



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

T: 03459 335577
helpline@defra.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

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From 1 January 2021, businesses in Great Britain that export live sheep and goats (for breeding and production (fattening)) and their germplasm (semen, ova and embryos) to the EU will need to follow new processes.

You need to be aware that there will be some changes to the way consignments are certified for **export for movements from Great Britain to the EU for some diseases of sheep and goats. This means that there are some additional steps you will need to take before your animals can be exported from Great Britain to the EU.** This letter explains what you need to do.

We are attaching a note for veterinarians that sets out the detail of these changes. You will need to show this to your farm veterinarian and discuss what it means for your animals. Please note that this update does not set out all export requirement changes and aims to specifically highlight only those relevant to certain diseases.

There are some additional considerations for movements from Great Britain to Northern Ireland, including around scrapie assurance and these will be communicated separately shortly.

Further information for exporters of live animals and on Export Health Certificates can be found at the following: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/webinars-for-exporters-of-animals-and-products-of-animal-origin-to-the-eu>

What do you need to do?

- 1) The owner, and veterinarian, of the premises at which sheep/goats spend the required period of residency prior to export or at the holding where sheep/goats used for germplasm were kept, will need to sign a declaration saying that, to their knowledge, the animals do not have, and have not been in contact with, the diseases referenced in the letter to veterinarians.

The declaration is set out in the letter to veterinarians and will appear in the documents that must be completed before export. It is important that we maintain the UK's standing as a reliable trading partner. Please discuss with your farm veterinarian whether they consider your animals to be free of these diseases before signing.

It is your responsibility to meet these requirements and, should you wish to export animals, we strongly recommend that you check the health status of any animals you intend to buy to avoid introducing these diseases into your flock.

- 2) The surveillance information held by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) on its Veterinary Investigation Diagnosis Analysis database (VIDA) for your holding will be assessed on receipt of application for export, to evaluate whether there have been cases of the diseases within the relevant periods. If the check shows the diseases were at your holding within the timeframes specified, the consignment cannot travel.

If you can provide Official Veterinarians with proof of membership of a Scotland Rural College (SRUC) premium scheme for any of these diseases, for example, Maedi Visna Accredited status or Johne's disease level 1 or 2, this will be accepted as evidence of status for those diseases.

To certify the animals or germplasm for export to the EU, the Official Veterinarian requires signed declarations from both farmer and their veterinarian, and confirmation from APHA that the VIDA checks have revealed no instances of the diseases (or relevant confirmation of a SRUC assurance scheme).

Next steps

In order to continue to export to the EU after the end of the Transition Period, you will need to meet these additional requirements. If you have any queries, please contact:

Livestockexports@apha.gov.uk – regarding sheep and goats for breeding and production;

farmandgermcarlisle@apha.gov.uk – regarding germplasm of sheep and goats; or

Phone 03000 200 301

You will wish to note new Export Health Certificates are expected to be implemented from 21 April 2021, through new EU regulations for Animal Health. We expect the new requirements set out in this letter will at that point largely disappear. We will issue further information before new certificates are introduced.

Yours sincerely,

CHRISTINE MIDDLEMISS
UK CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER
Christine.Middlemiss@defra.gov.uk

CHRISTIANNE GLOSSOP
CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER
WELSH GOVERNMENT
Christianne.glossop@gov.wales