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EXPORT OF SHEEP AND GOATS TO THE ISLAND OF BARBADOS

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV's) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 3783EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 3783EHC.

Exporters are strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. Scope of the Certificate

Export health certificate 3783EHC may be used for the export of sheep and goats from the United Kingdom to the Island of Barbados.

It is not permitted to export sheep or goats from Great Britain for fattening or slaughter. This applies to journeys from, and transit journeys through, Great Britain to destinations outside the UK, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man.

2. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)

This certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government, Welsh Government or the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Northern Ireland, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

Under the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024, it is an offence to export sheep or goats for slaughter and fattening, beginning in or transiting through Great Britain to a third country.

If the OV has suspicions that the consignment is being exported for fattening or slaughter in contravention of section 1 of the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024, this should be reported as soon as possible to APHA by calling 03000 200 301. In your report, please detail the following:

EHC and journey log reference number
Location and address of inspection, including CPH number
Name and address of transporter and journey organiser
Transporter authorisation number
Details of the animals in the consignment (number, species, age)
The reason for your concern
Any relevant additional information

Certified Copy Requirements - England, Wales and Scotland

Guidance concerning return of certified copies of EHCs has changed and only specific certified copies are required to be returned to the APHA. Certifying OVs must return a certified copy of EHCs only for the following EHC types:

- if the exported commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids;
- if the certificate was applied for manually and the application documents have been emailed to APHA and not applied for via the Exports Health Certificates Online (EHCO) system.

Certified copies should be emailed on the day of signature to the Centre for International Trade Carlisle (CITC) at the following address: certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk.

For certificates that have been issued to the Certifying OV via the EHCO system, the Certifying OV must complete the certifier portal with the status of the certificate and the date of signature.

A copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified must be retained for two years.

Certifying OVs are not required to return certified copies of other EHCs issued, however CITC may request certified copies of EHCs and supporting documentation in order to complete Quality Assurance checks or if an issue arises with the consignment after certification.

DAERA Export Health Certificates: provision of certified copies

Authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs) certifying DAERA Export Certification On-Line (DECOL) produced EHCs must return a legible, scanned copy of the final EHC to the relevant DAERA Processing Office within 1 working day of signing.

Good quality photographic copies will be accepted by the Department where obtaining a scanned copy is not feasible - for example, where 'on site' certification is undertaken and scanning facilities are not available.

For record purposes, a copy of the final Export Health Certificate and associated Support documents should be retained by the aPVP for a period of 2 years from the date of certification.

The Department will carry out periodic audits of all aspects of export certification to ensure that a high standard of certification is being maintained.

3. Obtaining an import permit

The exporter/agent should be aware of the requirements of the importing country particularly with respect to the requirement for an import permit. The import permit number should be given in the health certificate at paragraph III c).

4. Schedules

Paragraph I refers: A separate schedule may be used to identify the animals certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in paragraph I and paragraph I must be annotated "See attached schedule". Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the Official Veterinarian (OV).

The schedule must be stapled inside the health certificate and the OV should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedule and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule or in paragraph I must be deleted with diagonal lines.

5. Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)

Paragraphs IV.7)(a), IV.9)(a) and IV.15) refer: OVs may certify these paragraphs on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland.

6. **Pre-export isolation**

Paragraph IV. 1) refers. Animals for export to Barbados must be isolated from all other livestock on the premises for at least 21 days immediately preceding export. As a general guide, the following conditions should be met to meet the conditions of segregation:

- (i) Isolation accommodation must be as remote as practicable from any other livestock.
- (ii) Any building used for accommodation must be capable of being thoroughly cleansed and disinfected. The building must be cleansed and disinfected using a Defra-approved disinfectant immediately before entry of the animals to be exported.
- (iii) No drainage or effluent produced by or derived from other livestock may pass through the isolation accommodation.
- (iv) Any person who requires to enter the segregation accommodation should take appropriate action to prevent cross contamination e.g. clean overalls and boots reserved exclusively for use in the isolation accommodation and a means of cleaning and disinfecting footwear.

7. **Tuberculin tests**

Paragraph IV. 3) refers. This must be carried out an authorised Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed to the appropriate panel (1a) by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government, or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation. Tuberculin testing is by the Single Intradermal Comparative Cervical Tuberculin (SICTT) Test, using the same method employed to test small calves, i.e. by injecting avian tuberculin in the middle of the left side of the neck and bovine tuberculin on the right side. In the case of sheep, alternative sites for injecting the tuberculin are the skin at the posterior aspect of the base of the right and left ear OR that at the medial aspect of the right and left thigh.

8. **Laboratory tests**

The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out pre-export testing is officially approved for this purpose by Defra or DARD. Please note that tests are also required for Enzootic Abortion of Ewes (EAE) - see paragraph IV. 8) of the EHC and 8) below.

In Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the APHA Laboratory, New Haw, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB, (Tel: 01932 341111). Some tests are carried out at APHA Lasswade, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0PZ, (Tel: 0131 445 6169). Certain specialist tests are carried out at regional APHA laboratories.

In Northern Ireland, the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the Veterinary Sciences Division (VSD) Laboratory, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3SD (tel: 028 9052 0011).

If tests for bluetongue are required, samples must be sent to The Pirbright Institute (TPI), using the submission form at [http://www.pirbright.ac.uk/ref_Labs/docs/NVR-FORM-30-6-Submission form BTV export pre-movement.pdf](http://www.pirbright.ac.uk/ref_Labs/docs/NVR-FORM-30-6-Submission%20form%20BTV%20export%20pre-movement.pdf)

For operational reasons however, the laboratories involved may change periodically. Accordingly, the OV is advised to check with the APHA or VSD to determine to which laboratories samples should be sent for testing. Samples should always be sent to the laboratory concerned sufficiently in advance of the export date to enable the tests to be carried out and reported. If in doubt as to the procedures for collection, the requirement for transport medium if any, dispatch of samples and the length of time a test is likely to take, the OV should seek the advice of the relevant laboratory.

9. **Maedi visna/caprine arthritis encephalitis**

Paragraph IV. 6) a) refers. The OV must see a written confirmation obtained from SRUC's SAC Consulting which administers the MV/CAE part of their Premium Sheep & Goat Health Scheme (PSGHS) (Tel: 01463 226 995/Fax: 01463 711103/e-mail: psghs@sac.co.uk) that the status of the flock/herd is current.

10. Enzootic Abortion in Ewes (EAE)

Paragraph IV. 8) refers. Although not explicit, a pre-export test is required for this disease as the relevant Article in the OIE recommends that the animals:

- i) have remained since birth, or for the previous two years, in establishments where no EAE has been diagnosed during the past two years;
- ii) showed no clinical sign of EAE on the day of shipment;
- iii) were subjected to a diagnostic test for EAE with negative results within the 30 days prior to shipment.

A CFT and ELISA are available at APHA, Weybridge to meet the requirement at iii) above. However these tests are unable to distinguish between antibodies due to vaccination and infection. So, if a flock/herd regularly vaccinates against this disease, it may be possible to get a derogation from the authorities in Barbados provided point i) is fulfilled.

11. Scrapie

Paragraph 11) refers. The OIE options should be deleted and the EU option (which states: from a negligible scrapie risk holding in accordance with EU TSE Regulations (EC) No 999/2001) certified. The EU regulation requires MSs interested in the intra-EU trade of breeding sheep/goats to ensure they originate from flocks/herds which are listed as either negligible or controlled risk for classical scrapie, based on active monitoring for at least 7 and 3 years respectively, depending on the scrapie status of the destination MS. Barbados requires the sheep/goats to originate from negligible risk holdings. In Great Britain, such holdings are listed in the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme which is administered by SRUC's SAC Consulting as part of their Premium Sheep & Goat Health Scheme (PSGHS) (Tel: 01463 226 995/Fax: 01463 711103/e-mail: psghs@sac.co.uk). The OV must obtain written confirmation that the holdings/s of origin is/are listed as negligible risk for scrapie.

12. Disclaimer

This certificate is provided on the basis of information available at the time, and may not necessarily comply fully with the requirements of the importing country. It is the exporter's responsibility to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country. If these do not match, the exporter should contact the APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle or DAERA, via the link or e-mail address below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>

DAERA - Email: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk