

Quarantine Units

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

15 June 2017

The following document has been prepared to raise awareness of Quarantine Units and the associated changes to the animal movement standstill regime for keepers of cattle, sheep and goats.

If you have a question which is not covered here please feel free to contact us using the details below: A response to your query will be provided and this FAQ updated to reflect.

Email it to: animaldiseases@wales.gsi.gov.uk, or

Write to: The Welsh Government
Quarantine Units
First Floor, West Wing, Pillar F02
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Further information, advice and guidance is available on the Welsh Government [website](#).

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What is a Quarantine Unit (QU) and how could having one benefit me?

QUs provide livestock keepers with an exemption to the six day standstill (6DSS) arrangements for cattle, sheep and goats. The exemption does not apply to pigs. Movements into a QU will not trigger a 6DSS on the main holding, allowing animals to be moved off the main holding while incoming animals observe the 6DSS requirements in a QU. Livestock keepers can choose between using approved QUs to manage the movements of cattle, sheep and goats or adhering to the 6DSS on their whole holding.

The requirements and operational rules for a QU are set out in the Certification Body guidance available via a link on the Welsh Government [website](#).

Who is affected by this change?

This change applies to keepers of cattle, sheep and goats. There are **no** changes for keepers of pigs, who will continue to use their approved isolation facilities to manage movements under 20DSS.

When will this change occur?

Changes are being made to the Animal Movement Licensing System (AMLS) to enable QUs to be implemented. If all proceeds as planned then the law will be changed to introduce the QU requirement as from the 11 September 2017.

We are working closely with our delivery partners to ensure this proceeds as planned, but certain elements are beyond our control. The Welsh Government will be writing to all registered livestock keepers in Wales initially to remind everyone that this change is coming and then with a subsequent letter to confirm the timings and application process in detail.

In advance of the introduction of the QU requirement those who wish to benefit from QUs will be able to submit their applications for certification in advance. The application window opened on 10 May 2017 with all available certificates being issued provisionally from the 11 September 2017.

Therefore, it is imperative that you read the Certification Body guidance available via a link on the Welsh Government [website](#) and if you wish to have a QU start preparations now.

Does this mean there's no longer a 6DSS?

No, the 6DSS rule remains. Livestock keepers can choose **between** using approved QUs to manage the movements of cattle, sheep and goats **or** adhering to the 6DSS on their whole holding.

Can I still use my Approved Isolation Facility?

No, once the QU system is implemented, Approved Isolation Facilities can no longer be used as an exemption to the 6DSS for cattle, sheep and goats. There are no changes for pigs. Pig keepers can continue to use Approved Isolation Facilities to manage pig movements.

Why the change?

The “Working Smarter” [Report](#) highlighted the exemptions to the 6DSS, provided by Isolation Facilities, as being complicated and difficult to understand. We acknowledged that the rules could be simplified and worked closely with the livestock industry and stakeholders to develop QUs to provide an appropriate balance between disease control measures and flexibility of movements for trade.

How do I apply for a QU?

QUs must be certified by a Certification Body accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). There is currently one Certification Body accredited to certify QUs:

Quality Welsh Food Certification Ltd. Email: info@qwfc.co.uk
Tel: 01970 636 688

You should contact the Certification Body, who will be able to provide you with QU standards and operational rules. Once you have set up your QU in adherence to the standards provided, you should contact the Certification Body to arrange for it to be reviewed and certified. Certification Bodies will charge a fee for this service.

How long is a QU certified for?

QUs are certified for 18 months, after which recertification is required. Certification Bodies will charge a fee for recertification. Please refer to '[How do I apply for a QU?](#)'

Where should my QU be?

QUs can be either outdoors, indoors, or a combination of both providing they meet the requirements and operational rules. Further guidance is available from the Certification Body available via a link on the Welsh Government [website](#).

Can I have more than one QU?

Yes, farmed holdings can have up to two QUs and each QU can comprise up to two sites.

Where a single QU comprises two sites, both sites are treated as one for the purposes of the 6DSS and allocated the same CPH number. If animals are brought onto one site then both sites are deemed to be in operation. If animals are part way through a quarantine period on one site when animals are introduced to the other site the 6DSS restarts on **both** sites.

For two QUs to be independently managed they must be certified separately. Certification Bodies will charge livestock keepers a fee for the certification of **each** QU. Each QU will be allocated a separate CPH number so that livestock movements into and out of each QU can be reported.

Will my QU be subject to Inspection?

Yes, QUs will be subject to unannounced in-use inspections by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) to ensure compliance with the Requirements and Operational Rules. If non-compliant, QUs may, subject to the severity of that non-compliance, be suspended or revoked. Livestock keepers have a right to appeal any decision by a Certification Body to suspend or revoke a QU. The relevant Local Authority and Certification Body may complete inspections to consider any concerns raised.

What happens if an animal is born in a QU?

Fitness to travel rules do not normally allow the transport of pregnant females where 90% or more of the expected gestation period has already passed. However, it is permitted for such animals to be transported short distances, under 50km, if the journey is for the purpose of improving conditions of birth. Important: Animals must be tagged before they leave the holding where they were born. When QUs are being used for quarantine purposes they are considered a separate holding to the main holding. This means that separate ear tags would be required for any animals born in a QU. All QU CPHs will be allocated unique herd/flock marks, should ear tags be needed. The herd/flock marks will be on the QU certificate.

Do all animals need to be individually recorded?

Yes, QUs are allocated a unique CPH number and livestock keepers must report individual animal movements into QUs within 24 hours, via the Cattle Tracing System (CTS) or EIDCymru for sheep and goats. Movements out of a QU must be reported within three days.

A record of the movements into and out of QUs must be maintained in the holding register / flock register and these records must be updated within 36 hours of the movement. Registers must be made available during inspections.

Can I use a QU to manage movements to and from shows in the same way I used to use my Approved Isolation Facility?

QUs can be used to manage movements to and from shows. If an animal that has attended a licensed show returns to a QU it can then attend subsequent consecutive licensed shows by leaving and returning via the QU, without incurring a 6DSS. A 6DSS will only need to be applied to the animal in the QU following its return from the last show. If you do not have a QU you cannot send animals to consecutive shows within a 6DSS period because on return from a show the whole holding will be subject to 6DSS.

Can I use a QU to manage movements to and from markets/sales?

Animals do not need to be quarantined before they are taken to market or sale. Animals returning unsold from a market or sale are not exempt from the 6DSS. Animals returned to a QU must serve six whole days in a QU and be moved to the main holding before they can be presented at a further market or sale. Alternatively, these animals can be returned directly to the main holding where the 6DSS rules will apply.

What happens if I need to take an animal from a QU to the vet?

Animals may leave a QU and be taken to a veterinary premises for treatment. On their return, which should be direct to the QU, provided they have not been in contact with any other animals, they must complete the remainder of their 6DSS. If they have been in contact with another animal at the veterinary premises then upon return to the QU the 6DSS will need to start again.

What happens to cattle in a QU if bovine TB is identified in my herd?

In the event of Officially TB Free Status being Suspended (OFTS) or Withdrawn (OFTW) in a herd on a holding where a QU is in operation, any movement restrictions and associated TB testing requirements will apply to both the main holding and any associated QUs i.e. they are treated as one unit.

If a herd test is scheduled on the main holding, only cattle that have tested negative to TB within 60 days of the date the herd test is scheduled are allowed to be serving quarantine in a QU. Once the herd test has been carried out, and before the results have been read, cattle keepers can bring any cattle, including those that have **not** been Pre-movement Tested (PrMT) into a QU, as they can at other times.

Do cattle need to be Pre-movement Tested (PrMT) before they move from a QU?

No, after cattle have served quarantine in the QU they do not need to be PrMT before being moved to the main holding.

Can I use a QU for other purposes when it isn't being used to quarantine animals?

QUs can be treated as part of the main holding and used for any other purposes when no animals are in quarantine. This can include storage of vehicles or equipment, use by animals (of any species) from the main holding and, for outdoor QUs, growing a forage crop. Between uses it is good practice to remove all animal bedding and uneaten feed/forage and thoroughly cleanse and disinfect indoor QUs.

Can I put mixed livestock into a QU?

Cattle, sheep and/or goats can be in a QU at the same time, but no other animals are allowed in a QU when cattle, sheep and/or goats are in quarantine. If animals are part way through a quarantine period when others are introduced the 6DSS restarts and all animals must remain in the QU for six whole days from the day that the last animal(s) were brought in.

When should I report animal movements into and out of a QU?

Animal movements into QUs must be reported within 24 hours, electronically via the Cattle Tracing System (CTS) or EIDCymru, for sheep and goats. Movements out of a QU to the main holding must be reported within three days.

A record of the movements into and out of QUs must be maintained in the holding register / flock register and these records must be updated within 36 hours of the movement. Registers must be made available during inspections.