

# WOAH Standards on Bluetongue Virus (BTV)

BTV Standards According to the Terrestrial Animal Health Code

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# Introduction to Bluetongue Virus (BTV)

- **Causative Agent:** Bluetongue virus (Orbivirus);
- **Affects:** Ruminants, Camelids;
  - primarily sheep and some cattle species;
- **Transmission:** Culicoides biting midges (biological vector);
- **Impact:** Animal health, trade restrictions, economic losses;

# WOAH & the Terrestrial Code

- **WOAH** (World Organisation for Animal Health): Sets international animal health standards;
- **Terrestrial Code Purpose:**
  - Improve animal health and welfare;
  - Facilitate safe international trade;

➤ **BTV is a notifiable disease under WOAH !!!**

# BTV-Specific Provisions in the Terrestrial Code

- **Refer to Chapter 8.3 – INFECTION WITH BLUETONGUE VIRUS**
- **Key Elements:**
  - Case definition;
  - Country/zone free status;
  - Country or zone seasonally free from bluetongue;
  - Safe commodities;
  - Surveillance and reporting requirements;
  - Safe trade measures (e.g., diagnostic testing, vaccination, vector control);

# BTV Disease-Free Status

- **Requirements for official freedom:**

- Absence of transmission for 2+ years;
- Active surveillance and diagnostics;
- Vector presence must be addressed;

- **Zoning:** Countries can declare specific zones free from BTV (even if other parts are not);

- **Country or zone seasonally free:** A country or zone is considered seasonally free from bluetongue if surveillance shows no BTV transmission or adult *Culicoides* presence during part of the year;

# Safe Trade, Transit, Commodities & Certification

- **Trade Recommendations:** — (Articles- 8.3.2; 8.3.7)
  - Conditions for movement, import or transit:
    - of animals, meat, milk, semen, embryos;
  - Testing requirements (RT-PCR, serology);
  - Vaccination and vector protection;
- **Certification should reflect health status and testing;**

# Surveillance & Control Measures

- **Surveillance Plans:**

- Based on risk and vector ecology;

- **Vaccination Strategies:**

- Inactivated/live vaccines;
  - Monitoring for vaccine strain circulation;

- **Vector Control:**

- Insecticide use, timing of transport, housing;

## Conclusion / Key Takeaways

- **WOAH** provides clear standards for **BTV** prevention and control;
- Disease-free status helps facilitate safe trade;
- Effective surveillance, vaccination, and vector control are critical;



➤ **WOAH Terrestrial Code – Chapter 8.3: Bluetongue**

<https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/>

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTANTION !**