



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2024/36

5 September 2024

OUTBREAK OF SHEEP POX AND GOAT POX IN BULGARIA

Purpose

1. To inform you that, owing to a recent outbreak of sheep pox and goat pox (SPGP) in Bulgaria, consignments of the following commodities from Bulgaria should be held:
 - a. Live sheep and goats (GBHC 630 and 631)
 - b. Ovine and caprine germplasm (GBHC 820, 821 and 822)
 - c. Fresh and chilled (untreated) hides and skins of sheep and goats (GBHC 540)

Background

2. Bulgaria reported an outbreak of SPGP in sheep to WOAHA on 4 September 2024. The outbreak occurred in the Yambol region near Bulgaria's border with Türkiye.
3. The UK Office for SPS Trade Assurance is drafting a safeguard declaration to prohibit the import of untreated ovine and caprine hides and skins.
4. The UK Office for SPS Trade Assurance will update its listings in due course to prohibit the import of the commodities listed below. A separate OVS note will be issued when this has taken place.
 - a. Live sheep and goats (as set out in the 'live ungulates' list, published [here](#))
 - b. Germplasm (as set out in the 'ovine and caprine ova and embryos' and 'ovine and caprine semen' lists, published [here](#) and [here](#)).

5. In the meantime, any consignments from Bulgaria of the following commodities should be held, with The UK Office for SPS Trade Assurance contacted for advice at ukassurance@defra.gov.uk:
 - a. Live sheep and goats
 - b. Ovine and caprine germplasm
 - c. Untreated hides and skins of sheep and goats

6. We will keep you informed of any further developments.

Action for OVSs

7. To note the above information.

Contact point for enquiries

Email: ukassurance@defra.gov.uk

Imports and EU Trade Team