



# BULLETIN

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## BVD rules for exporting cattle

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For herd owners exporting cattle for breeding and production to EU Members States including the ROI, EU Animal Health Law (AHL) rules on BVD testing apply in cases where the receiving country has an approved BVD Programme or has official BVD-free status. Since July 2022, the BVD Programme in the ROI has been EU-approved, so additional steps have to be taken by NI herd owners to allow certification of cattle movements, in part because NI does not have an approved Programme. Cattle being sold into the ROI must come from BVD-free herds (as recognised by DAERA) or must be subject to additional measures, such as approved quarantine for 21 days and/ or additional testing, including detailed requirements for pregnant cattle.

### Herd level statuses

Once a herd-level status for BVD is made available through DAERA's Animal Information System, then any farmer whose herd has a BVD-free status will be able to move cattle that have had a BVD Negative status applied to them under the Programme without any additional BVD requirements. Currently, a farmer wanting to avoid any extra certification requirements would have to reapply to DAERA for a BVD herd-free status for every export or every 14 days. The introduction of herd restrictions in NI will result in many more farmers meeting BVD-free herd status criteria in due course and will ultimately help to reduce live trade impediments.

### Details of the requirements are available on the DAERA website at:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/bvd-requirements-export-cattle-eu-member-states-approved-bvd-eradication-programme-or-bvd-free>

### Future vaccination ban

When the ROI gains BVD-free status as a European Member State, the AHL requires that vaccination against BVD is prohibited for kept bovine animals. Therefore it follows that bovine animals being moved to a BVD-free country should be certified as not having been vaccinated against the BVD virus. Applications to the EU for BVD free status can only be made if in a Member State at least 99.8% of cattle farms representing at least 99.9% of the bovine population are free from BVD: these figures should be based on a snapshot of statistics on 31 December in any year. The ROI had not met these requirements on 31 December 2022, so this means that vaccinated stock meeting all other requirements should be accepted into the ROI during 2023. However, it is possible that ROI could achieve this status in 2024.

**See AHWNI Bulletin No 5 "The role of vaccination in the BVD Programme" for further details on when vaccination is necessary.** [http://www.animalhealthni.com/20220505\\_BVD%20vaccination%20update.pdf](http://www.animalhealthni.com/20220505_BVD%20vaccination%20update.pdf)

Decisions on the use of BVD vaccine, including when to stop a vaccination programme, are herd-specific depending on the risk profile of the herd and should be taken by each farmer in discussion with their own veterinary practitioner, as multiple issues affect vaccination decisions.

Further information is available in the BVD FAQ section of the AHWNI website: [www.animalhealthni.com](http://www.animalhealthni.com).