

Guidance for Farmers: Moving Animals Within and Out of the BTV Zone

Introduction

This guide explains the rules for moving animals within and out of the Bluetongue Virus (BTV) Temporary Control Zone. It covers which animals are low-risk, which animals are high-risk, what testing/alternatives are required for movement, and what documents are needed for each type of move.

Low-risk and High-risk Animals

Low-risk Animals (DO NOT require BTV testing or vaccination or pregnancy determination for movement):

- Cattle: Females under 18 months, bulls under 14 months, all castrated males
- Sheep: All except breeding males
- Goats: All except breeding males
- Other species (deer, camelids): All except pregnant females and breeding males

High-risk Animals (DO require BTV testing, vaccination, or pregnancy determination for movement):

- Cattle: All females 18 months and older, bulls 14 months and older
- Sheep: Breeding males
- Goats: Breeding males
- Other species: Pregnant females and breeding males

A. Moves Inside the Zone

1. Moves Within the Same Herd/Flock (low-risk and high-risk animals)

- Allowed under General Licence - [BTV 42 – General Licence Movement of Low Risk Animals Within and From a BTV TCZ](#)
- No documents are required.
- No BTV testing, vaccination or pregnancy determination is required.
- Applies to animals moved between land parcels or out farms belonging to the same herd/flock, within the BTV temporary control zone.

2. Moves Between Herds/Flocks (low-risk animals)

- Allowed under a General Licence - [BTV 42 – General Licence Movement of Low Risk Animals Within and From a BTV TCZ](#)
- Notification to DAERA in the normal manner (MC2/SG2/on-line/telephony)
- No BTV testing, vaccination or pregnancy determination is required.

3. Moves Between Herds/Flocks (high-risk animals) - does not include moves to a TCZ market

- Allowed under a Specific Licence which is issued by DAERA.
- No BTV testing, vaccination or pregnancy determination is required.

How to apply for a Specific Licence

1. Apply for Movement Licence:

- Submit [Bluetongue Movement Licence Application \(BTV MLA\)](#) to BTVLicensing@daera-ni.gov.uk or your local DAERA office.
- Include animal IDs, buyer's and seller's animal group numbers.

2. Receive MC2L (cattle), A-Form (sheep), BTV41 (other species) from DAERA:

- Ensure details are correct.

3. Move Animals:

- Only move animals once you have received the MC2L/A Form/BTV41, and all requirements are met. Return documentation to DAERA as per normal processes.

B. Moves Out of the Zone, Including to Any Market

1. Low-risk Animals (Within the same herd/flock)

- Allowed under a General Licence - [BTV 42 – General Licence Movement of Low Risk Animals Within and From a BTV TCZ](#)
- [BTV 45 Record of Movement](#) must be completed and retained by herd/flock keeper, showing identities of animals moved, place of departure and arrival. No need to return to DAERA.
- No BTV testing, vaccination or pregnancy determination required.

2. Low-risk Animals (Between different herds/flocks or to markets)

- Allowed under a General Licence - [BTV 42 – General Licence Movement of Low Risk Animals Within and From a BTV TCZ](#)
- Notification to DAERA in the normal manner (MC2/SG2/on-line/telephony)
- No BTV testing, vaccination or pregnancy determination required.

3. High-risk Animals (Within the same herd/flock and between herds/flocks)

Cattle - Pre-movement BTV testing/vaccination/determination of non-pregnancy is required:

- Allowed under a Specific Licence issued by DAERA if the below requirements are met:
- Negative PCR and ELISA test within 10 working days before movement (for moves within NI)
- Alternatively, for pregnant bovine females 18 months or older, BTV vaccination (must be completed before current pregnancy with an approved vaccine- currently only Bultavo) will be accepted as an alternative to pre-movement testing.
- If relying on vaccination, a vaccination course must have been completed prior to the start of the current pregnancy. Herd keeper must present a self-declaration that the

animal(s) were fully vaccinated (including dates and vaccine used) prior to the start of the current pregnancy, according to the manufacturer's instruction. This will be cross referenced against vaccine returns from the herd keeper to check animal(s) were vaccinated. If either incomplete vaccine returns or no vaccine returns were made to DAERA at the time of vaccination, prior vaccination will not be accepted as an alternate to pre-movement testing.

- Alternatively, non-pregnant bovine females 18 months or older can be certified as not pregnant by a vet. Those not certified as non-pregnant by a vet will be treated as if they are pregnant and must either satisfy the pre-movement testing criteria or prior vaccination criteria.

Other species - Pre-movement BTV testing is required:

- Allowed under a Specific Licence issued by DAERA
- All high-risk animals from other species must have a negative pre-movement PCR test within 10 working days before the movement.

How to apply for a Specific Licence

1. Either
 - i) Arrange Pre-Movement testing (all species) or pregnancy diagnosis (bovine females 18 months or older):

- Contact your Private Veterinary Practitioner (PVP) to arrange testing/pregnancy diagnosis as applicable.
- PVP collects samples and sends them to the official lab.
- Lab results received by PVP who gives them to herd/flock keeper.

Or

ii) Herd keeper writes an owners declaration regarding BTV vaccination prior to start of current pregnancy (bovines only). Please note this will be compared to previously submitted BTV vaccine returns as per above.

2. Apply for Movement Licence:

- Herd/flock keeper submits [Bluetongue Movement Licence Application \(BTV MLA\)](#) to BTVLicensing@daera-ni.gov.uk or your local DAERA office

- Include animal IDs, negative test results, non-pregnancy certificate from vet or owners' declaration of vaccination as applicable.
3. In the case of moves within the same herd flock, applicant receives BTV41 from DAERA. In the case of moves between different herds/flocks applicant receives a MC2L (cattle), A-Form (sheep) or BTV41 (other species) from DAERA:
- Ensure details are correct.
4. Move Animals:
- Only move animals once you have received the MC2L, A-Form or BTV41, and all requirements are met. Return documentation to DAERA as per normal processes.

C. Moves to abattoir

- Allowed under a General Licence [BTV 38 Movement General Licence Direct to Slaughter - December 2025 2.pdf](#)
- Notification to DAERA in the normal manner (MC2/SG2/on-line/telephony)
- Moves to Ireland or GB for direct slaughter do not require any testing, vaccination or confirmation of non-pregnancy, and will move in accordance with previously established procedures on export health certification.

D. Moves into the Zone

- Allowed under a General Licence [BTV 39 General Licence Movement from the unrestricted area into a BTV TCZ - December 2025.pdf](#)
- Notification to DAERA in the normal manner (MC2/SG2/on-line/telephony)

E. Moves to GB for Breeding and Production

- Moves to GB will be permitted on the same conditions as other moves from the zones.
- High risk animals consigned to GB for Breeding and Production must satisfy the same criteria as are required for any other move from the zone.
- Further guidance for both farmers and private veterinary practitioners is being developed and will be made available as soon as possible.

F. Moves of Species Other than Cattle and Sheep

- Please contact your local DAERA Direct Office for guidance

Summary Tables

Low-risk/High-risk animals

Species	Low-risk Animals	High-risk Animals
Cattle	Females <18 months Bulls <14 months All castrated Males	Females ≥18 months Bulls ≥14 months
Sheep	All except breeding males	Breeding males
Goats	All except breeding males	Breeding males
Other species (deer, camelids)	All except pregnant females and breeding males	Pregnant females; Breeding males

Movement requirements:

Move Type	Low-risk Animals	High-risk Animals
Within same herd/flock, inside zone	Move under General Licence BTV 42. No documents to DAERA. No testing, vaccination declaration or pregnancy certification required.	Move under General Licence BTV 42. No documents to DAERA. No testing, vaccination declaration or pregnancy certification required.
Between herds/flocks inside the zone	Move under General Licence BTV 42 + usual movement process (MC2/SG2/on-line/telephony. No testing, vaccination declaration or pregnancy certification required.	Move under Specific Licence. No testing, vaccination declaration or pregnancy certification required.
Within same herd/flock out of zone	Move under General Licence BTV 42. No testing, vaccination declaration or pregnancy certification required. Keeper to complete and retain BTV45.	Move under Specific Licence. Testing required (all species), or vaccination declaration/pregnancy certification required for female bovines 18mo or older.

Between herds/flocks out of zone	Move under General Licence BTV 42 + usual movement process (MC2/SG2/on-line/telephony. No testing, vaccination declaration or pregnancy certification required.	Move under Specific Licence. Testing required (all species), or vaccination declaration/pregnancy certification required for female bovines 18mo or older.
Into the zone	Move under General Licence BTV 39 + usual movement process (MC2/SG2/on-line/telephony)	Move under General Licence BTV 39 + usual movement process (MC2/SG2/on-line/telephony)
To abattoir (in NI)	Move under General Licence BTV 38 + usual movement process (MC2/SG2/on-line/telephony)	Move under General Licence BTV 38 + usual movement process (MC2/SG2/on-line/telephony)

Pre-movement testing and alternatives to testing for High-risk Animals (Breeding and Production)

Species	Animal Type	Required Certification
Cattle	Pregnant females ≥ 18 months	PCR and ELISA test within 10 working days (intra-NI) or 7 calendar days (export) OR vaccination completed 3 weeks before pregnancy (Bultavo only)
Cattle	Non-pregnant females ≥ 18 months	Non-pregnant veterinary certificate, otherwise same requirements as pregnant females.

Cattle	Bulls \geq 14 months	PCR test within 10 working days (intra-NI) or 7 calendar days (export)
Sheep	Breeding males	PCR test within 10 working days (intra-NI) or 7 calendar days (export)
Goats	Breeding males	PCR test within 10 working days (intra-NI) or 7 calendar days (export)
Other species (camelids, deer)	Pregnant females, breeding males	PCR test within 10 working days (intra-NI) or 7 calendar days (export)