

Welsh BTV announcement: What does it mean for my flock?

Welsh Government's decision to not join England in one large bluetongue Restricted Zone (RZ) has caused much concern amongst livestock producers. Whilst the decision is understandable decision on principle in Wales's efforts to keep the disease out of the country it has wide ranging and damaging implications for farmers and summer sales and shows.

NSA Cymru / Welsh Region has asked what this means for sheep keepers.

1. Can bloods be taken from animals who have travelled to a sale in England (at the sale) to be sent off for pre- and post-movement testing should animals need to be returned unsold to Wales or purchased by a Welsh farmer from a Welsh or English vendor at the sale.

Animals that have been at shows or sales in the RZ for less than four days should be isolated on return to Wales and will require post-movement testing. If the animal show is longer than four days they cannot reenter Wales without a license and a negative pre-movement test.

2. What happens if a Scottish purchaser buys from a Welsh vendor at a sale within a RZ?

Welsh livestock purchased at a sale in the RZ will require a pre-movement test to enter Scotland.

No testing will be required for Welsh livestock purchased in Wales (Outside of a RZ) and destined for Scotland.

3. Horses and Pigs will be allowed to travel to the show from RZs - will anything be put in place to disinfect these vehicles as midges could travel within the vehicle?

Bluetongue is largely a disease of ruminants and camelids. Use of insecticide is recommended but not mandated in this situation.

4. If a BTV case was confirmed at a show would the animal be culled and would it stop other animals travelling back home?

If the first case of Bluetongue in Wales is confirmed at a show the animal will likely be culled but any decision will depend on the prevailing disease picture at the time.

5. Will any controls be imposed on the movement of germinal product from semen and embryo collection and storage centres within the RZ to farms/semen and embryo collection and storage centres in the FA? If so, how will this be controlled?

Yes – this is captured in the licensing process for such premises, issued by APHA licenses.

6. Can ruminant animals be moved from a Free Area (FA) through an RZ and back into an FA without a license if the time spent within the FA is within a set number of hours, with or without insecticide treatment?

Yes - direct transit through the RZ is permitted without stopping unless it's an emergency. Use of insecticide is recommended but not mandated in this situation.

7. Can ruminant animals be moved from the FA into and then out of a Restricted Zone (RZ) within a 24-hour period without a special license?

You must apply for a specific movement licence before moving animals from a Bluetongue RZ to Wales. Movements to live must meet conditions of a specific licence ([apply for a licence here](#)). Any reference to pre-movement or post-movement testing below means – testing at the national reference laboratory (or an official designated lab) with negative PCR results (and or ELISA testing where required).

Movements to live – Bluetongue Restricted Zone to Wales

- Until 1 July 2025 - a pre-movement test is required within 10 calendar days of the move (the test is valid from the date the sample was taken).
- From 1 July 2025 onwards - a pre-movement test is required within 7 calendar days of the move (the test is valid from the date the sample was taken).

Movements to shows or markets – Bluetongue Restricted Zone to Wales

- Animals must be pre-movement tested and receive a negative result to leave the Bluetongue Restricted Zone and attend a show or market in Wales.
- You must apply for a [specific movement licence](#) before moving animals from a Bluetongue Restricted Zone to a show or market in Wales.

Movements to shows or markets in the Bluetongue Restricted Zone

- Animals moving from Wales do not require a pre-movement test to enter a show/market of less than four days duration in the Bluetongue Restricted Zone but must be isolated upon return to Wales and post-movement tested at the owner's expense. You must notify APHA who will serve restrictions until a negative test result is received. There may be high demand for testing, which may result in animals remaining under restriction until such time that a post-movement test returns a negative result. Animals with a positive result may be culled.
- If the animal spends more than four days in the Bluetongue Restricted Zone, it becomes 'resident' and will require a pre-movement test to exit the Bluetongue Restricted Zone instead of post movement testing in the free area (see conditions above in the section Movements to live – Bluetongue Restricted Zone to Wales) unless they were protected by the above vaccine.

For example to attend a vet surgery for treatment, an AI centre, a livestock event (show, sale) for a period no more than 24 hours (or even maximum 12 hours)

For movements into or out of the RZ for emergency veterinary treatment the following conditions apply:

For more information visit [Bluetongue Policy in Wales in response to All-England Bluetongue Restricted Zone from 1 July 2025 | GOV.WALES](#)

