



Department
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At the end of the Transition Period, the UK's trading arrangement with the EU will change. 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 endemic diseases, whereby an official system of notification is required**. This letter explains what you need to do to meet the health requirements. This note is not an exhaustive update of all export requirement changes and aims to specifically highlight those relevant to certain endemic 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>

A webinar setting out the changes Official Veterinarians can expect at the end of the Transition Period is available at: <https://youtu.be/Yt2KqOC5gRM>

What is changing?

At the end of the Transition Period, we expect to have to meet the requirements for third countries importing to the EU. The requirements for sheep and goats and their germplasm are set out in Commission Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 (live animals) and Commission Decision 2010/472 (EU) (semen, ova and embryos).

This includes requirements for Official Veterinarians to certify, that to the best of their knowledge, animals do not come from holdings, and have not been in contact with animals from a holding, in which the following diseases have been clinically detected:

- Paratuberculosis and caseous lymphadenitis [within the last twelve months]
- Pulmonary adenomatosis [within the last three years]

- Maedi Visna or caprine viral arthritis/encephalitis [Either within the last three years - or within the last 12 months, where all the infected animals were slaughtered, and the remaining animals subsequently exhibited negative results to two tests carried out six months apart]
- Contagious agalactia of sheep or goats (*Mycoplasma agalactiae*, *mycoplasma capricolum*, *mycoplasma mycoides* var. large colony) [not present in UK]

There is also a requirement to certify country wide freedom from contagious caprine pleuropneumonia which is not present in UK.

Similar certification for these diseases is already required for some intra-EU movements, but the Export Health Certificates for third countries also state that there must be an *official system of notification*. This means that there will need to be some additional checks before sheep and goats (for breeding and production) and germplasm are exported.

What are the additional checks?

To allow owners and farmers to continue to export following the end of the Transition Period, there will be two additional checks:

- 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 sign a declaration saying that, to their knowledge, the animals do not have, and have not been in contact with, the specific aforementioned endemic diseases. The Official Veterinarian will assess these declarations in their decision making to certify for export.

This declaration will take the form of additional wording added to the relevant Declaration of Residency, Standstill and Transport documents (8220SPT, 8220OED and 8209SUP). An additional paragraph will appear stating:

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the following diseases have not been clinically diagnosed on the above holding of origin:

- (i) *During the past 3 years: Jaagsiekte (pulmonary adenomatosis); *Maedi-visna/*Caprine arthritis encephalitis*; (or 12 months in the case of maedi-visna or caprine arthritis encephalitis where infected animals have been slaughtered and the remaining animals subjected to 2 negative tests at least 6 months apart);*
 - (ii) *During the past 12 months: Johne's disease (paratuberculosis); Caseous lymphadenitis; and*
 - (iii) *During the past 6 months: Contagious agalactia (sheep or goats).*
- None of the sheep/goats described in the Schedule have been in contact with animals from such holdings.*

- 2) The surveillance information held by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) on its Veterinary Investigation Diagnosis Analysis database (VIDA) for the holding will be assessed to examine whether there have been cases of these diseases within the relevant periods. These checks will be carried out on receipt of application for export. The Official Veterinarian will submit a request to Centre for International Trade (CIT) - Carlisle, where an authorised person will run a check on the holding to flag if, within the specified time, the diseases in question have been diagnosed through submissions to a Veterinary Investigation Centre.

If the report shows the diseases were within the timeframes specified, the consignment cannot travel.

Where an owner 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.

Unless the Official Veterinarian has signed declarations from both farmer and veterinarian and confirmation from APHA that VIDA checks have revealed no instances of the diseases (or relevant confirmation of SRUC assurance scheme), the animals or germplasm cannot be certified for export to the EU. If the Official Veterinarian has additional knowledge of disease incursion, they cannot sign the certificate, irrespective of the declaration by the owner/farm veterinarian or VIDA check and the animals cannot be exported.

Next steps

In order to continue to export to the EU after the end of the Transition Period, the owner of the sheep/goat and germplasm will need to meet these additional requirements.

The Notes for Guidance documents outline the changes in the certification process and includes more detailed information for Official Veterinarians and farmers. Please find the certificates and notes for guidance at the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates> - for both sheep and goats for breeding and production and germplasm, the updated information will be found in **Part II: Certification of the guidance notes.**

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, under Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (Animal Health). We anticipate the new requirements set out in this letter will at that point, largely disappear. We will issue further information before any new certificates are introduced.

Yours sincerely,

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