

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Animal and Plant Health Agency
Veterinary & Science Policy Advice Team - International Disease Monitoring**

restricted zone and the role of vector protection. This will inform the requests made by the French Authorities (under EU Directive 1266/2007/EU article 8 1(b)) for accepting animals for trade under a bilateral agreement, whereby animals may move from the restriction zone, including for export ten days after the final vaccination is given. We will await this risk assessment before a decision is taken to accept such animals.

Conclusion

The continual (slow) spread of BTV-8 in France and the spread into Austria of BTV-4 (and quite likely Slovenia) are no particular surprise, given the mild autumn. Some “jumps” are being seen – which could be because these strains are generally not causing significant clinical disease in cattle, so cases may be missed. This does not affect the risk level to the UK, particularly at this time of year, as cold weather leads to lower vector activity. We will continue to report any further updates.

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