2024/53

02 December 2024

### OUTBREAK OF BLUETONGUE VIRUS IN POLAND

#### Purpose

1. To inform you of new import restrictions on live ruminants from Poland due to an outbreak of Bluetongue Virus (BTV).

#### Background

2. Poland reported an outbreak of BTV-3 on 22 November 2024: [Chief Veterinary Inspectorate](#). This occurred in a cattle holding in the Wołów district. As a result of this outbreak, Poland has lost its BTV-free status.
3. On 26 November, OVS note [2024/52](#) 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 28 November 2024 to apply Supplementary Guarantee 'A' to the entry for Poland. This guarantee requires all live ruminants exported to GB from Poland to be vaccinated against the serotype/s of BTV circulating in the country.
5. However, as BTV serotype 3 has been confirmed, consignments of live ruminants will not be able to be certified for export from Poland to GB. BTV-3 vaccines being used in other EU countries cannot currently be used for trade due to the lack of information on the duration of immunity of the vaccine meaning they cannot comply with the relevant part of the certificate.

6. In addition to the above, the loss of BTV-free status for Poland means that exports of ruminant germplasm from Poland to GB are now required to comply with the relevant testing requirements for BTV as 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](mailto:ukassurance@defra.gov.uk)

*Imports and EU Trade Team*