



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 30/22

# Bovine Export Health Certificates 8446 and 8447 BVD requirements.

Date issued: 19 August 2022

### Purpose

1. To inform OV's of the change to Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) status of certain European Union Member States and the impact this status will have on the export health certification of live cattle.
2. To explain transitional arrangements relating specifically to exports of live cattle to the Republic of Ireland.

### Background

3. The European Commission has recently updated EU law to include a list of BVD free EU Member States. This list currently includes Austria, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and certain regions in Germany. The Republic of Ireland, and certain other regions of Germany, now have an EU approved eradication programme for BVD.
4. These changes are outlined in Regulation (EU) [2022/1218](#), which amends Annex VII to Regulation (EU) [2021/620](#). The following Export Health Certificates contain specific attestations that must be certified when moving bovine animals to EU Member States that are recognised as BVD free or as having an approved eradication programme for BVD:
  - a. [EHC 8446](#) for bovine animals intended for breeding and production
  - b. [EHC 8447](#) for bovine animals intended for slaughter
5. This means that exports of cattle to the above-mentioned EU Member States must now meet the following requirements, outlined in II.2.13 and II.2.14 of the EHCs 8446 and 8447 respectively:

- The animals to be exported must not be vaccinated against BVD virus; AND
  - The animals must be tested negative to BVD virus antigen or genome; AND
  - The animals must also meet one of the following criteria:
    - Fulfilled a 21-day Quarantine in the holding of origin; OR
    - The animals were subjected to a serological test for the detection of antibodies to BVD virus with positive results.
  - If the animals are pregnant, they must meet the vaccination and antigen/genome testing requirements (above) AND:
    - The cows must have fulfilled a 21-day Quarantine and be subjected to a serological test for the detection of antibodies to BVD virus with negative results on samples taken not less than 21 days after Quarantine commenced: OR
    - The cows must be subjected to a serological test with positive results for the detection of antibodies to BVD virus carried out on samples taken before insemination preceding the current gestation.
  - The EU approved test methods listed in Annex I to Regulation [2020/688](#) must be used when testing is required. The list includes serological tests such as, I-ELISA and B-ELISA, and antigen tests such as, RT-PCR and BVDV antigen detection ELISA.
6. Great Britain is not currently recognised as free of BVD by the EU so it is not possible to certify the option in the EHC stating that the animals originate from a country or zone free of BVD.

### Exports to the Republic of Ireland

7. A transitional arrangement has been agreed with the Republic of Ireland to allow the continued export of animals that have been vaccinated against BVD until January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023, when the Republic of Ireland expects to achieve BVD free status.
8. Animals **not** vaccinated against BVD shall be certified with the BVD attestations in the Export Health Certificates as outlined above.
9. In the case of animals vaccinated but no longer within the validity period of the vaccine, the BVD attestations outlined in the EHC should be certified. Because the validity period of the vaccine has elapsed, it is acceptable to certify that the animal as 'not vaccinated' **solely in the case of export to the Republic of Ireland for the duration of the transitional arrangement.** The other requirements outlined above must be met.

- 10. BVD vaccinated** animals that are within the vaccine validity period shall be certified by deleting the BVD attestation (II.2.13 in [EHC 8446](#) or II.2.14. in [EHC 8447](#)) and completing the supplementary certificate available with the EHCs on EHC Form Finder. This supplementary certificate requires detail of the vaccination of the animals, confirmation that pregnant animals have been vaccinated prior to mating or artificial insemination and confirmation that the animals have been subject to antigen/genome testing within 30 days prior to export with a negative result.
- 11.** The Notes For Guidance for EHCs 8446 and 8447 have been updated to reflect the above and to provide guidance upon the form of evidence a vet may place reliance upon to certify the vaccination status of an animal.

## Further Information

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