

## **Q&A on Notifiable Diseases**

### **Notification of Diseases Affecting Terrestrial Animals Regulations 2016**

#### **Statutory Instrument 130 of 2016 (amended by S.I. No. 408 of 2017)**

#### **Introduction**

Notification of certain animal diseases to government services is a cornerstone of any credible animal health system. Notification is important for a variety of reasons:

- To quickly identify, thus facilitate a coordinated response against major economically important diseases exotic to Ireland
- To ensure surveillance and thus facilitate a coordinated response to any new or emerging disease
- To identify and enable a coordinated response to zoonotic diseases – those that are transmissible between animals and humans and which are of public health significance
- To provide surveillance data to support national compulsory or voluntary control or eradication programmes
- To provide surveillance data to support the international certification of animals or animal products – in respect of individual bilateral certificates with other countries and also to fulfil requirements on Ireland as a member of the European Union and the World Organisation of Animal Health (OIE).

## **Q&A**

### **What is covered under the Regulation?**

All animals as covered in the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013, as well as animal products which are defined in the Act as

- (a) the carcass, meat or other food derived from an animal or anything that contains a food derived from an animal,
- (b) the semen, egg, ovum, embryo or foetus of an animal,
- (c) an animal by-product or anything containing an animal by-product,
- (d) a sample derived from an animal, or
- (e) any thing derived from an animal or that consists of or contains an animal product; -

Also covered is any other thing which has been used to transport an animal or animal product

### **Who must report?**

If a farmer, person in charge or a veterinary practitioner suspects or knows that an animal is showing symptoms or signs of a disease, they are legally obliged to notify this to the local office of the Department.

Similarly, if a test result obtained on laboratory analysis shows infection by a disease agent or potential infection (pending further results), the laboratory is obligated to notify the suspected infection or confirm infection to the local office of the Department. All third parties are also obliged to give the identification details of the animal and name and address of the owner of the animal to the Department.

### **Is it always necessary to notify the Department directly?**

No, this is not necessary where an Department Eradication programme (e.g. Tuberculosis eradication) exists or where there is a dedicated official surveillance or control programme in place e.g. Johne's Disease or Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD), where the results of tests under the control or eradication programme are reported to a DAFM laboratory of veterinary practitioner who is required to report in any event. It is required however to directly report suspicion of any such diseases outside of such testing/surveillance. Specific provisions are made in respect of these latter Johne's Disease and BVD where notification of test results to the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation database serves as compliance with the regulation.

### **What diseases are listed?**

Under the new regulation, the diseases for notification are categorised into Parts A, B and C.

#### **Part A**

These are highly contagious diseases [exotic, economically significant, public health risk] which require stringent measures for immediate eradication or is subject to a national eradication programme;

1. African horse sickness
2. African swine fever
3. Anthrax
4. Avian influenza (including highly pathogenic avian influenza and low pathogenic
5. avian influenza)
6. Avian paramyxovirus (including Newcastle disease and paramyxovirus of
7. pigeons)
8. Bluetongue
9. Brucellosis in ruminants and swine
10. Classical swine fever
11. Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia
12. Dourine
13. Epizootic haemorrhagic disease
14. Equine encephalomyelitis (including Western Equine Encephalomyelitis
15. and Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis)
16. Equine infectious anaemia
17. Epizootic lymphangitis in equidae
18. Equine viral arteritis
19. Foot-and-Mouth disease
20. Glanders (farcy) in equidae
21. Goat pox
22. Hendra virus
23. Japanese encephalitis
24. Lumpy skin disease
25. Peste des petits ruminants
26. Rabies
27. Rift Valley fever
28. Rinderpest (cattle plague)
29. Sheep pox
30. Small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*)

31. Surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*)
32. Swine vesicular disease
33. Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, including bovine
34. spongiform encephalopathy and scrapie
35. Tropilaelaps mite (*Tropilaelaps spp.*)
36. Tuberculosis in ruminants
37. Vesicular stomatitis
38. West Nile fever

### What happens when a part A disease is reported?

If the disease reported is in the Part A list in the schedule to the Regulation, the farmer/person responsible for the animals must take measures him/herself to **lock down the herd/flock immediately** and no animal, poultry or animal product may be moved from the premises pending a visit from a Department Veterinary officer or for 7 days (whichever comes sooner). Given the nature of the diseases in this category, it is expected that Department will visit and will issue a restriction notice quite quickly. If it is necessary to move an animal/poultry or animal product (e.g. milk, eggs, carcasses), such movement would have to be licensed by the Department.

If, after the expiry of 7 days, and if no disease has been confirmed on the premises, restrictions will be removed and movements can take place as normal. It is to be expected that disease confirmation would be available within a time-frame much shorter than 7 days. If disease in the category A list is confirmed movement restrictions will apply and the Department will initiate a disease control/eradication plan, as appropriate.

### Part B

These are diseases that do or may require coordinated government led intervention requiring compulsory control or eradication measures and movement restrictions or testing prior to dispatch;

1. American Foulbrood
2. Arizona disease in poultry (*Salmonella arizoniae*)
3. Aujeszky's disease
4. Avian chlamydiosis (psittacosis)
5. Avian infectious laryngotracheitis
6. Avian mycoplasmosis (caused by or involving *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, *Mycoplasma meleagridis* or *Mycoplasma synoviae*)
7. Bovine viral diarrhoea
8. Caprine arthritis/encephalitis
9. Contagious agalactia
10. Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia
11. Contagious equine metritis
12. Echinococcosis (caused by *Echinococcus multilocularis*)
13. Enzootic abortion of ewes
14. Enzootic bovine leukosis
15. European foulbrood
16. Maedi Visna
17. Ovine pulmonary adenomatosis (Jaagsiekte)
18. Paratuberculosis in ruminating animals (Johnes disease)
19. Porcine epidemic diarrhoea
20. Salmonellosis (caused by or involving *Salmonella enteritidis* or *Salmonella typhimurium*)
21. Salmonellosis in poultry (caused by or involving *Salmonella hadar*, *Salmonella infantis* or *Salmonella virchow*)
22. Sheep scab

26. Teschovirus encephalomyelitis
27. Transmissible gastro-enteritis (porcine respiratory corona virus)
28. Tuberculosis in non-ruminants
29. Venezuelan Equine Encephalomyelitis
30. Warble fly infestation

#### **What happens when a part B disease is reported?**

If the disease reported and confirmed is in Part B list in the schedule, the Department may issue a restriction notice applicable to the animal or animals /poultry within the herds/flock restricting movement or limiting movement depending on the epidemiological situation and any animal health policy in effect at that time. The Department may also require that a disease control plan or containment plan be put in place.

#### **Part C**

These are diseases that require surveillance or perhaps are subject to voluntary control or eradication programmes and movement restrictions or testing requirements to provide assurance regarding trade within Ireland.

1. Bovine genital campylobacteriosis
2. Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever
3. Equine piroplasmiasis
4. Fowl typhoid (*Salmonella gallinarum*)
5. Heartwater
6. Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/ infectious pustular vulvovaginitis
7. Leishmaniasis
8. Monkey pox virus
9. Psoroptic mange in cattle
10. Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS or blue ear)
11. Pullorum disease (*Salmonella pullorum*)
12. Q fever
13. Swine influenza
14. Trichinellosis

#### **What happens when a part C disease is reported?**

If a the disease reported and/or confirmed is in Part C list in the schedule, the Department will not issue a restriction notice applicable to the animal or animals /poultry within the herds/flock restricting movement or limiting movement but the Department may require that a disease containment plan be put in place and be submitted for approval.

#### **What are the penalties for non-notification?**

Failure or refusal to notify suspicion of disease or to put in place disease control or containment plans are offences under the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 and attract severe penalties.

Animal Health Division

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