

Action Note 2026/06/01: Chapter 6: Bluetongue (BTV) Designation

Purpose

The purpose of this Action Note is to inform field staff of the development, in collaboration with the Scottish Government (SG), of a **revised designation process and form** for slaughterhouses handling animals originating from **Bluetongue (BTV) Restricted Zones (RZ)**.

This update ensures alignment with **new movement and slaughter requirements effective from 1st of June 2026**.

Background

From **1st of June 2026**, updated requirements apply to the movement and slaughter of animals from BTV Restricted Zones.

In response, FSS, in conjunction with SG, has undertaken a review of the existing designation process. As a result, a **new designation form and associated requirements** have been developed to ensure compliance with the updated legislative and disease control framework.

This revised designation process replaces the current Bluetongue designation arrangements outlined in **SMOC Chapter 6, Annex 32**.

Procedure

The new designation form applies to slaughterhouses receiving animals from BTV Restricted Zones and consists of the following stages:

- **Part 1 - Application (FBO responsibility):**
To be completed by the Food Business Operator (FBO) once all required procedures and controls are in place.
- **Part 2 – Verification (OV responsibility):**
The Official Veterinarian (OV) must verify that the FBO complies with all designation requirements.
- **Part 3– Review (FSS Veterinary Advisor):**
The Veterinary Advisor reviews the submission and confirms pre-designation status, where appropriate.

Once pre-designation is confirmed:

- FSS will notify SG and APHA.
- Full designation will be granted by APHA

Under the updated requirements:

FBOs are expected to operate fully in accordance with the conditions set out in the designation. The designation framework defines the standard requirements, however flexibility may be applied in specific circumstances.

Whilst **overnight lairage** of animals originating from Restricted Zones is permissible under this updated framework, it is intended as a **controlled and justified flexibility**, rather than routine practice. Its use must therefore remain proportionate, infrequent, and supported by valid operational reasoning.

Where overnight lairaging occurs, FBOs are required to:

- **Inform the OV** of animals kept overnight
- Maintain **complete and accurate records** of all relevant consignments and the circumstances leading to overnight lairage
- Ensure that this information is **provided to the OV in a timely manner** to support verification

OVs are responsible for collect data. These will support **centralised monitoring and risk assessment by FSS, SG and APHA**, taking into account relevant factors such as volume of movements, geography, and environmental conditions.

This approach ensures that the flexibility granted under the designation is applied **appropriately and consistently**, without undermining disease control objectives.

Where evidence indicates:

- excessive or routine reliance on flexibility,
- incomplete or inaccurate record-keeping, or
- broader non-compliance with designation requirements,

Further action may be taken, including **review and potential revocation of the designation**.

To support compliance monitoring:

- OVs are required to maintain records (based on FBO data) for animals coming from RZ only, of:
 - Total number of animals received from RZs;
 - Number of animals per species **held overnight**.
 - Percentage of animals held overnight
- A **standardised spreadsheet template** has been developed for this purpose and is provided at **Annex II** The **new designation form** is attached at **Annex I**.

Please be aware that for FBOs that have or haven't been designated:

- If the establishment's designation expired or did not have a BTV designation, they need **to apply for designation using the new form**.
- If they are still designated, they **can use last year's designation until 1st of July 2026 or until when it expires, whichever is soonest**.
- **By 1st of July**, any designation needs to be under the new standards using the new designation form embedded in Annex I.

Field Staff are required to:

- Review the documentation carefully and raise any questions or points of clarification through the appropriate channels – Veterinary Advisor.
- 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.
- Discuss this Action Note with your FBOs and recommend them to start working on requirements to apply for pre-designation.
- Print a copy for the plant file together with an Action/Information Log found at the end of this Action/Information Note.

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) 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>
Roberto Bencivenga	Miriam Diaz Galvan		
03/06/2026	22/06/26		

Annex I – Designation Form



Vet Management -
 SMOC - Chapter 6 -

Annex II – Recording of Overnight Stays - Spreadsheet

[BTV Recoding of Overnight stay](#)

Action/Information Log

Action/Information Number [delete as appropriate]:
SMOC Chapter:
Implementation/Revocation Date [delete as appropriate]:

(Signing the charter below certifies that the Action/Information has been read and understood)

