

## Addendum to CHECS Technical Document 2023

Additions in blue text

Number	Change introduced in 2023	2021 Version
General Rules, The Rules of CHECS	A template 'check list' covering the rules of CHECS for each of the specific diseases is given in Appendix 6.	Not present
General Rules, 2.	<p><b>Herd definition:</b> A herd is defined as cattle that are under a unified management system but not necessarily on one site. All <b>eligible animals in the herd must be tested within a two-month period, unless management practices support testing groups at different times of the year e.g. herds with spring and autumn calving blocks.</b></p> <p>All cattle on the holding are considered to be part of the herd except under exceptional circumstances where the herd's owner and veterinary surgeon can show that adequate separation of two sets of animals exists and can be maintained to satisfy the rules of the scheme. Documentation to this effect must be produced by the herd's veterinary surgeon, reviewed annually and held on file by the CHECS licensee. For herds that share common grazing, handling facilities or that have any direct contact these should be considered as a single herd. An annual additional declaration must be completed and signed by all members of the co-grazing group at the time of the herd tests (see appendix 4&amp;5), and all eligible animals in the group must be tested within a two-month period. The status of this combined 'herd' would only be awarded on completion of testing of all eligible animals.</p>	<p><b>Herd definition:</b> A herd is defined as cattle that are under a unified management system but not necessarily on one site. All cattle on the holding are considered to be part of the herd except under exceptional circumstances where the herd's owner and veterinary surgeon can show that adequate separation of two sets of animals exists and can be maintained to satisfy the rules of the scheme. Documentation to this effect must be produced by the herd's veterinary surgeon, reviewed annually and held on file by the CHECS licensee. For herds that share common grazing, handling facilities or that have any direct contact these should be considered as a single herd. An annual additional declaration must be completed and signed by all members of the co-grazing group at the time of the herd tests (see appendix 6), and all eligible animals in the group must be tested within a two-month period. The status of this combined 'herd' would only be awarded on completion of testing of all eligible animals.</p>
General Rules, 4.	<p><b>Accredited Status:</b> Accredited status is specific to each disease. If herds are accredited for different diseases, the rules for movement and contact between those herds shall be the same as if they were non-accredited herds.</p> <p>Accreditation means that the standard defined for the disease in question has been met.</p>	<p><b>Accredited Status:</b> Accredited status is specific to each disease. If herds are accredited for different diseases, the rules for movement and contact between those herds shall be the same as if they were non-accredited herds.</p> <p>Accreditation means that the standard defined for the disease in question has been met.</p>

	<p>If a vendor chooses to declare the CHECS health status of their herd, or an animal from their herd, it must be in official CHECS format i.e. with a valid CHECS herd accreditation certificate or CHECS individual health declaration signed off by the health scheme provider.</p>	
General Rules, 5	<p><b>Added Animals:</b> Whenever possible, cattle should only be added to a health scheme herd if they are from a herd that is accredited free from the disease in question, or in the case of Johne’s disease and Neospora (Neospora females only) at risk level 1. Otherwise, they must be placed in isolation for the required period and tested by the appropriate test(s) for the disease(s) in question. <a href="#">It is strongly advised that purchasers request the official CHECS certification of animals they are buying (see section 4).</a> It is the responsibility of the purchasing scheme member to check the status of the herd of origin of the added animals, to verify that this status applies to the particular added animal(s) <a href="#">and to provide appropriate evidence of this to their scheme provider.</a> <a href="#">A summary table of testing requirements for non-accredited added animals is given in Appendix 7.</a></p>	<p><b>Added Animals:</b> Whenever possible, cattle should only be added to a health scheme herd if they are from a herd that is accredited free from the disease in question, or in the case of Johne’s disease and Neospora (Neospora females only) at risk level 1. Otherwise they must be placed in isolation for the required period and tested by the appropriate test(s) for the disease(s) in question. It is the responsibility of the purchasing scheme member, to check the status of the herd of origin of the added animals and to verify that this status applies to the particular added animal(s) before providing appropriate evidence of this to their scheme provider for consideration.</p>
General Rules, 31	<p><b>Certification (3):</b> A sample <a href="#">herd accreditation</a> certificate is in Appendix 2. Herd accreditation certificates are signed by the health scheme provider and can be displayed at sales etc. <a href="#">A sample individual animal declaration (IAD) certificate (pen card) is given in Appendix 3. A3 and A4 IAD certificates are produced for each sale animal. The A3 certificate is displayed above the pen of the sale animal;</a> the A4 certificate contains additional information on vaccination, status and testing results. It is important to note that individual animals that are not from CHECS accredited herds can be sold with a pen card, however column two containing the Herd Accreditation boxes will be blank.</p>	<p><b>Certification (3):</b> A sample certificate is in Appendix 2. Certificates are produced to show herd status. Certificates are signed by the health scheme provider and can be displayed at sales etc. Two certificates are produced to show Individual Health Declarations in Appendix 3; the A3 and A4 Individual Health Declarations or ‘Pen Cards’. The A4 certificate contains additional information on vaccination, status and testing results. It is important to note that individual animals that are not from CHECS accredited herds can be sold with a pen card, however column two containing the Herd Accreditation boxes will be blank.</p>
General Rules, 32	<p><b>Loss of Accreditation:</b> Failure to observe any of the above rules will result in loss of status until such time as follow up testing can demonstrate that the disease status of the herd has not been compromised. This will be in the judgement of the CHECS scheme provider’s Veterinary Surgeon. <a href="#">Where accreditation has lapsed</a></p>	<p><b>Loss of Accreditation:</b> Failure to observe any of the above rules will result in loss of status until such time as follow up testing can demonstrate that the disease status of the herd has not been compromised. This will be in the judgement of the CHECS scheme provider’s Veterinary Surgeon.</p>

	because testing has not been carried out in the required time period, accreditation may be regained on completion of testing, with satisfactory results, and provided, in the interim period, the herd has been abiding by the rules of the scheme. In addition, where status has lapsed for Johne's disease, any animals of 2 years and over leaving the herd from 13 months after the date of sampling for the last annual screen, must also have been tested for Johne's disease, otherwise previous status will be lost.	
General Rules, 34	<b>Elite accreditation:</b> Elite status can be applied to herds that are accredited free of BVD, IBR and leptospirosis and have risk level 1 status for Johne's disease.	Not present
Leptospirosis Eradication Programme, 1.3	<b>Added Animals - Non-accredited:</b>  Note: It is possible for infected carrier cattle to give negative antibody results, particularly if infection occurred some years ago.	<b>Added Animals - Non-accredited:</b>  Note: It is possible for infected carrier cattle to give negative antibody results, particularly if infection occurred some years ago. <del>It is therefore recommended that seronegative cattle from non-accredited sources should receive treatment with an appropriate antibiotic as advised by your Veterinary Surgeon. Although this does not guarantee an absence of infection.</del>
Johne's Disease Risk Level Reduction Programme 1.7	<b>Added Animals – Non-accredited:</b> Last paragraph On entry to the herd, added animals must be placed in quarantine and the general CHeCS rules on isolation and testing apply. This is mandatory for herds with status Levels 1, 2, 3, or 4 and strongly advised for Level 5 herds. The animals must be tested for Johne's disease using both blood and faeces samples irrespective of the age of the animal. <del>If a blood sample taken within 60 days of moving, at which time a pre-movement TB test is carried out, has tested negative for antibodies to Johne's disease, blood testing need not be repeated, given the potential issues with cross-reactivity; note faecal testing remains a requirement in this situation.</del> Only when the results are negative can the animals be introduced to the herd. Note that the time required to test for Johne's disease by faecal culture can be up to ten weeks and these animals must be isolated until the results are known. In addition, they must also be re-tested every	<b>Added Animals – Non-accredited:</b> On entry to the herd, added animals must be placed in quarantine and the general CHeCS rules on isolation and testing apply. This is mandatory for herds with status Levels 1, 2, 3, or 4 and strongly advised for Level 5 herds. The animals must be tested for Johne's disease using both blood and faeces samples irrespective of the age of the animal. Only when the results are negative can the animals be introduced to the herd. Note that the time required to test for Johne's disease by faecal culture can be up to ten weeks and these animals must be isolated until the results are known. In addition, they must also be re-tested every twelve months, notwithstanding any annual or biennial herd-screening programme (see section 2.4 below). Where a group of animals have been purchased from a single source and one or more of them tests positive, the remainder of the animals in the group should be viewed as

	<p>twelve months, notwithstanding any annual or biennial herd-screening programme (see section 2.4 below). Where a group of animals have been purchased from a single source and one or more of them tests positive, the remainder of the animals in the group should be viewed as level 5 animals carrying the highest risk of introducing infection to a herd.</p>	<p>level 5 animals carrying the highest risk of introducing infection to a herd.</p>
<p>Johne's Disease Risk Level Certification Programme 2.5</p>	<p><b>Non-Home Bred and Cull Screen:</b> This test must be performed when the biennial herd test has been selected. This option is not available to herds with less than 20 homebred animals two years or older. At 12 months from the last complete herd test, all animals two years or older that are not home-bred or are scheduled for culling, are blood sampled (this does not apply to finishing cattle). Animals should not be removed from the herd before the test result is known or a faeces sample has been collected. Where, in the course of the second 12 months from the full herd test, further animals are <b>removed from the herd</b>, they too are sampled as above. If the blood results are positive or inconclusive then their faeces samples will be screened for the presence of the infective organism by culture or PCR.</p>	<p><b>Non-Home Bred and Cull Screen:</b> This test must be performed when the biennial herd test has been selected. This option is not available to herds with less than 20 homebred animals two years or older. At 12 months from the last complete herd test, all animals two years or older that are not home-bred or are scheduled for culling, are blood sampled (this does not apply to finishing cattle). Animals should not be removed from the herd before the test result is known or a faeces sample has been collected. Where, in the course of the second 12 months from the full herd test, further animals are <del>culled</del> they too are sampled as above. If the blood results are positive or inconclusive then their faeces samples will be screened for the presence of the infective organism by culture or PCR.</p>
<p>BVD Programme 2.2</p>	<p><b>2.2. First Lactation Heifer Test:</b> Individual milk samples are collected from all cows in their first lactation. These samples will be combined at the testing laboratory to give a single sample for testing for antibodies to BVD.</p> <p>Alternatively, a check test of samples from five 1<sup>st</sup> lactation heifers taken at least two months after they have been in the milking herd could be tested individually for antibodies to BVD.</p> <p><b>If either the first lactation combined milk or any of the individual check test samples are antibody positive the result is a Fail. If the first lactation combined milk or all of the individual check test samples are antibody negative the result is a Pass.</b></p>	<p><b>First Lactation Test:</b> Individual milk samples are collected from all cows in their first lactation. These samples will be combined at the testing laboratory to give a single sample for testing.</p> <p><b>If the First Lactation Test is antibody positive the result is a Fail. If the First Lactation Test is antibody negative the result is a Pass.</b></p>
<p>BVD Programme</p>	<p><b>Accreditation Step 1:</b> Carry out a bulk milk test for BVD antibody. If this is negative, repeat quarterly over the next year and proceed to</p>	<p><b>Accreditation Step 1:</b> Carry out a bulk milk test for BVD antibody. If this is negative, repeat quarterly over the next year and proceed to Step 2. If</p>

5.1	Step 2. If positive, a first lactation <a href="#">heifer</a> test should be carried out. If both are positive there is the possibility of current or recent infection in the herd. Proceed to Step 2 (check test) to investigate further. If the bulk milk test is negative or the first lactation <a href="#">heifer</a> test is negative, this suggests the herd may be currently free of infection; proceed to Step 2 (Check Test or calf virus test) to investigate further.	positive, a first lactation test should be carried out. If both are positive there is the possibility of current or recent infection in the herd. Proceed to Step 2 (check test) to investigate further. If the bulk milk test is negative or the first lactation test is negative, this suggests the herd may be currently free of infection; proceed to Step 2 (Check Test or calf virus test) to investigate further.
BVD Programme 5.3	<b>Achieving Accreditation:</b> without herd vaccination against BVDV: A dairy herd is accredited free of BVDV if Step 1 is completed followed by either negative check tests on successive groups of calves over a 12 month period or negative calf virus tests in two successive years, and either the bulk milk test or first lactation <a href="#">heifer</a> tests remain negative. <a href="#">Bulk milk testing or first lactation heifer bulk milk testing are carried out quarterly. A 1<sup>st</sup> lactation heifer check test is carried out at 6 monthly intervals.</a>	<b>Achieving Accreditation:</b> without herd vaccination against BVDV: A dairy herd is accredited free of BVDV if Step 1 is completed followed by either negative check tests on successive groups of calves over a 12 month period or negative calf virus tests in two successive years, and either the bulk milk test or first lactation test remain negative on quarterly sampling.
BVD Programme 5.5	<b>Maintaining Accreditation:</b> Following accreditation a Check Test (see 2.3) is also carried out on successive groups of calves or calf virus test (see 2.4) is carried out on all calves born into the herd each year. It is advised that bulk tank <a href="#">or 1<sup>st</sup> lactation heifer</a> monitoring may be used in unvaccinated herds or as explained in 5.4. Reproductive failure and clinical disease testing should be carried out whenever such disease occurs.	<b>Maintaining Accreditation:</b> Following accreditation a Check Test (see 2.3) is also carried out on successive groups of calves or calf virus test (see 2.4) is carried out on all calves born into the herd each year. It is advised that bulk tank monitoring may be used in unvaccinated herds or as explained in 5.4. Reproductive failure and clinical disease testing should be carried out whenever such disease occurs.
Appendix 7	Addition of Appendix 7, Summary table of requirements for adding animals from non-accredited herds	Not in the previous CHECS Technical Document