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## Bluetongue in Italy

**Note:** Defra's International Animal Health Division (IAHD) monitors outbreaks of high impact diseases around the world. Bluetongue (BT) is among those diseases of major concern.

### 1 Disease Report

An outbreak of bluetongue in 3 out of 56 sheep in Cagliari, southern Sardinia, in Italy (see map) was reported on 3 November (ADNS, 2006). The outbreak was detected and confirmed on 15 October. Italy is implementing movement control and tracing.

### 2 Situation assessment and commentary

EU rules require an affected Member State to prevent trade of susceptible animals from

restricted zones (protection and surveillance zone), unless it can be proved that they come from areas within these zones that are free from virus circulation or vectors.



**Bluetongue - Italy (Sardinia)  
First outbreak in 2006**

The rules allow Members States to control the disease according to a plan approved by the Commission. This may include vaccination outside restricted zones.

### 3 Conclusions

Italy is required to apply EU controls in the protection and surveillance zone around the affected holding. At present, it is considered that this outbreak poses a negligible risk to the UK animal health. The significance of this outbreak in the context of current BT events in the EU and adjacent states cannot be evaluated until the serotype is known.

IAHD 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.

### References

ADNS, (2006). Primary disease notification. (Received by e-mail on 3 November 2006 at 14:43.)