



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2024/38

10 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, imports of the following commodities are prohibited:
  - 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. On 5 September, [OVS note 2024/36](#) was issued to inform of the SPGP outbreak and request that consignments from Bulgaria of live sheep and goats (GBHC 630 and 631), ovine and caprine germplasm (GBHC 820, 821 and 822), and fresh and chilled (untreated) hides and skins of sheep and goats (GBHC 540) be held, as an interim measure, while the UK Office for SPS Trade Assurance assessed the situation and the need for additional import restrictions.
4. Having assessed the situation and the risk posed by the aforementioned commodities derived from sheep and goats, it has been decided that imports from the whole territory of Bulgaria of the following commodities should be temporarily suspended:
  - 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](#)).
  - c. Fresh and chilled (untreated) hides and skins of ovine and caprine animals: Safeguard declarations under the [Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations](#) for England, Scotland and Wales will be published on 11 September, coming into force 12 September. In the meantime, consignments of fresh and chilled (untreated) hides and skins from Bulgaria should be held, with the UK Office for SPS Trade Assurance contacted for advice at [ukassurance@defra.gov.uk](mailto:ukassurance@defra.gov.uk).
5. We will keep you informed of any further developments.

#### **Action for OVSs**

- 6. To note the above information.

#### **Contact point for enquiries**

**Email:** [ukassurance@defra.gov.uk](mailto:ukassurance@defra.gov.uk)

*Imports and EU Trade Team*