

**The Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Eradication
Scheme Order (Northern Ireland) 2016**



Guidance Note BVDLAB1B

**Criteria for the Approval of Laboratories (Recognition of BVDV test results for
bovines born in other jurisdictions)**

This Guidance Note sets out the criteria used by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) for the recognition by the Northern Ireland BVD Eradication Scheme of test results from laboratories carrying out BVDV testing of bovines born in other jurisdictions (for the purpose of recognising these results where a bovine subsequently moves to a herd in Northern Ireland) and provides information to assist with the completion of Application Form BVDLAB1B.

Background

The Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Eradication Scheme Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 came into operation on 1 March 2016, from which date the compulsory NI BVD Eradication Scheme took effect. The Scheme aims to control and ultimately eradicate BVD in Northern Ireland and places legal requirements on herd keepers relating to the compulsory 'tag and testing' of bovines. The compulsory Scheme requires the use of only DAERA-approved BVD tissue sample-enabled tags. These samples will be tested for BVDV. Confirmatory testing for BVDV will be carried out, when required, on blood samples. DAERA approves laboratories to provide BVDV test results.

DAERA may also approve laboratories which test bovines born in other jurisdictions that meet the same standard of testing required by the NI BVD Eradication Scheme (for the purpose of recognising these results where a bovine subsequently moves to a herd in NI). This guidance note sets out the criteria required to become an approved laboratory under this sub-category using application form BVDLAB1B. It should be noted that where a laboratory wishes to become an approved laboratory to test samples for bovines born in Northern Ireland and upload results directly to the Animal Health and Welfare NI BVD database they must apply separately using the form BVDLAB1A.

Only results generated by approved laboratories are accepted by DAERA. Laboratories may submit an application at any time.

Any personal information provided within the BVDLAB1B Application Form will be used solely in relation to the NI BVD Eradication Scheme. All personal details will be handled in line with DAERA's Privacy Notice, the Data Protection Act and the General Data Protection Regulation.

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Approval will be on a test by test (e.g. detection of virus by ELISA or RTPCR) and matrix by matrix (e.g. tissue punch or blood) basis. In order to be recognised, laboratories must confirm that they comply with the following:

1. Must have accreditation to ISO17025 for all relevant BVD tests (virus detection by RTPCR or ELISA and/or antibody detection by ELISA) for which DAERA approval is being sought. Documentary evidence must be provided to accompany Application Form BVDLAB1B. DAERA must be informed of any change in accreditation status as soon as practically possible, including any refusal of an application made by the laboratory for accreditation.
2. Participate to the satisfaction of DAERA in such relevant proficiency testing and technical reviews as may be considered appropriate.
3. Provide such data in relation to laboratory function, diagnostic testing and results as may reasonably be requested by DAERA to specified deadlines.
4. Facilitate such laboratory visits as may reasonably be requested by DAERA within specified deadlines.
5. Retain a record of all testing carried out in relation to the programme for at least 7 years and furnish copies/extracts from time to time to DAERA on request in such manner as DAERA may require.

Failure to meet any of the criteria for recognition of laboratories could result in the removal of DAERA approval for a laboratory to provide BVDV test results to the Northern Ireland BVD Eradication Scheme.