



Update on Bluetongue (January 2019)

Bluetongue outbreaks in Germany

- As per our last update in December 2018, the German authorities confirmed a case of Bluetongue virus serotype 8 (BTV 8) on the 12/12/2018
- This was the first case of Bluetongue in Germany since November 2009
- As of the 24th of January 2019, **32 outbreaks of BTV 8 have now been reported in Germany**
- The majority of these are in the south-western/western part of the country close to the borders with France and Switzerland
- Bluetongue outbreaks are also continuing in France, Switzerland, Italy and other parts of Europe.

Measures to prevent bluetongue coming to Ireland via imported animals

- Anyone considering importing ruminant animals from bluetongue affected countries (Map 2 below) should only do so if absolutely necessary as this is the most likely route of introduction of the bluetongue virus into Ireland. Please read and follow these biosecurity guidelines before making any decision to import:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/animalhealthwelfare/diseasecontrols/bluetongue/disease/BiosecurityAdviceFarmersImpLivestockVer1260318.pdf>

Note that:

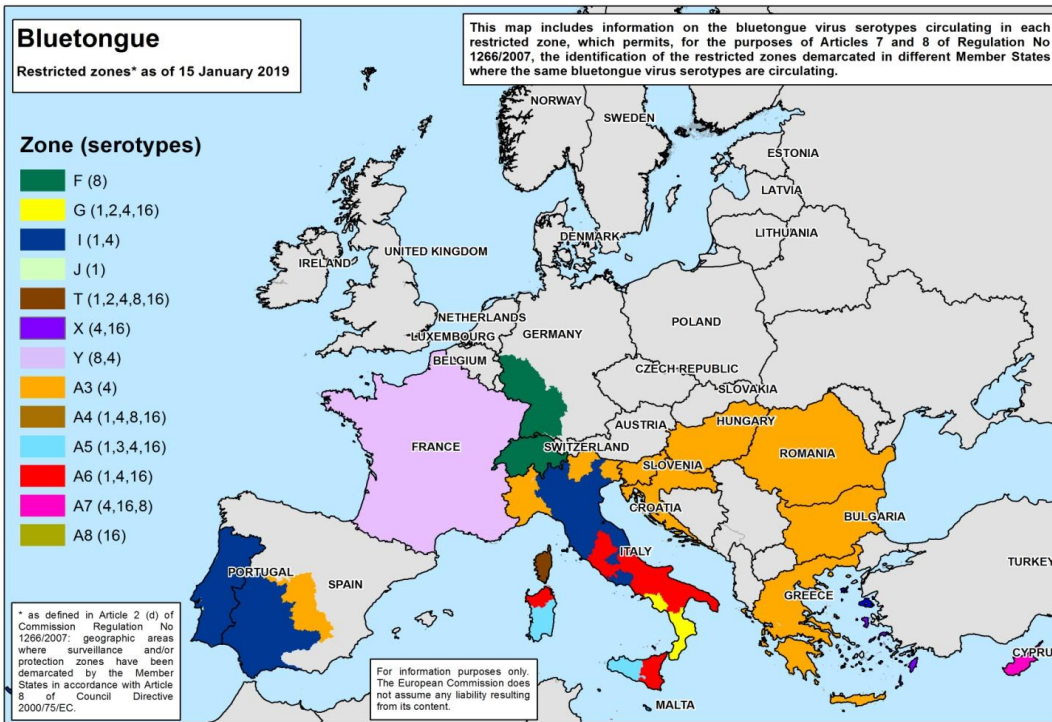
- Even animals with bluetongue vaccination records may harbour BTV.
- Infected animals may not show any clinical signs and may only be detected through testing their blood for BTV.
- The high-risk period for Bluetongue in Ireland is during the vector season which is between April and early December each year.
- If bluetongue is introduced to Ireland, it could have a major impact on our export markets. Also, the control measures required by the EU legislation would have a significant impact on local herd management.
- DAFM implements various measures to prevent a BT incursion including testing all ruminant animals imported from or transiting through countries restricted for bluetongue within 7 days of arrival in Ireland.

Key advice:

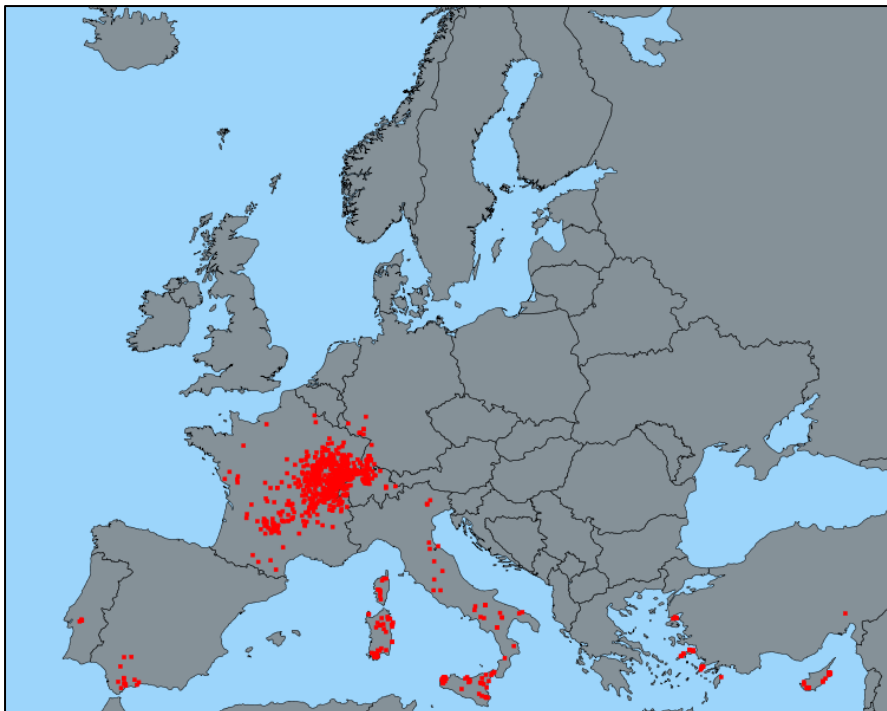
- Do not import ruminant animals from bluetongue restricted areas unless absolutely necessary.
- Only import animals from reputable sources.
- Do not buy or accept animals which have been recently imported without carefully checking their origin.
- Seek additional assurances to ensure that animals are not infected with BTV prior to departure, such as a recent negative PCR test for bluetongue carried out in an accredited laboratory.
- On arrival, keep any imported animals isolated and indoors until they have been tested for BTV by staff from this Department and have returned a negative test result (see below).

Bluetongue in Europe

BTV serotypes 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 and 16 are present in parts of the Mediterranean Basin. Serotype 4 emerged in the Balkan region in 2014 and spread to northern Italy, Hungary, Slovenia and Slovakia. Serotype 8 has re-emerged across a large area of France since 2015. The emergence of BTV serotype 4 in eastern France was a new development in 2017, as was the recent incursion of BTV serotype 8 into Switzerland in 2018. In December 2018, Bluetongue serotype 8 spread to Germany. Map 1 below shows current bluetongue restricted areas in Europe.



Map 1: Bluetongue restricted zones in Europe as of the 15th of January 2019. For updated maps: https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad_control-measures_bt_restrictedzones-map.jpg



Map 2: Bluetongue outbreaks (red dots) reported in Europe between 1st of January 2018 and 23rd of January 2019

Further information on Bluetongue:

DAFM website

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/bluetongue/>

Bluetongue information leaflet for photographs of clinical signs:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/animalhealthwelfare/diseasecontrols/bluetongue/disease/BluetongueFactsheet2017210617.pdf>

European Commission:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/bluetongue_en

EU Regulation 1266 of 2007 on the control of Bluetongue:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1526483808190&uri=CELEX:02007R1266-20120605>

Contact details for RVOs available at:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/contact/>

NDCC

28/01/2019