**BVD requirements to export cattle to EU Member States** **with an approved BVD eradication programme**

In October 2021 the European Commission introduced a new Export Health Certificate (EHC) for cattle moving between EU Member States, including moves from Northern Ireland to the Republic of Ireland. New requirements have to be met if the importing Member State has either a BVD eradication programme which has been approved by the European Commission, or if the importing Member State has achieved BVD Free status under the terms of EU Animal Health Law.

The current list of EU Member States with an approved BVD eradication programme or BVD Free Status is [here](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32022R1218&qid=1658321730503). **The Republic of Ireland’s BVD eradication programme was approved by the European Commission on 18 July 2022. New requirements must now be met to prevent the spread of BVD to the ROI via animals exported for breeding and production.** Animals exported to the ROI for Direct Slaughter are not affected.

This document details the conditions which have to be met to enable an approved Private Veterinary Practitioner (aPVP) to sign an EHC to enable the export of cattle for breeding and production. For non-pregnant and pregnant cattle 4 options are available, one of which must apply for the export to be permitted. These options are set out in the following tables.

Key points:

1. In all cases, every animal in the exporting herd must have a negative test result. This can be a direct negative result (BVDN status on APHIS) or an indirect result (INDNEG status on APHIS). If there are any animals with BVDP, BVDI, DAMPI, OFFPI, BVDU (untested and born since compulsory testing in NI started – 01.03.2016) or ‘blank’ status (untested and born pre 01.03.2016) then the export cannot be certified. The only exception is for calves <35 days on the date of export, which can be BVDU.
2. Some of the options to export cattle require the exporting herd to have ‘Establishment Free from BVD’ status. This is defined in European legislation and is summarised in document EF1. Any keeper who believes they meet these requirements should complete an EF2 application form and this will be considered by DAERA. If the requirements have been met DAERA will issue a letter (EF3) awarding ‘Establishment Free from BVD’ status which will be used as a Veterinary Support Certificate to enable this option to be selected by the aPVP on the Export Health Certificate. This letter will be valid for 14 calendar days and further exports beyond this will require a new application for ‘Establishment Free from BVD’ status. Full details of Establishment Free from BVD including forms EF1 and EF2 is [here](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/establishment-free-bvd).
3. Most herds in NI are unlikely to meet the requirements of ‘Establishment Free from BVD’ status due to the conditions which must apply to animals which have moved into these herds in the previous 12 months. Herds which have had no moves in over the previous 12 months may be able to demonstrate they meet the requirements of ‘Establishment Free from BVD’ status.
4. Some of the options to export cattle require the animals to be kept in an ‘Approved Quarantine Establishment’. This is also defined in European legislation ([here](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019R2035&from=EN) – see pages 49 + 50) and is summarised in document AQE1. Any keeper who wishes to apply for an AQE should complete application form AQE2. Local DAERA staff will carry out an inspection of the proposed location and if this is acceptable a letter will be issued to confirm the ‘Approved Quarantine Establishment’ conditions. Full details of Approved Quarantine Establishments including forms AQE1 and AQE2 can be found [here](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/approved-quarantine-establishments-aqe).
5. If females over 12 months old are to be exported as non-pregnant, the keeper and certifying aPVP will both be required to sign declarations of each animal’s pregnancy status.
6. Where virus testing is required this can be the tissue tag result when the animal was a calf (BVDN status on APHIS).
7. Where an antibody test is required ‘pre-departure’ this must be in the 30 days before the date of export.
8. Useful advice and guidance in relation to exporting cattle for breeding and production to EU Member States direct from their premises of origin is available [here](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/export-certification-breeding-production-cattle-eu-member-states-direct-their-premises). For exports from an Export Assembly Centre see [here](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/export-certification-breeding-production-cattle-eu-member-states-export-assembly-centre).
9. The Model Export Health Certificate for BVD is available at Chapter 1 within [Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32021R0403) (BVD requirements are at pages 44-46 of the PDF version)
10. The BVD requirements under EU Animal Health Law are detailed in Annex IV, Part VI of [Commission delegated regulation 2020/689](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32020R0689). The criteria for granting Establishment Free from BVD status is at Section 1 of Chapter 1 (page 83 of PDF version).

DAERA will update this guidance as further information becomes available.

**Pre-export requirements to move cattle for breeding and production to an EU Member State with an approved BVD eradication programme (including to Ireland from 18/07/2022)**

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| **Non-pregnant animals** | | |
| Option 1 | From an **Establishment Free from BVD**;  Herd testing in previous 4 months with negative results to the following level:  - Serological tests for the detection of antibodies against BVDV are carried out at least annually on samples taken from bovine animals that have been kept in the establishment for at least 3 months prior to testing.  The number of animals tested must allow at least for the detection, with a 95% level of confidence, of seropositive animals at a target prevalence rate of 50% and must be at least five animals or all the animals if there are fewer than five animals kept;  In case the bovine animals of the establishment are kept in separate groups without direct contact with each other, a respective number of animals of each group must be tested;  OR  - A combination of serological testing as above AND each new-born calf is tested negative for BVDV antigen or genome on a sample taken after or at the same time as official identification, but not later than 20 days postpartum. | This option is unlikely to apply unless no animals have been moved into the herd in the past 12 months AND serological (antibody) testing as a means of BVD surveillance has been carried out.  Very few NI herds will be carrying out serological testing to this extent, as the NI BVD scheme is based on virus testing. |
| Option 2 | From an **Establishment Free from BVD**;  Individual animal testing to exclude the presence of BVD virus prior to departure of the consignment | This option is unlikely to apply unless no animals have been moved into the herd in the past 12 months. If no animals have been moved in it may be possible for a herd to achieve Establishment Free from BVD status. |
| Option 3 | From an establishment not free from BVD;  Animal has negative virus test  AND  Animal housed in an **Approved Quarantine Establishment** for 21 days | This is likely to be the easiest option for most exporters, however it requires the exporting herd to have a suitable shed which can meet the requirements of an Approved Quarantine Establishment. |
| Option 4 | From an establishment not free from BVD;  Animal has negative virus test  AND  Positive antibody test within the 30 days before export | This will apply where the animal has been exposed to natural infection or has been vaccinated and has sero-converted. This option avoids the need for an Approved Quarantine Establishment but requires an additional blood test. |
| **Pregnant animals** | | |
| Option 1 | From an **Establishment Free from BVD**;  Herd testing in previous 4 months with negative results to the following level:  Either  - Serological tests for the detection of antibodies against BVDV are carried out at least annually on samples taken from bovine animals that have been kept in the establishment for at least 3 months prior to testing.  The number of animals tested must allow at least for the detection, with a 95 % level of confidence, of seropositive animals at a target prevalence rate of 50 % and must be at least five animals or all the animals if there are fewer than five animals kept;  In case the bovine animals of the establishment are kept in separate groups without direct contact with each other, a respective number of animals of each group must be tested;  OR  - A combination of serological testing as above AND each new-born calf is tested negative for BVDV antigen or genome on a sample taken after or at the same time as official identification, but not later than 20 days postpartum. | This option is unlikely to apply unless no animals have been moved into the herd in the past 12 months AND serological (antibody) testing as a means of BVD surveillance has been carried out.  Very few NI herds will be carrying out serological testing to this extent, as the NI BVD scheme is based on virus testing. |
| Option 2 | From an **Establishment Free from BVD**;  Individual animal testing to exclude the presence of BVD virus prior to departure of the consignment | This option is unlikely to apply unless no animals have been moved into the herd in the past 12 months. If no animals have been moved in it may be possible for a herd to achieve Establishment Free from BVD status. |
| Option 3 | From an establishment not free from BVD;  Animal has negative virus test  AND  Animal housed in an **Approved Quarantine Establishment** for 21 days  AND  Negative antibody test from sample taken not less than 21 days after the start of quarantine | This is likely to be the easiest option, however it requires the exporting herd to have a suitable shed which can meet the requirements of an Approved Quarantine Establishment and relies on the animal having a negative antibody test result. |
| Option 4 | From an establishment not free from BVD;  Animal has negative virus test  AND  Positive antibody test from sample taken before insemination preceding current gestation | This will apply where the animal has been exposed to natural infection or has been vaccinated and has sero-converted. This option avoids the need for an Approved Quarantine Establishment but requires an additional blood test taken in some cases weeks or months before the export. Significant advance planning is needed here. |

**Animals can also move from an establishment free from BVD to an ROI feedlot herd.**