



Ref: VITT 1200/BT – Switzerland  
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## Bluetongue (BTV-8) in Switzerland

**Note:** Defra's Food and Farming Group, International Trade Core Function (FFG-ITCF) monitors outbreaks of high impact diseases around the world. Bluetongue (BT) is among those diseases of major concern.

### 1 Disease Report

Switzerland reported an outbreak of bluetongue (BTV-8) in cattle to the OIE and European Commission on 29 October. This outbreak occurred in Basel-Stadt (Basle City region) on the border with France and Germany. Control measures include movement controls. Vaccination is not permitted (OIE, 2007; European Commission, 2007).

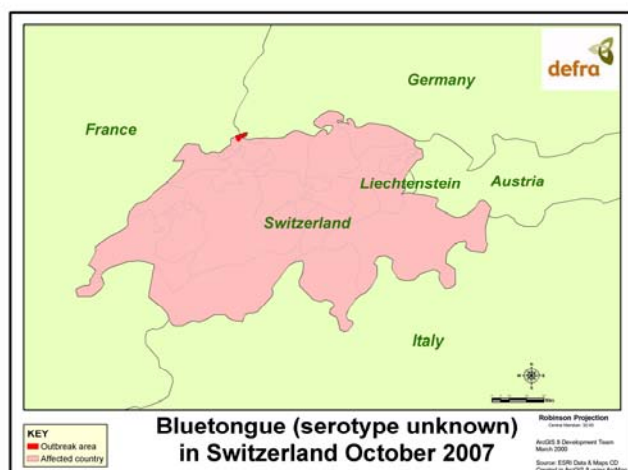
### 2 Situation assessment and commentary

Following the initial detection of BT (BTV-8) in the EU (the Netherlands) in August 2006, the

virus was subsequently confirmed in Belgium, France, Germany and Luxembourg. In 2007, the virus re-emerged in these countries and has spread into previously unaffected areas. This spread has resulted in the extension of BT protection zones into Switzerland, Austria, Denmark, Sweden and the Czech Republic.

In 2007, BT (BTV-8) was confirmed for the first time in the UK, Denmark and now also in Switzerland.

The EC provides an up to date map of the BT control zones in Europe at



[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/controlmeasures/BlueTongue\\_RestrictedZones.jpg](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/controlmeasures/BlueTongue_RestrictedZones.jpg)

Movements of live susceptible animals out of these restricted areas are controlled in accordance with EC Directives.

No movements of live susceptible animals from the affected areas of Switzerland to the UK are currently permitted due to the control measures implemented earlier in 2007 with regard to foot and mouth disease (FMD) in the UK.

### 3 Conclusions

On the basis of the information available at this stage it is concluded that the likelihood of a BTV introduction by legal trade from the affected area of Switzerland to the UK is negligible.

Currently, Defra FFG-ITCF does not intend to carry out and publish a full risk assessment on this outbreak but will continue to monitor developments and re-assess the situation as new information become available.

## **4 References**

European Commission. (2007). Bluetongue – first outbreak confirmed in Switzerland. Fax 190 (29/10/2007 16:30) Brussels, D BVG (07) D/412550.

OIE. (2007). Bluetongue, Switzerland. CHE 29-10-07 OIE Alert Message. Received by e-mail Monday 29/10/2007.