EXPORT OF BREEDING SHEEP TO GEORGIA

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 8668EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8668EHC.

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 8668EHC may be used for the export of live breeding sheep from the United Kingdom to Georgia.

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.**

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

aPVPs certifying DECOL produced Export Health Certificates 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.

4. Schedules

Paragraphs I. and II. refer: Separate schedules may be used to provide the information required. The schedules must contain the same information as that required in paragraphs I.and II. and paragraphs I.and II. must be annotated "See attached schedule". Each page of the schedules must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the Official Veterinarian (OV).

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

5. Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)

Paragraph IV.2.(h)refers: OVs may certify this paragraph 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 DAERA in Northern Ireland.

6. Additional Support Assurances required to enable certain paragraphs to be signed by the Official Veterinarian.

Paragraphs IV.2.(j), IV.2.(k) and IV.2.(l) refer: OVs may certify these paragraphs based on personal knowledge of the flock(s) of origin of the animals for export or supporting certification from a private veterinarian with knowledge of the flock(s) of origin.

At paragraph IV.2.(l), the reference to test "within the 45 days prior to entering pre-export quarantine **and/or** within the last 21 days prior to export whilst in pre-export quarantine" can be interpreted as an option to use one test timeframe or the other. There is no compulsion to test the animals twice within both timeframes unless this is specified by the Georgian authorities within an import permit.

If further guidance is required, CIT / DAERA should be contacted.

Treatment and quarantine

Paragraphs IV.2.(n) and IV.2.(o) refer: The OV must inspect the quarantine facilities and observe the treatment for external parasites or be given documentary evidence of quarantine and treatment in the form of a certificate signed by a veterinary surgeon detailing the treatment performed, the date(s) of treatment, the identification of the animals treated, the address of the quarantine premises and the dates of the quarantine period.

Transport
Paragraph IV.2.(p) refers.

7. **Scrapie.**
Paragraph IV.2.(g) refers. To comply with the OIE recommendations at IV.2.(g), the animals have to originate from holdings which have a classical scrapie negligible risk status (ie have undergone active monitoring for at least 7 years) as listed in the Scottish Rural College (SRUC) Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (SMS) – http://www.sruc.ac.uk/info/120113/premium_sheep_and_goat_health_schemes/511/diseases_covered/5 .

If the genotyping option is chosen, then the genotyping must be either carried out at a government laboratory (APHA), or the Scottish Agriculture College (SAC) or Cellmark (where the certificate is issued by Innovis AND it clearly states in the top right hand corner that a veterinarian took the sample and mentions the address) OR the individual sheep must have a genotyping certificate issued under the National Scrapie Plan (NSP) or the Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme (CSFS) by a laboratory which is*/was authorised by the government to carry out genotyping under the plan/scheme. Any such genotyping certificates issued under the scheme/plan before it/they closed remain valid, but the OV must ensure that the identification of the animal as recorded on the genotyping certificate correlates with the official ear tag on the animal as recorded on the certifcate; if only the electronic identification number is recorded on the genotyping certificate, then the OV must scan and check the electronic identification of the sheep to confirm correlation between the certificate, the sheep and the official ear tag number on the certificate. Unless genotyping was carried out officially under the NSP or CSFS, all blood samples for genotyping must be taken by a veterinary surgeon.

8. **Residency of the animals for export in the UK**
Paragraph IV.2.(a) refers: If necessary, details in the Animal Reporting and Movement Service (ARAMS) https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sheep-and-goat-keepers-how-to-report-animal-movements
may be checked to establish whether paragraphs IV.2.(a) can be signed.

8. **Laboratory tests**
The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out pre-export testing is officially approved for this purpose by DEFRA or DAERA. Such approval is given on the basis that these tests are carried out in accordance with the Terrestrial Manual of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

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, Penicuick, 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).

For operational reasons however, the laboratories involved may change periodically. Accordingly, the OV is advised to check with the VLA 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. 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