



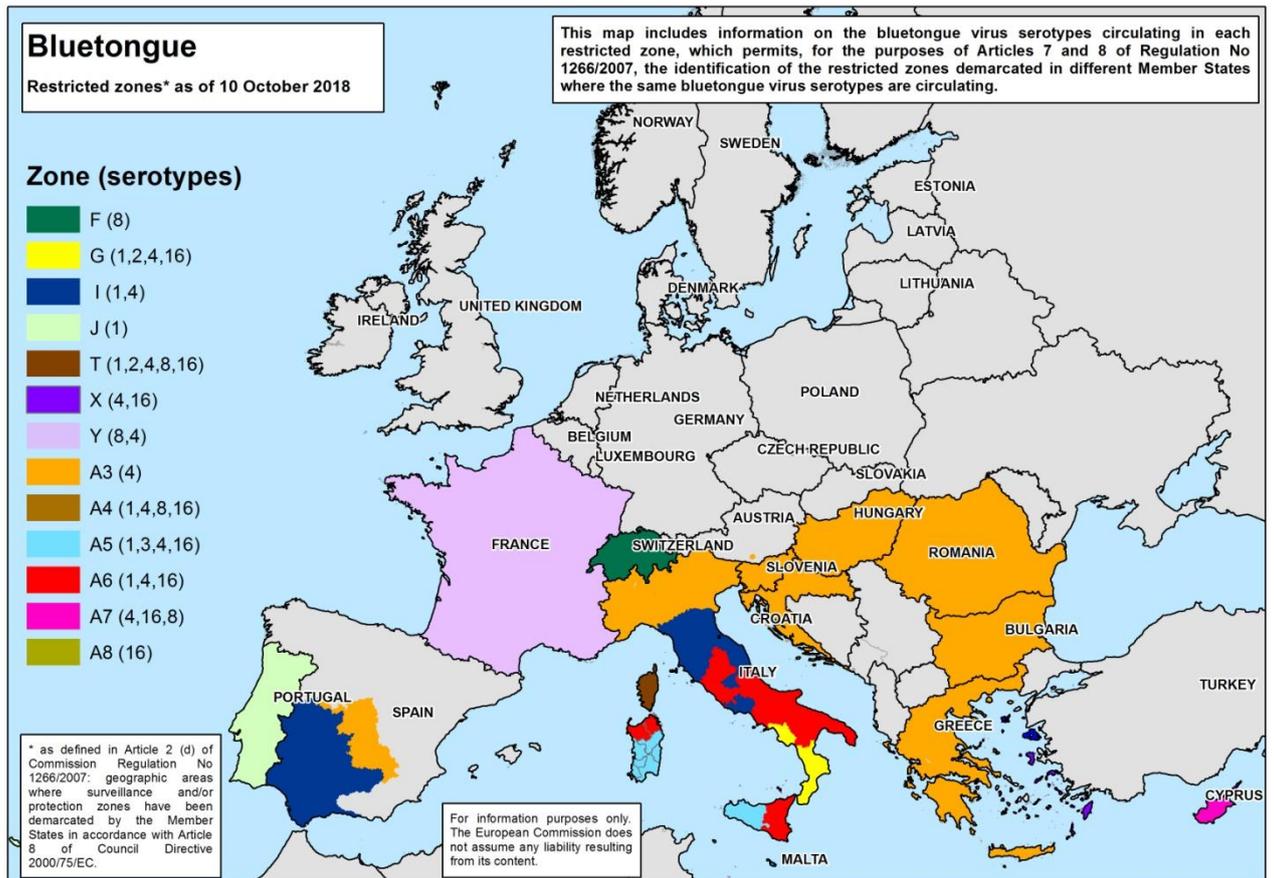
Update on Bluetongue (October 2018)

Bluetongue positive imported animals in UK

- British authorities have detected bluetongue virus (BTV) in one sheep out of a consignment of four imported from France to Lancashire as part of their post import bluetongue surveillance programme <https://www.farmingsector.co.uk/latest-news/livestock/bluetongue-virus-detected-and-dealt-with-in-four-imported-sheep/>
- The four sheep from the consignment have been culled and measures have been taken to prevent spread.
- The UK remains officially Bluetongue free.
- Last month, as described in the September bluetongue update, BTV was detected in two cattle imported from France to Yorkshire. (<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/bluetongue-disease-uk-cows-animal-imports-france-uk-a8552456.html>)
- The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine will continue to monitor the situation.

Measures to prevent bluetongue coming to Ireland via imported animals

- Anyone considering importing ruminant animals from bluetongue affected countries (Map 1 below) should only do so if absolutely necessary and take particular care when sourcing their animals and timing the import as this is the most likely route of introduction of the bluetongue virus into Ireland.
- Even animals with bluetongue vaccination records may harbour BTV.
- The bluetongue vector season in Ireland is likely to be between April and early December.
- If bluetongue is introduced to Ireland, it could have a major impact on our export markets. Also, the control measures required by the EU would have a significant impact on herd management.
- Do not buy or accept animals which have been recently imported without carefully checking their origin.
- Seek additional assurances to ensure that animals are not infected with BTV prior to departure, such as a recent negative PCR test for bluetongue carried out in an accredited laboratory.
- On arrival, keep any imported animals isolated and indoors until they have been tested for BTV by staff from this Department and have returned a negative test result.
- Infected animals may not show any clinical signs and may only be detected through testing their blood for BTV.



Map 1: Bluetongue restricted zones in Europe as of the 10th of October 2018. For updated maps please see:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad_control-measures_bt_restrictedzones-map.jpg