The Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Eradication Scheme Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Guidance Note BVDLAB1A

Criteria for the approval of laboratories providing BVDV test results to the NI BVD Eradication Scheme

This Guidance Note sets out the criteria used by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) for the approval of laboratories to provide BVDV test results to the Northern Ireland BVD Eradication Scheme from 1 March 2016 and provides information to assist with the completion of Application Form BVDLAB1A.

Background

The Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Eradication Scheme Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 came into operation on 1 March 2016, from which date the compulsory NI BVD Eradication Scheme took effect. The Scheme aims to control and ultimately eradicate BVD in Northern Ireland and will place legal requirements on herd keepers relating to the compulsory 'tag and testing' of bovines.

A voluntary BVD eradication programme, operated by Animal Health and Welfare Northern Ireland (AHWNI), had previously operated from 2013 and was based on testing for the BVD virus using official tags combined with a tissue sampling capability. Supplementary tags labelled with the animal ID number (less the Department logo, and country/region designator, e.g. UK9) could also be used for additional sampling.

The new compulsory Scheme requires the use of only DAERA-approved BVD tissue sample-enabled tags. These samples will be tested for BVDV. Confirmatory testing for BVDV will be carried out, when required, on blood samples. DAERA approves laboratories to provide BVDV test results. Only results generated by approved laboratories are recognised by DAERA. Laboratories may submit an application at any time.

Any personal information provided within the BVDLAB1A Application Form will be used solely in relation to the NI BVD Eradication Scheme. All personal details will be handled in line with DAERA's Privacy Notice and the Data Protection Act 1998.

Criteria for Approval of Laboratories

Approval will be on a test by test (e.g. detection of virus by ELISA or RTPCR) and matrix by matrix (e.g. tissue punch or blood) basis. In order to be approved, laboratories must confirm that they comply with the following:

1. Must have accreditation to ISO17025 for all relevant BVD tests (virus detection by RT-PCR or ELISA and/or antibody detection by ELISA) for which DAERA approval is being sought. **Documentary evidence must be provided to accompany Application Form BVDLAB1A.** DAERA must be informed of any change in accreditation status as soon as practically possible, including any refusal of an application made by the laboratory for accreditation.

2. Participate to the satisfaction of DAERA in such relevant proficiency testing and technical reviews as may be considered appropriate.

3. Provide such data in relation to laboratory function, diagnostic testing and results as may reasonably be requested by DAERA to specified deadlines.

4. Facilitate such laboratory visits as may reasonably be requested by DAERA within specified deadlines.

5. Retain a record of all testing carried out in relation to the programme for at least 7 years and furnish copies/extracts from time to time to DAERA on request in such manner as DAERA may require.

6. Report results for all herds, where necessary permissions are in place, by electronic transfer at least once per day [day of report] to the AHWNI database in the following format or in such revised format as DAERA may from time to time specify:

    a. Herd number
    b. Lab delivery date (date of receipt)
    c. Test date
    d. Animal ID
    e. Individual lab reference
    f. Test name
    g. Sample type
    h. Test value
    i. Laboratory interpretation of that result

7. Provide test results within specified turnaround times (all measured on a monthly basis):

    a.95% of results within 7 working days of receipt;
    b.99% within 10 working days of receipt.
    c. A median interval of 5 days or less

8. Maintain a structural error rate (as defined by DAERA) not exceeding 5% in data files transferred to the AHWNI database, measured on a monthly basis.

9. Demonstrate evidence, to the satisfaction of DAERA, of a viable contingency/emergency plan.

10. Retain and preserve samples for a period of 60 days from the date of the test.

11. Must log individually and electronically all samples received for BVDV testing under the NI BVD Eradication Scheme by the end of the next working day following their receipt by the laboratory.

Failure to meet any of the criteria for approval of laboratories could result in the removal of DAERA approval for a laboratory to provide BVDV test results to the Northern Ireland BVD Eradication Scheme.