



Bluetongue Serotype 8 (BTV-8) Vaccine Information

The bluetongue vaccines authorised for use in Great Britain and Northern Ireland including their Summary of Product Characteristics can be found on the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), Product Information Database at:

<https://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/ProductInformationDatabase/search>

Acquiring BTV-8 vaccine

The VMD, have confirmed that due to companies only having European product available, the BTV-8 vaccines will need to be imported under a Special Import Certificate (SIC) or at least a Wholesale Dealer Import Certificate (WDIC) and it would not be legal for the BTV-8 vaccines to be advertised. This means the rhetoric around accessing and promoting BTV-8 vaccines is different to that for bluetongue serotype 3 (BTV-3) vaccines.

As long as the BTV-8 vaccines are valid to import through the cascade and the VMD provide a SIC there would be no concerns from a policy perspective. There is a separate general licence that covers use of 1,2 4 and 8 available

at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bluetongue-general-licence-for-vaccination-against-the-disease>

Multiple strains

It is important to note the three BTV-3 vaccines available in the UK (Bultavo-3, Bluevac-3 and Syvazul BTV 3) only provide protection against BTV-3 and won't provide protection against BTV-8 or any other bluetongue serotypes. Thus far, BTV-3 has been the predominant strain in the UK since 2023 but there were also cases of BTV-8 confirmed in 2025 and this means that there may be BTV-8 in circulation when the temperature warms up in 2026.

The bluetongue situation is constantly evolving, and we encourage conversations between farmers and their vet to assess their farms risk to bluetongue and consider vaccination as an option. BTV-3 vaccine remains in good supply in the UK. To find out the latest situation please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bluetongue-latest-situation>

There are plans for two multivalent bluetongue vaccines (containing two serotypes out of 1,2,4 and 8) to be made available in GB.