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1. Important Information

Import Information Notes are technical documents containing import requirements, and are for use by veterinary staff.

Please be aware that import conditions may be updated due to changes in policy or legislation. Please ensure that you check the current version of the Import Information Note online.

Please note that any links to legislation provided in this document are for information purposes only and may not be the most recent version. Please see the EU legislation paragraph below for further information regarding how to find consolidated versions of the legislation.

The existing EU legislation that the UK already complies with will be incorporated into our domestic law as “retained EU law” under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. References in our guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this “retained EU law”. Under the Withdrawal Act we will ensure that current EU standards remain in force, without amendment, in the immediate months after our EU exit as part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable).

Importers should note that the information given relates only to animal health and public health conditions of import. It does not give guidance on other conditions that may need to be met.

2. Scope

Import conditions for sheep and goats from EU Member States, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

3. Conditions applicable to trade from Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man

Trade of sheep and goats from Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are subject to the conditions of general licences and applications for specific licences are therefore not necessary.
4. Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein

The EU has International Agreements with Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, which means that they implement EU veterinary legislation in relation to the movement of live animals. Therefore live animals from Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein must comply with the same requirements applying to live animals from Member States.

5. Conditions applicable to imports from EU Member States

All sheep and goats must comply with the requirements of Council Directive 91/68/EEC (as amended) on animal health conditions governing intra-Union trade in ovine and caprine animals.

The Directive requires that all consignments must be inspected by an official veterinarian during the 24 hours preceding loading of the animals and that they must show no clinical signs of disease. They must not come from a holding that is subject of a prohibition on animal health grounds and must have not been in contact with animals of a lesser health status.

There are additional control measures for Bluetongue, please refer to Import Information Note BTEU/1, where these control measures are detailed.

6. Health Certificates

All consignments of sheep and goats must be accompanied by an original health certificate signed by an official veterinarian of the veterinary authorities of the Member State concerned, in conformity with the model laid down in Annex E of Directive 91/68/EEC. Certification for B.ovis is required for intact male sheep ONLY (not applicable to goats) - refer to Part II.7 of the health certificate in Directive 91/68/ EIII for breeding animals.

The UK will continue to accept the model health certificates set out under EU instruments for consignments imported to the UK in the immediate months after EU exit. However you can also find UK versions of EU Import Health Certificates on GOV.UK for consignments imported after the UK leaves the EU.

7. EU Exit - Notification of Import

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, you cannot use the EU's TRACES (Trade Control and Expert System) to notify the UK authorities about an import from the EU.
Instead, importers must notify the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) at least 24 hours before the arrival of the consignment. To do this, complete the Import notification form and return it to GBImports@apha.gov.uk. Notification can be carried out up to 30 days prior to consignment arrival. It is recommended that notification is done as soon as possible to avoid delays.

Upon receiving a new notification, APHA will provide you with a Unique Notification Number (UNN) within one working day. You must make sure the number is recorded either on the health certificate for the consignment or on its commercial documentation.

Once the health certificate or commercial document has been issued with the UNN recorded, a copy of this should be sent to APHA at the following email address:

- SM-Defra-APHAEnglandImports@apha.gov.uk if the consignment is going to England
- SM-Defra-APHAScotlandImports@apha.gov.uk if the consignment is going to Scotland
- SM-Defra-APHAWalesImports@apha.gov.uk if the consignment is going to Wales

Further information regarding imports after the UK leaves the EU is available on GOV.UK.

### 8. Classical Scrapie Requirements – Member States

**Animals for Breeding Only (not require for fattening or slaughter)**

There are 2 main options in section II.9 of the Health Certificate to certify the scrapie requirements, each with multiple sub-options. Main option 2 will be applicable for movements to the UK, as main option 1 is for movements intended to a Member State with negligible risk.

- **Main option 2. There are 6 sub-options within:**

  1. This first sub-option should only be certified if the Member State or zone of the Member State is recognised as having negligible risk of classical scrapie. The only countries recognised as having this status are Austria, Finland and Sweden.

  2. The second sub-option can be certified if the animals originate from a flock recognised as negligible risk of classical scrapie. Having complied with point 1.2 of Section A of Chapter A of Annex VIII of Regulation (EC) 999/2001 for at least for 7 years. (This is the equivalent of the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme in GB)

  3. The third sub-option can be certified if the sheep that have been genotyped ARR/ARR and are not subject to any restrictions due to Scrapie in the flock of origin.
4. The fourth sub-option can be certified if the animals originate from a flock recognised as having a controlled risk of classical scrapie, having complied with point 1.3 of Section A of Chapter A of Annex VIII of Regulation (EC) 999/2001 for at least for 3 years. (This is the equivalent of the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme in GB)

5. The fifth sub-option can be certified for sheep moving to and from a Balai approved premises.

6. The sixth sub-option can only be certified in specific breeding programme cases in which there is a pre-existing authorisation issued by the UK CA under point 4.1.(d) of Section A of Chapter A of Annex VIII to Regulation 2001/999

9. Pre-notifications of Intra-Union Trade

When animals move from another Member State to the UK, the veterinary authorities of that Member State are required to enter the details of the movement into TRACES so that the UK is made aware of the movement.

TRACES is an internet-based system for the application of health certification for intra-EU trade in live animals, genetic material and some animal products. TRACES also aids in the monitoring of such movements, as well as covering aspects concerning animal welfare during transport and animal health controls.

Importers must notify the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) at least 24 hours before the arrival of the consignment. To do this, importers should complete the Importer notification form and return it to GBImports@apha.gov.uk.

10. Welfare of animals during transport

Importers are reminded that they must comply with rules on the welfare of animals during transport. For information on the rules see GOV.UK.

- Welfare of animals during transport

11. Deaths of animals in transit

If an imported animal dies in transit to, or at a port or airport in Great Britain, the person in charge of the animal must report the death to the local Regional Operations Director/Field Team Leader/Director of Operations (Scotland). The carcase of the animal can only be disposed of in accordance with any directions given by a veterinary inspector.
12. Rabies risk

Importers and owners of imported animals are warned of rabies risks and are asked to pay special attention to the health of any imported animal during its first six months in Great Britain. Symptoms of the disease in sheep and goats are as follows:-

- Abnormal change in behaviour
- Anxiety, aggressiveness, frequent bellowing
- Excessive saliva with choking, difficulty in eating
- Grinding of teeth
- Constipation and diarrhoea with severe straining and tail swishing
- Difficulty in movement with progressive paralysis. Death may occur after the third to seventh day.

If importers see these symptoms, details should be reported immediately to the local APHA office. Rabies is, in any case, compulsorily notifiable to the authorities by law.

13. Safeguard measures

Emergency safeguard action can be taken at very short notice to prohibit or restrict the importation of certain animals from certain countries following an outbreak of disease or a public health issue. Information on the latest updates concerning disease outbreaks which may affect imports into the UK can be found on our Topical Issues page on the website.

Further information on the International and UK monitoring of animal diseases may be found on the animal disease monitoring website.

Importers can get the latest news about exotic notifiable disease outbreaks from the APHA subscription service.

- Topical issues
- Animal diseases: international and UK monitoring
- Exotic notifiable disease outbreak subscription service

14. EU Legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of Union legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each
consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents taken into account for its construction.

You can search for consolidated texts by using the ‘find results by document number’ option on the European Commission website. Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click ‘document information’, and then scroll down to ‘all consolidated versions’ and select the most recent version.

Please note that the consolidated text may not contain the latest amendment to the legislation, as it takes several weeks for this to be updated.

Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in the ‘Official Journal of the European Union’.

15. Contact for further information on import requirements

For further information regarding import requirements, contact the APHA Imports team:

Centre for International Trade - Carlisle
Eden Bridge House
Lowther Street
Carlisle
CA3 8DX

Email: Imports@apha.gov.uk

Telephone: 03000 200 301