Updated: 17 August 2026

Vaccination guidance for vets - *Section 2 added on 13/08/2026*

Section 1

The following vaccines are authorised for use in GB:

- Bluevac-3 Suspension for Injection for Cattle and Sheep (Vm number: 30824/5001, Marketing Authorisation Holder: CZ Veterinaria)
- Bultavo 3 Suspension for Injection for Sheep and Cattle (Vm number: 08327/5048, Marketing Authorisation Holder: Boehringer Ingelheim)
- Syvazul BTV 3 Suspension for Injection for Sheep and Cattle (Vm number: 31592/5006, Marketing Authorisation Holder: Laboratorios SYVA)

The vaccines also hold marketing authorisations relevant for Northern Ireland and/or EU.

Where a suitable GB authorised BTV-3 vaccine is not available in GB, veterinary surgeons can use the cascade to source BTV-3 vaccine authorised elsewhere, e.g. Northern Ireland and/or EU product, via Special Import Certificate (SIC) through VMD's online Special Imports Scheme.

Vets do not need to specify a named herd when applying for an SIC for the BTV-3 vaccines, so certificates issued can be used for the stated number of animals under their care, rather than being at farm-level.

In exceptional cases it is permitted that a product may be held in stock for emergency use, so therefore considering the current nature and need of the vaccine in the case of disease outbreak and customer increased demand, a vet could apply for "emergency stock use" of unauthorised BTV-3 vaccine under SIC.

In principle within a specific vet practice, a vet who holds stock of unauthorised BTV-3 vaccine may permit another vet within the practice to use the vaccine – however the named vet on the SIC is the vet responsible for the product.

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Vets should consider the likely quantities needed and purchase accordingly. Ultimately the intention of the Special Import Scheme is that it is the wholesale dealers who hold the stock for emergency use, but it is understood that in exceptional cases a vet may wish to hold emergency stock.

Vets should be aware that when a suitable GB authorised vaccine becomes available on the GB market that they should source/use the authorised product and not unauthorised product sourced by SIC.

Each of the respective GB and NI/EU authorised individual vaccines Bluevac-3, Bultavo 3 and Syvazul BTV 3 are manufactured by the same Marketing Authorisation Holder (CZ Veterinaria, Boehringer Ingelheim, and Laboratorios SYVA respectively). The respective GB and NI/EU authorised vaccines are manufactured to the same quality standards.

Currently, the Summary of Characteristics of the respective GB and NI/EU authorised vaccines are the same i.e. composition, claims, safety warnings, administration routes and dosage, shelf life etc. However, as the timing of future variations to the GB and NI/EU marketing authorisations (licences) may not be synchronous due to the different regulatory regions involved, it is expected that differences in the SPCs might arise.

Section 2

Vaccine administration

It is not considered good practice to administer BTV-3 vaccine to animals belonging to different owners from a single bottle. However, it is possible, and under individual veterinary discretion, in accordance with the VMR requirements (e.g. Schedule 3 paragraph 4) to do so. Where this is done, care should be taken with correct storage at all times and ensure that vaccine is not used beyond the broach/expiry period.

For BTV-3 vaccines, this period is 10 hours after first opening the immediate packaging, as stated in the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) or package leaflet.

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Links to the relevant product information can be found at https://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/ProductInformationDatabase/search. Due to biosecurity concerns, in particular as BTV is a blood borne disease, we would urge caution should such an approach be taken.

Alternatively, a vet can decant the product and it would have to be administered within the broach period. Schedule 3, paragraph 12(3) requires the vet to ensure the container is suitably labelled and sufficient written information supplied (such as a copy of the SPC or the package leaflet) to enable the product to be used safely.

Records of how much and where the product has been administered must also be made by the vet. This would allow the farmer to administer the prescribed, decanted product.

However, an animal owner cannot supply another animal owner with the medicine, even if the BTV3 vaccine has been prescribed to the other animal owner by a vet.

Again, while such an approach is not considered good practice, it is permitted under Schedule 3, paragraph 9(2) of the VMR. Consideration of potential degradation and possible effects on product quality should be given by the prescribing vet, who ultimately makes that decision.

Vet vaccination recording form

Livestock keepers must use this service to report using the BTV-3 vaccine in England, Scotland and Wales.

Use the 'how to report' link on Gov.uk https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bluetongue and search on this page for the form 'vaccine reporting form' to ensure you are using an up-to-date form.

To allow for easier uploads of vaccinated livestock identification information it is now possible to upload a photo of all ID, or a CVS file of all information.