



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Quarantine Units

Guidance for Livestock Keepers

Version 0.1 2019

Introduction

Livestock movement controls were first introduced after the foot and mouth disease outbreak in 2001. Prior to that no standstill period existed and movements of livestock were considered to be responsible for significant spread of disease during the outbreak.

The Disease Control (Wales) Order 2003 requires that when cattle, sheep, goats and/or pigs are moved onto a holding, a standstill period on that holding is triggered preventing any of those species moving off the holding, except direct to slaughter. The standstill period for cattle, sheep and goats is six days, the 'Six Day Standstill' (6DSS). Pigs moving onto a holding trigger a 20 day standstill on all pigs on the holding, but only a 6DSS on any cattle, sheep and goats on the holding.

This guidance sets out the Principles, Requirements and Operational Rules for Quarantine Units (QUs) as an exemption to the 6DSS for cattle, sheep and goats on the main holding. **The exemption does not apply to pigs.**

QU Principles

1. Approved QUs provide an exemption to the 6DSS arrangements for cattle, sheep and goats. Movements into an approved QU will not trigger a 6DSS on the main holding, allowing animals to be moved off a main holding while incoming cattle, sheep and goats observe the 6DSS requirements in a QU.
2. Livestock keepers can choose between using approved QUs to manage the movements of cattle, sheep and goats or adhering to the 6DSS on their whole holding.
3. Holdings can have up to two QUs and each QU can comprise up to two sites.
4. QUs can be indoors and/or outdoors provided they meet the Requirements and Operational Rules.
5. QUs must be certified by a Certification Body accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). Certification Bodies will charge the livestock keeper a fee for this service.
6. QUs are allocated a unique County Parish Holding (CPH) number.
7. QUs can only be established on holdings with permanent CPHs. They cannot be established on land that is linked to the main holding by a temporary land association (tLA) or on a temporary CPH (tCPH).
8. QUs are certified for 18 months only, after which recertification is required. Certification Bodies will charge a fee for recertification.
9. Incoming cattle, sheep and goats must remain in a QU for six whole days before they are moved to the main holding (e.g. an animal placed in a QU on a Saturday will have completed 6DSS at 00:00 the following Saturday).

Animals must be moved to the main holding before they can be sold or transferred to another holding. The movement of cattle, sheep and goats from a QU to the main holding does not trigger a 6DSS on the main holding. Different rules apply for attending shows (see QU Operational Rules section for more details) and animals can be moved direct to slaughter from a QU at any time (see QU Operational Rules).

10. Livestock keepers **must** report individual movements into QUs within 24 hours, via the Cattle Tracing System (CTS) or EIDCymru for sheep and goats. Movements out of a QU to the main holding must be reported within three days. A record of the movements into and out of QUs must be maintained in the holding register / flock register and these records must be updated within 36 hours of the movement.
11. QUs will be subject to unannounced in-use inspections by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) to ensure compliance with the Requirements and Operational Rules. If non-compliant, QUs may, subject to the severity of that non-compliance, be suspended or revoked. Livestock keepers have a right to appeal any decision by a Certification Body to suspend or revoke a QU.

QU Requirements

12. Cattle, sheep and goats within a QU must be prevented from making direct contact with other animals. 'Animals', as defined in the Disease Control (Wales) Order 2003, means cattle (excluding bison and yak), deer, goats, pigs and sheep.

Indoor QU

13. An indoor QU should be a building that is separate from others on the holding. Where a QU is adjoining another building or buildings on the holding that is/are:
 - a. used by animals, there must be no shared airspace and no opportunity for direct contact between animals in the QU and those in the adjoining building or buildings and/or
 - b. used for storage of machinery/equipment, feed or bedding that is intended for use on the main holding, animals within the QU must not be able to make direct contact with that machinery/equipment, feed or bedding.
14. Infrastructure must be suitable for the intended species.
15. Must have dedicated access (see 'Biosecurity' section of Operational Rules), effluent/manure management, feeding/watering and welfare/handling arrangements.
16. Can include a contiguous area such as a yard, paddock or field provided that any outdoor areas meet the outdoor QU requirements.

Outdoor QU

17. An outdoor QU must, at all times, provide separation between quarantined cattle, sheep and goats and other animals with stock proof double-fencing, including gateways, that is:
 - a. at least **two metres** apart if the QU is intended for sheep and goats **only** or
 - b. at least **three metres** apart if the QU is intended for cattle.
18. Double-fencing is not necessary where a QU is adjacent to a natural or man-made boundary (excluding hedges) that would provide the same separation as 17 a) or b) above (i.e. the boundary can sufficiently and consistently prevent direct contact between quarantined animals and other animals). The certification body will, on inspection, determine whether a boundary meets the criteria on an individual basis, taking into account that the layout and variety of potential boundaries surrounding a QU will vary from farm to farm.
19. Infrastructure must be permanent and suitable for the intended species.
20. Must have dedicated access (see 'Biosecurity' section of Operational Rules), effluent/manure management, feeding/watering and welfare/handling arrangements. The provision of water for animals in an outdoor QU must not be via direct access to a stream, river or ordinary watercourse.

QU Operational Rules

The Six Day Standstill

21. Cattle, sheep and goats must remain in a QU for six whole days (**e.g. an animal moved into a QU on a Saturday will have completed 6DSS by 00:00 the following Saturday**). If animals are part way through a quarantine period when others are introduced the 6DSS restarts and all animals must remain in the QU for six whole days from the day that the last animal(s) were brought in.

Biosecurity

22. No other animals, including horses, donkeys and camelids (llamas, alpacas etc.) are allowed in a QU when cattle, sheep or goats are in quarantine.
23. Incoming cattle, sheep and goats must be transported directly into a QU and must not be walked through any part of the holding that is not part of the QU. Vehicles used to move animals can be driven into a QU or backed-up and the tailgate lowered up to or into the QU. The vehicle must be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected before being used again.
24. Where more than one trip is required to collect and deliver animals from a **single premises** (which may be a market) to a QU:

- a. that is **not in use (i.e. there are currently no animals observing a quarantine period)**, the vehicle does not need to be cleansed and disinfected between each trip, provided no other premises are visited between trips.

Once all animals have been moved into the QU the vehicle must be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected before being used again.

- b. that is **in use** (i.e. animals part way through a quarantine period), the vehicle must be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected between each trip and before being used again.
25. Animals in a QU and animals on the main holding must not share milking facilities. Animals **must not** leave a QU to be milked. Milk from animals in quarantine can be sold in the normal way, but **must not** be fed to other animals on the main holding (including cats and dogs).
26. An application for a QU must be accompanied by a 'Biosecurity Plan' (see section on Application and Approval Process). The plan should detail how the following rules will be met, along with the location of facilities, equipment and materials for cleansing and disinfection of vehicles, equipment, clothing and footwear:
- a. Any person entering a QU must wear footwear and clothing that is appropriate for the work being carried out. Footwear and clothing must either be dedicated for use in the QU or be cleansed and disinfected before entering and leaving a QU.
 - b. Facilities must be available for hand washing/cleaning and any person entering a QU must wash/clean their hands before entering and leaving a QU.
 - c. Appropriate signage must be displayed when a QU is in use so that farm staff and visitors know to follow the required biosecurity procedures.
27. **Only approved disinfectant should be used.** A list of approved disinfectants is available on the [Defra website](#).

Machinery and Equipment

28. Consider having machinery and/or equipment that is dedicated to, and remains within, a QU for the entire period that a QU is in use. Machinery and/or equipment can be brought into a QU at any time. Any machinery and/or equipment leaving a QU during the 6DSS period (i.e. whilst it is **in use**) must be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected before being used on another part of the holding.

Feed and Bedding

29. Feed and/or bedding can be brought into a QU whilst it is in use. If machinery has to be taken into a QU whilst it is in use it must be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected before being used on another part of the holding. Machinery that is used to drop or propel feed and/or bedding into a QU does not have to be cleansed and disinfected, provided it does

not enter the same enclosure as, or come into contact with, the quarantined animals. Alternatively, machinery can remain in the QU without having to be cleansed and disinfected between uses.

30. Under no circumstances should feed be taken from a QU that is **in use** and fed to livestock or stored on another part of the holding.
31. Under no circumstances should bedding, manure or effluent be taken from a QU that is **in use** and used, stored or disposed of on another part of the holding.

Animal Welfare

32. Animals in a QU should be checked regularly for any signs of disease or illness.
33. Animals may leave a QU and be taken to a veterinary premises for treatment. On their return, which should be direct to the QU, provided they have not been in contact with any other animals, they must complete the remainder of their 6DSS.
34. The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Wales) Order 2007 requires that an animal must be fit for the intended journey before the journey starts and must remain sufficiently fit throughout the journey. This means the animal should be healthy enough to tolerate the entire journey it is about to make (including loading, unloading and any journey breaks) with no or very little adverse effect on it; the journey should not cause the animal any suffering or injury. Fitness to travel rules do not normally allow the transport of pregnant females where 90% or more of the expected gestation period has already passed or females who have given birth in the previous week
35. When QUs are being used for quarantine purposes they are considered a separate holding to the main holding. This means that separate ear tags would be required for any animals born in a QU. All QU CPHs will be allocated unique herd/flock marks, should ear tags be needed. The herd/flock marks will be on the QU certificate. Important: Animals must be tagged before they leave the holding where they were born.
36. The death of an animal in a QU must be recorded in the holding register. The holding register must be made available during inspections. The death of any cattle must also be reported to the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) within seven days of the death taking place.

Bovine TB – Important Information for Cattle Keepers

- 37 All herd TB surveillance tests will apply to both the main holding and any associated QUs i.e. they are treated as one unit.
- 38 In the event of Officially TB Free Status being Suspended (OTFS) or Withdrawn (OTFW) in a herd on a holding where a QU is in operation, any movement restrictions and associated TB testing requirements will apply to both the main holding and any associated QUs i.e. they are treated as one unit.

- 39 Animals in a QU must be physically TB tested in the QU and any equipment moved into the QU to carry out the TB test must be cleansed and disinfected before return to the main holding.
- 40 When an animal requires a post-movement test, after entering a holding in the Low TB Area of Wales, this can be carried out following the move from the QU into the main holding. To note, however, that specific testing conditions apply in the licence relating to animals in QUs being used for show purposes (see para 46 below).
- 41 If a bovine animal has been located for 60 days, or more, in a QU in an Intermediate, or High TB Area of Wales, then a pre-movement test is required before the movement of the bovine animal from the QU onto the main holding. Otherwise no pre-movement testing is required for movements between QUs and a main holding.

Attending Shows

42. QUs can be used to manage movements to and from shows. If an animal that has attended a licensed show is returned to a QU, it can then attend subsequent consecutive licensed shows, by leaving and returning via the QU, without incurring a 6DSS. A 6DSS will only need to be applied to the animal in the QU following its return from the last show.
43. If other animals are part way through a quarantine period when animals returning from a show are introduced the 6DSS restarts and **all** animals must remain in the QU for six whole days from the day that the last animal(s) were brought in.
44. Livestock keepers that do not have a QU cannot send animals to consecutive shows within six days and on return from a show the whole holding will be subject to 6DSS.
45. Individual animal movements between QUs and shows must be reported within 24 hours via the CTS or EIDCymru for sheep and goats.
46. A certified Quarantine Unit (QU) may be used by keepers in the Low TB Area, who have moved show cattle to and back from a non-exempt show, where the movement back to the Low TB Area would, before the animal can be moved off to another show, normally require a clear post-movement TB test between 60-120 days after the movement.
47. Animals, which require a post-movement test following return from a non-exempt show to the Low TB Area will only be allowed to move off to exempt and non-exempt Shows during the season if they:
- have received a post-movement test with clear results; or
 - move into a QU, are licensed to move off before a post-movement test and remain in the QU (when not at a show) through the show season, until a final post-movement test has been completed with clear results. A post-movement test will be required at 60-120 days after the initial movement back and the final movement back (of the

year) from a non-exempt show located in the Intermediate, or High TB Area of Wales, or the Edge, or High TB Area of England to the Quarantine Unit. Bovine animals must be moved out of the QU immediately after satisfying the final post- movement testing requirements.

48. Only show cattle can reside in the certified Quarantine Unit, whilst the unit is being used for this purpose. See the TB FAQ for more detailed information: <https://gov.wales/bovine-tb-eradication-programme-frequently-asked-questions>

Movements to Slaughterhouses

49. Animals may be taken from a QU direct to a slaughterhouse at any time.

Movements to Markets

50. QUs cannot be used to manage movements to and from multiple markets. An animal returning from a market must observe a 6DSS in a QU before returning to the main holding. Similarly, if an animal is purchased from the market it must observe 6DSS in a QU.
51. Movements from markets are considered to constitute a higher biosecurity risk due to several factors, including: closer proximity and shared airspace of animals and the frequency of their movements.

Using a QU for Other Purposes

52. A QU can be treated as part of the main holding and used for other purposes when no animals are in quarantine. This can include storage of vehicles or equipment, use by animals (of any species) from the main holding and, for outdoor QUs, growing a forage crop.
53. Between uses, it is good practice to remove all animal bedding and uneaten feed/forage and thoroughly cleanse and disinfect indoor QUs.

Record Keeping

54. QUs are allocated a unique CPH number. Livestock keepers must report individual animal movements into QUs within 24 hours, via the CTS or EIDCymru for sheep and goats. Movements out of a QU must be reported within three days.
55. For cattle, the move out of a QU and the move onto the main holding must be reported at the same time.
56. As a QU has a separate CPH number to the main holding, a record of the movements into and out of QUs must be maintained in a separate holding register / herd or flock register to that maintained for the Main Holding. These records must be updated within 36 hours of the movement.

57. Movements of animals between the main holding and the QU when the QU is **not being used** for quarantine purposes do not need to be reported on CTS or EIDCymru or recorded in the holding register.

Multiple QUs and Multiple Sites

58. Farmed holdings can have up to two QUs and each QU can comprise up to two sites.

59. For two QUs to be independently managed they must be certified separately. Certification Bodies will charge livestock keepers a fee for the certification of **each** QU. Each QU will be allocated a separate CPH number so that livestock movements into and out of each QU can be reported.

60. Where one QU comprises two sites, which can be indoor, outdoor or a combination of both, both sites are treated as one for the purposes of the 6DSS and allocated one CPH number. If animals are brought onto one site then both sites are deemed to be in operation. If animals are part way through a quarantine period on one site when animals are introduced to the other site the 6DSS restarts on **both** sites.

Application and Approval Process

61. Before a QU can be used it must be inspected and approved by a UKAS accredited Certification Body (CB). Application forms and guidance relating to the approval process are available from the Certification Bodies. There is currently one CB accredited to certify QUs in Wales, Quality Welsh Food Certification Ltd (QWFC). CBs will charge a fee for their service. This will be clearly set out in their guidance.

62. A map, or maps, of proposed QUs must be submitted with an application. The maps provided must be of an appropriate scale and clearly indicate the boundaries of the proposed QU. The requirements will be set out in the CB guidance.

63. A Biosecurity Plan must be submitted with an application. The requirements will be set out in the CB guidance.

64. Livestock keepers do not have to apply to the Welsh Government for QU CPH numbers; if a QU is approved the CB will do this on their behalf using information provided in the QU application form.

65. The Welsh Government will create new CPH numbers for QUs and inform the CB and APHA. APHA needs this information for inspection purposes.

66. The CB will present the livestock keeper with a certificate, which will include the new CPH number, the date from when the QU can be used, the end date and information on the species for which the QU is intended. The map submitted by the livestock keeper at application stage will also form part of the certificate.

67. Livestock keepers must retain the certificate and ensure that it is available during inspections.

68. The livestock keeper must update EIDCymru and/or inform BCMS to register the new CPH on the CTS system.

In-use Inspections

69. QUs will be subject to unannounced in-use inspections by APHA to ensure compliance with the QU Requirements and Operational Rules. The Biosecurity Plan and the holing register/flock register must be made available for inspection.
70. During an inspection, APHA may wish to check the ear tags of the animals in a QU. Livestock keepers must comply with such a request and present animals for inspection.
71. Where non-compliant, QUs may, subject to the severity of the non-compliance, be suspended or revoked. Livestock keepers have a right to appeal any decision to suspend or revoke a QU with the CB.
72. Levels of compliance and associated sanctions will be set out in guidance available from the CB.

Maintaining a QU - 18 Month Re-certification

73. QUs are certified for 18 months only, after which re-certification is required. CBs will, before expiry, remind livestock keepers of the need to re-approve QUs. CBs will charge a fee for recertification.
74. If a livestock keeper does not wish to continue using the QU after its end date, they should inform the CB of this. The QU will no longer be available for use as an exemption to the 6DSS beyond its end date.
75. If a keeper has requested re-certification, the CB will arrange an inspection before requesting a new CPH number from RPW and re-certifying the QU.
76. The keeper will be required to register their new CPH number with EIDCymru for sheep and goats or BCMS for cattle.
77. The keeper will not be required to submit a new application when requesting re-certification for their QU if no details in the original application have changed, the map/biosecurity plan remain fit for purpose and the request has been made within a reasonable amount of time.
78. If any changes have been made to the application, map/plan or the request has not been submitted within a reasonable amount of time, the keeper will be required to complete and submit a new application form in order for the CB to arrange re-inspection and re-certification.