



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2024/10

5 April 2024

SPAIN AND BULGARIA: LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS RELATING TO SHEEP POX AND GOAT POX

Purpose

1. To inform you that Great Britain has recognised Spain and Bulgaria as free of sheep pox and goat pox (SPGP) and, consequently:
 - a) Import restrictions on a) live sheep and goats and b) ovine and caprine germplasm from both countries have been lifted.
 - b) Restrictions on untreated hides and skins will be lifted on 17 April, following publication of declarations revoking existing safeguard declarations.

Background

1. Following confirmation of a SPGP outbreak in Spain in September 2022, Great Britain temporarily suspended imports of a) live sheep and goats and b) ovine and caprine germplasm from the entire territory of Spain. Restrictions were also subsequently placed on imports of untreated ovine and caprine hides and skins originating from Spain in November 2022 through the publication of safeguard declarations.
2. The same action as above was taken for Bulgaria in September 2023, following a confirmed outbreak of SPGP.
3. In January 2024, the Spanish authorities requested Great Britain recognise Spain's country-wide SPGP freedom. Bulgaria did likewise in February 2024.
4. Defra has reviewed and technically assessed the information provided by both the Spanish and Bulgarian authorities and concluded that the outbreaks in both countries have been contained and controlled, with the necessary measures to regain disease-free status implemented.

5. As such, restrictions on the import from both countries of a) live sheep and goats and b) ovine and caprine germplasm have been lifted, with the following third country lists updated:

- Live domestic and wild ungulates ([here](#))
- Ovine and caprine ova and embryos ([here](#))
- Ovine and caprine semen ([here](#))

This means imports of live sheep and goats (covered by the OVI-X and OVI-Y certificates), ovine and caprine ova and embryos, and ovine and caprine semen from Spain and Bulgaria are now permitted.

6. Restrictions on the import of untreated hides and skins from will be lifted on 17 April, the day after declarations revoking existing safeguard declarations for England, Scotland and Wales are published on gov.uk ([here](#)). Imports of fresh and chilled hides from Spain and Bulgaria will be permitted from that date.

Action for OVSs

7. To note the above information.

Contact point for enquiries

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Imports and EU Trade Team