Approved Germinal Product Establishment (GPE) Operators, Centre and Team Veterinarians and Germinal Product Certifying Officers

Information Bulletin: aPVP 16/26 **Issued: 29/10/2026**

Audience: **Operators of GPE approved for the collection, processing and storage of germinal products from bovine and ovine donors, exporters and Certifying Officers**

Subject: **Recategorization of Blue Tongue Virus and Epizootic Haemorrhagic Disease infections– impact on veterinary certification of bovine and ovine germinal products from N Ireland to EU Member States and if using SUP(NI) to facilitate trade to GB for onwards exports to EU Member States or return to NI.**

Currently Blue Tongue Virus (BTV) and Epizootic Haemorrhagic Disease (EHD) are Category C diseases under Animal Health Law.
EU Commission is recategorising both BTV and EHD from Category C to Category D diseases. This impacts certification requirements for the export of ruminant germinal products to EU Member States and if using SUP(NI) to facilitate trade to GB for onwards exports to EU or return from GB to NI.

The changes are as follows:

- Significantly, establishment freedoms from BTV and EHD are no longer required; this applies to all establishments of donor origin, quarantine and collection.

Bluetongue: Donors must still fulfil the requirements in Reg (EU) 2020/686 Annex II Part 5 Chapter II.

As BTV infection was first reported in NI on 29/11/2025, in effect, BTV donor test requirements still apply.

EHD: Since NI has never had a report of EHD, the impact of recategorisation is minimal so long as NI remains free of EHD infection.

- The requirement for no symptoms or clinical signs of Cat D diseases on the day of admission to a semen collection centre (Article 18) will include EHD and BTV and apply from 02/11/26.

- The format of the germinal product INTRA certificates has changed significantly in that instead of describing requirements, they direct the CO to the relevant section of Reg (EU) 2020/686 with those requirements, still requiring compliance. Currently we understand that apart from BTV and EHD, other requirements remain as before.

  INTRA certificate templates applicable from Monday 2nd November 2026 are available in Traces NT, titled “Upcoming”.

The Commission is due shortly to publish the revised regulation with the changes above; *check current* consolidated version Delegated regulation - 2020/686 - EN - EUR-Lex

Guidance for BOV-SEM-A-INTRA for the periods up to and from 02/11/2026 is here
DAERA guidance for BOV-SEM-A-INTRA for collections after 20 April 2021
Other guidance for ruminant germinal product exports will be published in due course to follow the same principles as above.

Any questions regarding these changes, or any other aspect of live animal export certification can be directed to **DAERATradeExports@daera-ni.gov.uk**

Trade Programme
Veterinary Service Animal Health Group
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