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EXPORT OF SHEEP AND GOATS FOR BREEDING TO MAURITIUS

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 8920EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8920EHC.

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 8920EHC may be used for the export of breeding and production sheep and goats from the United Kingdom to Mauritius.

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. Official Signature

This certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian (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

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

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.b), IV. c) (iii), (premises on which the goats have been resident since birth / for the last three years must be provided by the exporter at application), IV.d).(ii),a) (a country or zone free from infection with Brucella); IV e ii (premises on which the goats have been resident since birth) and IV.g(ii):OVs may ONLY 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.

Please note that the paragraph IV. g) (ii) currently cannot be certified for UK.

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

Paragraphs IV.a), , IV.(d),(i) and (ii),b), IV.f), IV.g).(i), IV.h), IV.i), IV.j), IV.k), IV.l), IV.m) and IV.n) refer:

OVs may certify these sub-paragraphs based on personal knowledge of the flock(s)/herd(s) of origin of the animals or supporting certification from a private veterinarian with knowledge of the flocks(s)/herd(s) of origin.

IV. c) (i) can be certified based on the Bovine Tuberculosis complex being notifiable disease in goats in the UK.

7. **Bluetongue**

If country / zonal freedom for Bluetongue has not been given on a 618NDC (see above) then one of the following paragraphs must be certified : IV.g).(iii),(iv) and (v)..

Animals originating from a RZ (will need a licence) and intended for export can be certified, provided that the animals to be exported are either vaccinated as described in part (iii), tested for Bluetongue with negative results as described in part (iv), or are tested as described in part (v) and isolated using vector protection measures (which minimally requires treating animals with insect repellents prior to and during isolation

General vector protection measures can be found in the Article 8.3.13 Point 1 of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) Terrestrial Animal Health Code, **although APHA/DAERA approval would not be required for the facility to date.**

For the transport, the vector protection measures must align with Chapter 8.3.13 Point 2 of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) terrestrial animal health code, please see here:
https://sont.woah.org/portal/tool/chapter/?rid=94&language=102&ismanual=false&standard_type=5&animal_type=7&in_review=false

8. **Scrapie**

Paragraph IV.e)i refers: This paragraph can be certified on the basis that scrapie is notifiable in the UK and the UK TSE Regulation (including Regulation 999/2001) in the UK sets out requirements for the control and eradication of TSEs. This includes implementation of the feed ban and requirement for positive scrapie cases to be destroyed. The surveillance and monitoring system (e.g. active and passive surveillance) in UK is in accordance with the WOAH terrestrial animal health code. Paragraph IV e ii requires 618NDC.

9. **New World or Old World Screwworm**

Paragraph IV.l) refers: This section can be certified on the basis that neither New World or Old World Screwworm are present in the UK and that the OV has examined all the animals for wounds with egg masses or larvae and any infested animal has been rejected for export;

10. **Laboratory tests**

The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out pre-export testing is officially approved for this purpose by Defra or DAERA.

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. Guidance on submission of samples, including the submission forms to use, can be found at:
http://www.pirbright.ac.uk/files/quick_media/Diagnostic%20Price%20List.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.

11. Welfare

Exporters are advised that animals must be transported in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animal-welfare-in-transport>.

Regulation 1/2005 is implemented by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, and parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales. The legislation states that no animal shall be transported unless it is fit for the intended journey and unless suitable provisions have been made for its care during the journey and on arrival at the place of destination. Animals that are ill or injured shall not be considered fit for transport, but certain exceptions apply, for example, in respect of:

- (i) animals that are slightly injured or ill whose transport would not cause unnecessary suffering;
- (ii) animals that are transported for scientific research purposes approved by the competent authority;

Information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the guidance at Gov.uk (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/transporting-animals-to-from-or-through-great-britain>)

or contacting the Welfare in Transport Team at the APHA Centre for International Trade - Carlisle, wit@apha.gov.uk

Northern Ireland

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Ballymiscaw, Belfast, BT4 3SB.
DAERA Helpline number 0300 200 7852.
DAERA Helpline email daerahelpline@daera-ni.gov.uk
DAERA Textphone 18001 0300 200 7852
Guidance at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/welfare-animals-during-transport>

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 at Carlisle, via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>

or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.