

Proposal to introduce various biosecurity measures in the livestock industry

Annex 2

All market operators to ensure that a veterinary surgeon attends every market

- With the current level of scrutiny by competent persons already present at auction markets (local authority, RSPCA, stockmen) the attendance of a veterinary surgeon may be superfluous.
- In order that clinical signs of disease can be detected a full examination of all animals would be required. The time needed to thoroughly examine all animals would be prohibitive and mean animals would have to arrive earlier and leave later, thereby putting pressure on the proposals in Annex 3.
- Breed societies using market premises to hold pedigree shows and sales employ their own veterinarian in most cases, and it is acknowledged that these animals have a higher health status.

Annex 3

A ban on animals being kept on market premises overnight

- If a ban were placed on overnight lairage at market premises it would necessitate animals being transported overnight, which would have welfare implications.
- Animals that are allowed to rest and settle overnight are less stressed and therefore less susceptible to disease.
- For certain sales animals are brought together at a particular part of the country. For instance dairy cattle are transported from the Midlands to Cumbria as Cumbria has a high proportion of dairy farms. Upland ewes spend their first few breeding years in the upland areas before being sold onto the less harsh climates of lowland breeders.
- Events such as pedigree breed society sales draw animals from across the country and adequate time is needed to inspect and prepare the animals which would be impossible without an overnight stay. These events have stock with a higher health status than slaughter or store animals.

Annex 4

All vehicles to be cleaned and disinfected before leaving a market premises or a slaughterhouse

- Additional C&D measures at markets would further lengthen the time stock are held on the premises. Unwashed vehicles returning to their holding of origin present little risk, especially with the current regulations of having to wash out within 24 hours.
- Washing out at slaughter houses will involve less vehicles and therefore be easier to manage

Annex 5

Annual veterinary visits to farms

- A more proactive approach to formal animal health monitoring is to be encouraged
- The current Farm Assurance Schemes, whilst not compulsory, encourage the development of herd and flock health plans, into which matters of disease detection and biosecurity can be incorporated.
- If veterinary advisory visits were made compulsory what penalties would be imposed and by whom?