

Measures to prevent the introduction of BVD virus into the territory concerned

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The major risk of introduction of BVD into Danish territory is trade of live bovines and small ruminants from other EU MSs and third countries, where BVDV infections are prevalent. Also, vehicles transporting live animals across the border could be a risk factor as well as personnel and equipment visiting farms. The different risk factors were identified and quantified in a study published in 2014 (Foddai *et al*, 2014). The majority of the identified risk factors are dealt with by EU trade regulations and the Danish industry's recommendations (below).

The official regulations concerning trade of live animals issued by the Danish authorities complies with the EU regulations concerning trade between member states. However, the cattle industry represented by the Danish Agricultural & Food Council (DAFC) has implemented a number of additional demands and recommendations.

Import of live bovines

In case of import of live bovines, DAFC requests that the animals are quarantined for at least four weeks. After three weeks in the quarantine, the animals must be tested for BVDV antibodies and antigens.

If any quarantined animals are antibody positive and pregnant, the Danish veterinary authorities will place these animals under restrictions, and they are required to calve in isolation and the calf must be isolated and tested for antigen with negative result.

Furthermore, herds receiving imported bovines must have two animals tested every month for BVDV antibodies in the year following the import.

If a farmer importing bovines does not adhere to these recommendations, he will not be allowed to participate in shows and will not be entitled to get losses covered by the industry, should an outbreak occur in the herd. The vast majority of importers have complied with these recommendations from the industry during the years.

During the period from 2015 to 2019, an average of 142 cattle was imported into Denmark from other EU member states annually ranging from 104 to 178. No cattle were imported from third countries.

Import of live small ruminants

The Danish sheep and goat organisations run a health programme, which implies that imported sheep and goats must be kept isolated for one year and tested for BVDV and border disease virus antibodies. If the farmers do not comply, they cannot sell animals for breeding, which is the reason for most imports.

Vehicles transporting live animals across the border

Around 1,500 transports of live cattle from Denmark to other EU member states and third countries cross the border every year. The return of Danish vehicles or collecting foreign vehicles impose a risk of introduction of infectious agents including BVDV into Danish herds after visiting foreign herds. The Danish cattle industry (DAFC) requires that these vehicles are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before crossing the Danish border. The cleaning of every vehicle is inspected at approved stations at the border, where they also undergo final disinfection. The procedure is certified by Danish Transport Standard (<https://pigresearchcentre.dk/DANISH-Standards/The-Danish-Transport-Standard>).

Personnel and equipment visiting farms

The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration recommends that a visit in Danish cattle herds is not carried out within 48 hours after visiting foreign herds with cloven hooved animals. The same is recommended by the Danish cattle industry.

Foddai, A, Boklund, A, Stockmarr, A, Krogh, K and Enøe, C. 2014. Quantitative assessment of the risk of introduction of bovine viral diarrhoea virus in Danish dairy herds. *Prev. Vet. Med.* 116:75-88.