

Conditions for Approving On - Farm Isolation Facilities for the Standing Livestock Movement Rules.

1) Approval of the on-farm isolation facilities.

- a) Owners of the facilities need to apply to their DVM for approval of the facility.
- b) Approvals are done by a veterinary inspector (VO/TVI/LVI) or a SAHO/AHO who is also appointed as an Animal Health Inspector. A recommendation must be made to the DVM in a written report confirming the criteria below have been satisfied.
- c) Approvals are issued by the DVM.
- d) Approvals may be revoked if conditions are not complied with.

Note - Farmers may continue to use existing PVS approved breeding isolation units to claim breeding exemptions. However, DVMs will write to farmers with these facilities to ask them if they intend to use them to claim the breeding exemptions from 1 August 2003 and if they do to seek a declaration from them (see Appendix 1 for details).

2) Management of the facility.

- a) Buildings used for the on-farm isolation facilities must be **dedicated** for the on-farm isolation and be **physically separate** from any buildings used for other livestock.
- b) Pastures used for on-farm isolation facilities must be **dedicated for on-farm isolation** and be **physically separate** from any pastures or buildings used for other livestock on the premises. A minimum distance of 3 metres is required between the perimeter of the isolation fields and any other livestock. This 3 metre separation would be satisfied with stockproof double fencing.
- c) Animals may only be moved between isolation facilities on the same farm under licence of the DVM and under any conditions that the licence may contain.

3) Specification for animals entering and remaining on the on-farm isolation facility.

- a) The animals entering the approved isolation facility must be individually identified and either:
 - i) have been at an approved agriculture show or series of agriculture shows or be about to go to such a show or series of shows; or,
 - ii) be breeding bulls or rams brought on to the premises for breeding purposes; or,
 - iii) be resident breeding ewes placed in isolation with the rams isolated for purpose (ii) above (**Note: Only resident breeding ewes placed in the isolation facility may take advantage of this exemption; any breeding ewes brought onto the holding from another location will trigger a 6-day standstill on the holding, whether or not they are placed in the isolation facility**); or,
 - iv) be breeding rams and bulls being sent to a market during the main breeding sales season – 1 August to 30 November; or,

- v) be breeding rams and bulls returning from a market unsold during the main breeding sales season – 1 August to 30 November; or,
 - vi) be breeding goats of either gender moving to the premises for the purpose of breeding; or,
 - vii) sheep and goats prior to moving to AI and upon return.
- b) The animals shall be kept in the isolation facility for at least 6 days after the addition of the last animal.
- c) However, breeding goats of either gender may leave isolation to return to the premises where they had previously bred during the six day isolation period on their home premises.

4) Sharing of approved isolation facilities

The Disease Control Order (England) 2003 and the Disease Control Order (Wales) 2003 applies restrictions on the animals which may be in an approved isolation facility at any one time. In the following cases the animals must be isolated from all other animals if the exemption is to be claimed.

- pigs may not share isolation facilities with animals of any other species e.g a pig cannot share an isolation facility with any other species whatever the reason;
- breeding rams and bulls being sent to market (1 August - 30 November);
- breeding rams and bulls returning home unsold from a market (1 August – 30 November);
- cattle, sheep and goats isolated so as to claim show exemptions;
- sheep and goats moving to and from Artificial Insemination (AI) Centres (to qualify for this exemption animals must be isolated from all other animals while at the AI centre).

Farmers can use an isolation facility for different purposes providing that the isolated animals have completed the appropriate period in isolation before it is re-used for other animals which are to be isolated e.g. facility used for show animals changing to breeding animals.

5) Construction for buildings.

- a. Any buildings used in the isolation facility must be designed such that any discharges, effluent and manure are retained there or disposed of in such a manner that they do not come into contact with other livestock.
- b. A dedicated loading/off loading facility must be provided for each isolation facility. This facility shall be fully cleansed and disinfected after each use.

6) Operating procedures.

- a. **Dedicated protective clothing** for staff must be provided for the isolation facility.
- b. Protective clothing to be provided for visitors.

- c. **Disinfectants footbaths** to be provided and used at the entrance(s) to the isolation facilities.
- d. Any person entering the isolation facility must wear protective clothing and footwear and use the disinfectant footbaths at the entrance(s).
- e. Any unused feeding stuffs, fodder, bedding etc. intended for animals in the isolation facility must remain in the isolation facility while there are animals present.
- f. All equipment, pens, hurdles, etc, in the isolation facility must remain there until the 6 or 20 day standstill period, as appropriate, has been satisfactorily completed.
- g. Special rules apply to any lactating animals that are in these isolation facilities. The welfare of these animals must be safeguarded and it may be necessary to take these animals to a milking parlour on the farm if other means of milking them cannot be found. The following conditions apply in these circumstances:
 - i. The animals in isolation must be brought to the parlour **after** any other resident stock have been milked and have been returned to their accommodation or fields. A minimum of 3 metres separation must be maintained between the resident animals and the animals in isolation.
 - ii. The animals in isolation must be put through the parlour **after** all other resident milking stock.
 - iii. Any farm yards, the parlour collecting area, the parlour itself and the milking equipment e.g. clusters must be thoroughly washed down after the animals in isolation have passed through. A 'full standard wash cycle' as required under the dairy Hygiene Regulations must be applied to the milking equipment in the parlour after the isolation animals have been through and before it is used again for the resident lactating animals.
 - iv. The animals in isolation must be returned to their own accommodation immediately after they have been milked.