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14 January 2022

Changes to endemic disease export requirements

From 1 January 2021, businesses in Great Britain that exported live sheep and goats (for breeding and production (fattening)) and their germplasm (semen, oocytes, and embryos) to the EU and Northern Ireland needed to follow new export processes. We communicated specific changes last year (attached letter), in relation to an official notification system required for certain endemic diseases. The certifying Official Veterinarian (OV) also had to declare, that the animals did not come from holdings, and had not been in contact with animals from a holding, in which those endemic diseases had been clinically detected.

New Certificates under the EU's new Animal Health Regulations (Regulation (EU) 2016/429), mean these requirements, including the assessment of data held by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) on its Veterinary Investigation Diagnosis Analysis database (VIDA) are no longer required for most movements of sheep and goats and their germplasm. The requirements will continue to apply however, for germplasm collected, processed, and stored before 21 April 2021.

You may be aware that paratuberculosis, one of the diseases in scope of the previous requirements, has now been made a reportable disease in Great Britain. The new EHCs do not, however, include certification requirements for this disease. It is important to note that we understand the EU is continuing to review export certification requirements and it is possible that certification requirements for these endemic diseases may be required again at some point. We will update you in that event.

Status of EHC availability

The new EHCs for the export of live sheep for breeding and production (fattening) can be found here [<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/ovine-and-caprine-animals-not-intended-for-slaughter-to-the-european-union-and-northern-ireland-certificate-8448>]. The EHCs for the export of sheep and goat germinal products

(semen, oocytes, and embryos that have been collected, processed, and stored on or after 21 April 2021 which are not subject to the official notification system requirements and OV declaration described above are now available here [[Ovine and caprine semen collected, processed and stored after 20 April 2021 and dispatched from the semen collection centre where the semen was collected to the European Union and Northern Ireland: certificate 8404 - GOV.UK](#)] and [[Ovine and caprine oocytes and embryos collected or produced, processed and stored after 20 April 2021 and dispatched by the embryo collection or production team who collected or produced the oocytes or embryos to the European Union and Northern Ireland: certificate 8405 - GOV.UK](#)].

EHCs are also available for germplasm collected, processed and stored before 21 April 2021, and the official notification system requirements and OV declaration above will continue to apply to these EHCs. These include [Ovine and caprine semen collected, processed and stored before 21 April 2021 and dispatched from the semen collection centre where the semen was collected to the European Union and Northern Ireland: certificate 8423 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) and [Ovine and caprine oocytes and embryos collected or produced, processed and stored before 21 April 2021 and dispatched by the embryo collection or production team who collected or produced the oocytes or embryos to the European Union and Northern Ireland: certificate 8424 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

We are still in discussions with the EU on amendments to the residency requirements for germinal products therefore a small number old EHCs for ovine germinal products will be still be available to use until 30 April 2022. The EHCs are [8208](#), [8209](#), and [8210](#). Exporters should confirm that the Border Control Post of entry will accept the old EHCs before using them.

For the latest updates regarding exports of sheep, goats and their germplasm from Great Britain to the EU and Northern Ireland, please visit [GOV.UK](#)

Please note this is not an exhaustive update of all export requirement changes and aims to specifically highlight those relevant to certain endemic diseases.

If you have any queries, please contact:

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

farmandgermcarlisle@apha.gov.uk - regarding germplasm of sheep and goats; or
Phone 03000 200 301

Yours sincerely



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