Notifiable Disease Outbreak – Guide for hauliers / depots

In the event of a notifiable disease outbreak (e.g. Foot and mouth disease / Avian flu) there are a number of actions that hauliers, depot staff and drivers will need to carry out. Additional equipment will also need to be sourced in order to allow milk collections to continue during an outbreak.

As a haulier what do you need to do ?

Ensure that you have a computer available with a link to DEFRA website www.defra.gov.uk. A Link to Foot and mouth Code of practice can be found at ; Great Britain Code of practice for hauliers, processors and buyers of milk

Liaise with one of your local Agricultural or Quality Standards teams **before** starting shifts to ensure that you are permitted to enter the area and that biosecurity requirements and company / site requirements / rules are followed.

Confirmed or suspected case of FMD :

- If a farm has confirmed Foot and Mouth disease or is suspected of having a case of Foot and Mouth then access to the farm is **strictly forbidden**

Temporary control zone :

- 10km radius around a suspected farm. Milk collections are permitted without a licence

Protections and Surveillance zones (PZ & SZ)

- These will be imposed when an outbreak is confirmed and are put in place to prevent disease spread. **Biosecurity measures are required in these areas and milk collections are only permitted when a licence has been issued** for that area or individual farms. Specifics on biosecurity and licencing are shown below in appendix 1.

You **must ensure** that you have the following before any vehicle enters a zone affected by the notifiable disease :

- Air filter for each ex-farm tanker (If applicable)
- Licence to collect milk in the affected areas (which will be categorised as protection and surveillance zones)
- Waterproof clothing (inc. Footwear) for each driver
- Knapsack sprayer for each vehicle
- Wellington boots
- Sufficient chemical (DEFRA approved disinfectant) to cover the trip or shift.

It is a requirement of DTAS that all of the above is in place (note that in terms of chemical and clothing you need to have an arrangement in place with a local supplier that can be used to supply these items at short notice in the event of an outbreak). Failure to have the correct bio-security equipment will result in milk not being collected from affected areas.

Drivers **must** be briefed on requirements in terms of biosecurity measures, route collection order etc. before leaving the depot.

Other key points :

- Splash guards are to be removed from vehicles (mudguards obviously stay in place)
- For approved chemicals (which must be QAC free) – please see below:
    - A list of Defra approved disinfectants for use in England, Scotland and Wales can be obtained from the Defra website at: https://disinfectants.defra.gov.uk/

In the event of an outbreak, please ensure that company protocols are followed and that drivers are briefed prior to start of shift.

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Appendix 1

- Each milk buying company is responsible for ensuring that all milk tankers or other milk collection vehicles operating on their behalf in either zone, immediately take the precautions outlined in the paragraphs below.
- Any vehicle collecting from premises in the Protection Zone or the Surveillance Zone must carry in the cab of the vehicle a copy of the relevant General Licence at all times during the licensed movement together with a consignment note containing details of:
  - what is moved,
  - its quantity;
  - the date of the movement;
  - the name of the consignor;
  - the address of the premises from which the movement started;
  - the name of the consignee; and address of the premises of destination.
- Any vehicle collecting from premises both outside and within a zone must collect milk from the highest risk zone last (i.e. in order of area free from restriction, Restricted Zone and finally Surveillance Zone).
- The haulier should review his journeys each and every day to ensure that the highest risk milk is collected last. The tanker must not enter a premises in a PZ or SZ unless all of the remaining farms are in a similar zone. The tanker must not enter a premises under specific farm restrictions (e.g. under investigation or suspicion of disease) under any circumstances. At the end of the milk collection round the milk must be delivered by the most direct route either to a re-load point or to the depot which shall be premises approved under Regulation (EC) 853/2004 unless circumstances such as a vehicle breakdown make this impractical.
- If required by General Licence all operational requirements will be carried out under the supervision and in accordance with the instructions of a person authorised for this purpose by the Secretary of State, Scottish Ministers or the Welsh Assembly. The authorised person must be permitted to travel in the cab of the collection vehicle throughout the collection round unless this would be contrary to or invalidate any insurance policy in force in respect of that vehicle. This person must respect the Health and Safety procedures and requirements of the haulier and buyer. If the authorised person stays in the cab for the duration of the collection round, there is no need for that person to undertake full biosecurity. If there is a problem with the vehicle insurance, then the authorised person can follow the tanker in a car. In this case the person and car would be subject to the same bio-security measures set out in the General Licence. In certain circumstances, it may not be possible for an authorised person to accompany the tanker at all times.
- The vehicle must be equipped to avoid aerosol dispersion during loading and unloading of milk. Approved air filters must be fitted according to the manufacturer's instructions to either the vacuum pump air outlet of any vacuum tanker vehicles or the air vent of positive pump tanker vehicles operating within the infected area. This is to prevent the dispersion of virus in airborne milk droplets, which may contain high concentrations of the virus from infected animals. (For specifications and use of filters see Section K). Filters must be replaced in line with the manufacturer’s instructions and good practice. Protective clothing for tanker drivers working with untreated milk from premises in restricted areas.

- Drivers and any persons with them should wear robust protective clothing and footwear while on the farm premises or single use and disposable. This protective clothing is used to prevent ordinary street clothes underneath and shoes from becoming contaminated with animal waste (e.g. spilt milk, manure, slurry etc) while on the farm. It is the responsibility of the driver to cleanse and disinfect his protective clothing any time before he leaves the premises. If he is using disposable protective clothing, then he must leave it at the premises before he leaves and must be disposed of by the farmer.
- While these disease control restrictions are in force, all staff working with untreated milk should avoid close contact with any susceptible livestock including animals at the home e.g. pet lambs etc. Disinfection of milk collection vehicles before leaving depot
- The following procedures are to be followed before any tanker leaves a depot for a collection within the protection or surveillance zones:
    a. The whole of the exterior of the vehicle must be in a clean condition and free from mud and slurry (any necessary cleaning to be carried out). The body of the milk tank, steps, wheels, mudguards, splash guards and underside of the vehicle must be thoroughly sprayed with an approved disinfectant. Splash guards should be removed since these entrap mud and are difficult to keep clean. Defra must seek derogations regarding the removal of splash guards and drivers' hours at the time of an outbreak.
    b. The inside of the tankers cab must be visibly clean. Disinfectant must NOT be used inside the driver's cab for health and safety reasons.
    c. Each tanker vehicle must carry spray equipment and a supply of approved disinfectant (see Section L for details of approved disinfectants). Eye protection is recommended when spraying disinfectant solutions.
    d. The milk sample pannier on the vehicle must be disinfected by the driver. The exterior of milk sample boxes must be cleaned and disinfected if they are to be returned to the laboratory. Used dippers and wipes must be disposed of on the farm in an appropriate manner.
    e. The inside of any milk trap fitted in the vacuum line on tankers must be cleaned and disinfected using an approved disinfectant (see Section L for details of approved disinfectants). - 12 - April 2008
    f. The driver must ensure that an approved air filter has been fitted to the air vent of tanker vehicles and does not appear to have been damaged. Requirements for drivers of milk collection vehicles at each milk collection point situated within the protection or surveillance zones
- Before commencing milk collection, if possible check whether the producer has reported any suspected cases of FMD - if so, do not collect the milk. In practice, if livestock suspected of being affected with FMD are present on the farm, the milk tanker should have been warned before arrival or stopped at the farm entrance. The driver must not enter the premises but may continue with the normal itinerary.
- On leaving the public highway the steps, wheels and mudguards must be sprayed with an approved disinfectant.
- On arrival at each farm pick up point ensure that any outer protective clothing and footwear is either new or is clean of animal waste e.g. spilt milk, manure, slurry etc.
- The driver should take steps to minimise the contamination of the milk collection hose and the coupling attachment. If they do become contaminated with manure or slurry while on the farm e.g. on the ground between the tanker and the vat, the outside of the hose and coupling must be cleansed and disinfected before it is placed back on the tanker. The inside of any hoses or couplings that becomes contaminated while on the farm must only be cleaned out - no disinfectants shall be used on the inner surfaces due to problems with tainting of the milk.

- When making the milk collection, the driver should not move outside the minimum area necessary to carry out the collection tasks – keep close to the milk tank. Care must be taken to avoid unnecessary spillage or contact with milk especially on protective clothing and footwear.
- Before leaving the farm premises, the steps, wheels and mudguards of the collection vehicle must be cleansed of any mud, slurry, manure or other like substances and must then be sprayed with approved disinfectant. The cleaning may either be carried out either at the junction of the farm and the public road or at the milk collection point depending on the practicalities of the premises. If the latter point is used spraying with disinfectant must be carried out at the junction with the public road.
- When milk sampling is carried out, the outside of any containers or bottles must be wiped clean of surplus milk before being placed in a rack or box.
    a. Milk Treatment Plants may undergo prior designation. The conditions for designation are as follows:-There must be separation of raw and processed milk
    b. Milk must undergo one or more of the approved treatments
    c. Records must be kept of treatment of milk and quantity delivered
    d. Facilities must be made available for cleansing and disinfecting of milk tanker vehicles, which have been on a dairy farm
- Designation would be subject to an annual review from the Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM) at the local Animal Health Divisional Office. The DVM would write to the processor requesting written confirmation that the plant still meets the required conditions.
- Designation is subject to being withdrawn for non-compliance of any of the above conditions Requirements for the milk collection vehicle depot, milk reloading point or transhipment point and dairy.
- The following should be cleaned and disinfected at regular intervals during each day:
    a. All areas where untreated milk is unloaded or transferred from one tanker to another.
    b. All areas where untreated milk may have been spilled.
    c. The exterior of equipment used in connection with handling and transfer of untreated milk.
    d. Floors and working surfaces of areas which are used by staff involved in the handling or transfer of untreated milk.
    e. The internal surfaces of milk tankers and dairy equipment should be cleaned using the usual daily cleaning and sterilising routine.
- All milk originating from a PZ or SZ must be heat treated in an approved manner before it is taken from the dairy for manufacture or distribution.
- If untreated milk originating from a PZ or SZ etc is to be transferred from one road tanker to another at a depot, the precautions outlined in this section continue to apply until the milk has been heat treated (pasteurised) by an approved method or has been disinfected by another approved method.
- Any vehicle used to collect milk from a PZ or SZ as above must be thoroughly washed and disinfected before it is used to collect milk from non-infected areas.
- If in doubt about any action to be taken, advice should be sought from the DVM at the local Animal Health Office or at the Local Disease Control Centre, which will be set up in the event of an outbreak of FMD. The list of these offices will be available on the Defra and Dairy UK websites with reciprocal links.