



Situation of bluetongue in the Federal Republic of Germany

(as of 30 August 2006)

Current situation:

After the first occurrence of bluetongue disease in Germany on 21 August 2006, 38 cases have now been confirmed in cattle (34 cases) and sheep respectively (4 cases). The enclosure contains more precise information on the individual cases. It also sets out the geographic dissemination of the cases. The area concerned also comprises parts of the Netherlands and of Belgium. In the Federal Republic of Germany, the Land of North Rhine-Westphalia (NW) has so far been the only Land to report cases of disease. The zone at risk (at least 20 km) also comprises areas in Rhineland-Palatinate. The 150 km zone established around the primary outbreak in Kerkrade (the Netherlands) stretches to the *Länder* of Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland and Hesse (see the map in encl. 2).

The Community Reference Laboratory for bluetongue disease in Pirbright has meanwhile detected that the serotype 8 is the disease-causing agent. This agent has so far not been detected in the European Community. The annex listing protection zones to Commission Decision 2005/393/EC, that contains trade restrictions on live susceptible ruminants as well as on semen, ova and embryos derived from them, was extended by the above German regions and the regions in the other Member States. This Decision will be implemented into national law in the form of an emergency ordinance that will be published on 30 August 2006 and take effect on 31 August 2006 at 0:00 hrs.

The following restrictions on movement shall apply pursuant to this Ordinance:

For the zone at risk (zone of at least 20 km):

- (a) All holdings have been placed under official surveillance. The movement of susceptible animals to other holdings is prohibited. Exemptions:
 - Slaughter animals may be moved subject to the approval of the competent authority.
 - Animals may be moved from outside the 20 km zone into the designated zone.
 - Movements of animals into the 150 km zone are possible subject to the approval by the competent authority and conditional on the fulfilment of certain conditions.
- (b) The official veterinarian must conduct regular clinical tests on live animals and anatomicopathological tests on fallen animals on all holdings. Animals suspected of being infected must be subjected to virological and serological tests.
- (c) The animals must be brought indoors one hour before dusk. The requirement to keep animals indoors ends one hour after the onset of dawn every day. The daily requirement to keep animals indoors does not apply if the animals as well as their stables or other sites have been treated with approved insecticides in accordance with producer's recommendations.
- (d) The movement of semen, ova and embryos of susceptible animals out of the zone is prohibited in case the collection was conducted after 1 May 2006.

For the restricted area (150 km zone):

The movement of live, susceptible animals is only allowed pursuant to Decision 2005/393/EC and subject to certain conditions, for the movement of slaughter animals after tests have been conducted.

The movement of semen, ova and embryos of susceptible animals out of the zone is prohibited in case the collection was conducted after 30 April 2006.

The transit of live animals is possible subject to certain conditions (use of repellents/insecticides for animals and vehicles).

More extensive tests:

Throughout the Federal Republic of Germany, clinical and diagnostic laboratory tests are being carried out on ruminant populations providing universal coverage. Entomological tests focusing on NW have also been initiated.

On the basis of fresh evidence, the measures will be constantly adapted to the current situation in close coordination with the other Member States concerned and the European Commission.

Performing of tests is supported by experts of international renown from other Member States and scientists from the Friedrich Loeffler Institute, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health.

signed: Dr. Rassow