

## Action Note 2024/03/02- Chapter 6 Notifiable Diseases - Bluetongue virus (BTV) Pre-designation/Designation

### Purpose

This Action Note is to inform all FSS Authorised Officers (AOs) of the latest decision made by Animal Disease Policy Group (ADPG) on the bluetongue virus (BTV) designation requirements to reduce the emptying lairages of bedding from daily to **weekly** and the amendment of the Pre-designation/Designation Form in accordance with this decision. The new template can be found at **Annex I** of this AN. Please note that the new pre-designation/designation form provided in Annex I of this document will replace the actual Annex 32 of SMOC Chapter 6.

### Background

The Exotic Disease Control Policy Team requested input to assist them with evaluating the vector control methods at designated abattoirs.

A major barrier to abattoirs becoming designated is the requirement to empty lairages of used bedding daily. This is currently not practical for all and has impacts on their ability to maintain their slaughter capacity and welfare standards.

APHA and Pirbright Institute have considered whether the build-up of manure over the course of a week was likely to result in significantly more female *Culicoides* being attracted to a lairage, compared to the situation where manure is removed from the lairage at the end of each day. They assessed whether this would lead to an increased spread of Bluetongue, and concluded that the presence of animals would always be a greater attractant for midges than the presence of a suitable breeding habitat (in this case dung in the abattoir area). It typically takes over 10 days for the midge reproduction cycle to complete and Pirbright Institute stated that weekly removal of used bedding is sufficient to deliver a reduction in this risk.

The amendment will require **weekly emptying of lairages regardless of frequency of processing of animals from premises subject to BTV controls.**

### Procedure

FSS AOs are to use the latest version of the Pre-designation/Designation form found at Annex I with immediate effect, upon releasing this Action Note.

**Field Staff** are required to:

- Note the contents of the Action Note, plant attending OVs to ensure that the Action Note is read by all FSS staff and this is noted in the Action/Information Log.
- Print a copy for the plant file together with an Action/Information Log.
- **Use new version of the BTV pre-designation/designation Form.**

**This Action Note will be:**

- Uploaded to the Action Note Live Folder and Operation tracker log on SharePoint.
- Forwarded to Website mailbox ([websiteteam@fss.scot](mailto:websiteteam@fss.scot)) for publication on our website.

The Action Note will remain live until either incorporated in the SMOC, or revoked. Copies of the live and revoked Action Notes can be found on [SharePoint](#).

<u>Action Note drafted by</u>	<u>Action Note agreed by</u>	<u>Published</u>	<u>Revoked</u>
Miriam Diaz Galvan	Elena Gafenco		
<b>12/03/24</b>	<b>14/03/2024</b>		

**Annex I**

Application for BTV  
Pre-designation-Desig