

What is a Compulsory BVD Investigation (CBI)?

Background

The CBI (compulsory BVD investigation) was introduced in Phase 5 of Scotland's BVD eradication scheme. It was designed to force a thorough investigation of BVD status in

- a) those breeding herds that have been long-term BVD Not Negative and have not investigated why, and
- b) those breeding herds that have never met the minimum BVD testing requirements.

The aim is to find Persistently Infected (PI) animals that have not yet been identified.

The CBI is not intended to “catch out” herds that have done enough BVD testing. In these cases, the approved vet can review the results and, if appropriate, certify that the breeding herd is BVD Negative. See separate [document “Signing the CBI completion certificate”](#) for more information.

CBIs only apply to breeding herds. Non-Breeding herds are not required to have a BVD status or to complete a CBI.

How does a CBI start?

A CBI starts when a breeding herd has been BVD Not Negative for at least 15 continuous months. There are several possible reasons for a Not Negative status - see separate document [“Introduction to BVD herd status and why a Not Negative herd requires investigation”](#). The CBI will be triggered regardless of the reason(s).

Once the herd has entered the CBI, the keeper has 13 months to get an individual BVD status for every animal in the herd. Animals that already have an individual status do not have to be re-tested.

What are the CBI requirements?

A CBI herd is **compliant** with the law as soon as every animal has an individual BVD status. If some of those animals are PIs, the rules on separate housing also apply. The CBI cannot end until all PIs (suspect, confirmed or Assumed PIs) are removed from the herd, or re-tested BVD Negative in the case of suspect and Assumed PIs.

A CBI herd is **non-compliant** if, after 13 months, there are still some animals without individual BVD status.

Movement restrictions on CBI herds

Active CBI herds ('Not Negative' or 'Positive') can only move cattle off the holding if going directly to slaughter OR if the animal/s have Individual BVD Negative* status.

* For the purpose of this document, 'Individual Negative' refers to both a Negative and Assumed Negative antigen result

How does a CBI end?

The CBI ends as soon as all animals in the herd have an individual BVD Negative status AND this has been confirmed by the approved vet, using the CBI completion certificate. This is known as an option 1.

If the approved vet is confident that sufficient testing has already been done and the CBI is not required, they can remove the herd from the CBI using the CBI completion certificate. This is known as an option 2. See separate document "[Signing the CBI completion certificate](#)" for more detail.

What happens after a CBI?

Option 1 CBI herds immediately get a BVD Negative herd status and move on to 12 months of follow-on calf testing.

Herds that are removed from a CBI using Option 2 immediately get a BVD Negative herd status and return to annual BVD testing (or twice annual for dairy herds with year round calving). The keeper can choose between Check testing or All Calf testing.

Need more help?

If you have questions about the CBI, please contact the ScotEID Helpline 01466 794323.