

Welsh Government

The Bluetongue (Wales) Regulations 2008 (as amended) - regulation 13, 14, 16 & 28

The Movement of Animals (Restrictions) (Wales) Order 2003 (as amended) - article 5A

Declaration of a Bluetongue Restricted Zone and an Infected Area on 31 July 2026

- 1) Upon the Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales having reviewed evidence that there has been local transmission of Bluetongue virus in Wales and confirming that the Bluetongue virus is therefore circulating in Wales and England, the Welsh Ministers hereby declare the area identified in Annex 1 to be a restricted zone in accordance with regulation 13(1)(a) of the Bluetongue (Wales) Regulations 2008 (as amended).
- 2) In addition, the Welsh Ministers hereby declare the area identified in Annex 1 to be an infected area in accordance with article 5A of the Movement of Animals (Restrictions) (Wales) Order 2003 (as amended).
- 3) The restricted zone and infected area are comprised of the area identified in Annex 1.
- 4) The measures set out in Annex 2 shall apply in the restricted zone.
- 5) As regards the infected area:
 - a. The disease in respect of which the infected area is being declared is Bluetongue virus.
 - b. The animals to which the declaration relates are ruminants and camelids.
 - c. In order to prevent the spread of disease, the Welsh Ministers consider additional measures are necessary. These measures are specified in Annex 2 and apply in the infected area.
- 6) This amended declaration revokes and replaces the declaration of a Bluetongue Restricted Zone made on 10 November 2025. These measures apply from 12:30 on 31 July 2026 until this Declaration is revoked or amended by further declaration.

Signed:

Dr Richard Irvine, Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales

Time and Date made: 15:51 on 30 July 2026

Under authority of the Cabinet Minister for Rural Resilience and Sustainability, one of the Welsh Ministers.

Any person who contravenes a provision of this Declaration made under the Bluetongue (Wales) Regulations 2008 (as amended) shall commit an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or to imprisonment not exceeding 3 months or to both (by virtue of regulation 25 of the Bluetongue (Wales) Regulations 2008).

Any person who contravenes any requirement or prohibition of a declaration made under the Movement of Animals (Restrictions) (Wales) Order 2003 shall be guilty of an offence and may be liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or to both (by virtue of sections 72 and 75 of the Animal Health Act 1981).

Copies of this Declaration are available on the Welsh Government webpages and from the Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ.

Annex 1 – Restricted Zone and Infected Area

The Restricted Zone and Infected Area comprise those parts of Wales contained within the red line and consists of all counties and unitary authorities in Wales (i.e. the whole of Wales).

Details of the Zone can be found on the [bluetongue interactive map](#).

For illustrative purposes, the restricted zone and infected area is indicated in the map below. The red line outlines both the Restricted Zone and Infected Area.



Annex 2 – Measures that apply in the Restricted Zone / Infected Area

1. No person may move an animal or germinal product out of a restricted zone except under the authority of a licence granted by a veterinary inspector or by an inspector or officer of the Welsh Ministers acting under the direction of a veterinary inspector (regulation 13(2) of the Bluetongue (Wales) Regulations 2008 (as amended)).
2. A person is prohibited from moving an animal within a restricted zone if the animal shows clinical signs of Bluetongue on the day of transport (regulation 13(5) of the Bluetongue (Wales) Regulations 2008 (as amended)).
3. No person shall freeze any germinal product unless the germinal product is frozen on premises designated under regulation 14A of the Bluetongue (Wales) Regulations 2008 (as amended) or otherwise in accordance with the terms of a licence issued by the Welsh Ministers (article 5A(3)(e) of the Movement of Animals (Restrictions) (Wales) Order 2003 (as amended)).
4. Auditable and accurate records of collection, storage, use and disposal, of germinal products must be prepared and maintained until such time that the donor animals are confirmed by testing, to be free of Bluetongue virus and to evidence compliance with licence conditions for any subsequent movement (article 5A(3)(e) of the Movement of Animals (Restrictions) (Wales) Order 2003 (as amended)).
5. Where an animal is transiting the area declared to be an infected area, the animal must be moved in a vehicle and by the shortest available route without being unloaded (article 5A(7) of the Movement of Animals (Restrictions) (Wales) Order 2003 (as amended)).
6. Note that Licence EXD612(W), issued on 10 November 2025, grants exemptions from the effect of certain provisions that apply by default under the Movement of Animals (Restrictions) (Wales) Order 2003. That licence **does not affect the restrictions at paragraphs 1-3 of this Annex (above)**, which continue to apply in the restricted zone subject to any licence granted under the Bluetongue (Wales) Regulations 2008.

Notes:

1. In this Declaration:
 - a. “animal” means a ruminating animal or a camelid;
 - b. “germinal product” means the embryo, ovum or semen of an animal.
2. Premises partly inside a restricted zone and partly inside an area that does not have controls for Bluetongue are treated as being inside the restricted zone (Bluetongue (Wales) Regulations 2008 (as amended), regulation 7(4)(b)).
3. Premises partly inside and partly outside an infected area are deemed to be wholly within that infected area (Movement of Animals (Restrictions) (Wales) Order 2003 (as amended), regulation 5A(6))