The Welsh Assembly has proposed changes to the 6 day stand-still (6DSS) exemptions under the Disease Control (Wales) Order 2003 (DCO). The new proposals are intended to operate from December 2016. The public [Consultation on the Introduction of Quarantine Units](http://gov.wales/consultations/environmentandcountryside/consultation-six-day-standstill-quarantine-units/?status=closed&lang=en) closed in February and a document summarising the consultation responses is available [here](http://gov.wales/docs/drah/consultation/160324-six-day-standstill-consultation-summary-of-responses-en.pdf).

The proposals presented in the consultation are for a general standstill exemption, applying to cattle, sheep and goats, for holdings using **Quarantine Units (QUs)**. Having a QU approved on a holding will mean that only the animals in the QU will be subjected to specific movement standstills, whilst allowing animals on the rest of the holding to move. This exemption will replace many of the existing (and complicated) exemptions and Isolation Units will no longer be available for those species. It is intended that farmers and other livestock keepers  could have specific facilities approved on their holdings to operate as ‘Quarantine Units’ where incoming animals can be held for 6 days so as to allow other stock to move off the holding and meeting the requirements of the legislation.

There will no longer be a specific exemption for the arrival of goats for breeding and this is likely to create additional problems for anyone travelling a female for mating and for the owners of male goats at stud.

1) Any goats being taken to another holding for breeding purposes will no longer be required to serve six days in isolation before they move. However:

2) Instead, **a 6DSS would be observed on the holding to which the goats are moved** and **those animals would have to remain on that holding for at least six days before they could return home.** This means that it will not be possible to take a goat for mating and then return home with it the same day. Because of this any goat keeper advertising males at stud in Wales must have sufficient room to board any goats brought for mating for at least 6 days. If additional goats are brought onto the holding for mating whilst the original doe is still present, the original doe would have to start a new 6 DSS before it could return home.

3) The 6DSS would either apply to the whole holding or just to a QU, if there is one, allowing the rest of the holding to move as normal.

4) When the doe returns home to the original holding, the 6DSS rules will also apply to the movement of goats from the home holding. Again this would apply to either the whole holding or just to a QU, if there is one. Unless the returning doe is kept in a QU, no goat will be able to move from the holding for 6 days and this could obviously prevent other does being taken off the premises for mating.