



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2024/58

12 December 2024

### OUTBREAK OF PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS IN BULGARIA

#### Purpose

1. To inform you that, following a recent outbreak of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in Bulgaria:
  - Imports of raw milk and raw milk products of ovine and caprine origin (certificates GBHC 410 and 411) are prohibited from Bulgaria.
  - Imports of untreated wool and hair (on certificate GBHC586) from Bulgaria should also continue to be held while restrictions are being implemented.

#### Background

2. Bulgaria notified the European Commission on 25 November 2024 of an outbreak of PPR at a sheep holding in Velingrad, in the South-central region of Pazardzhik.
3. The following ovine and caprine commodities are already restricted from Bulgaria due to an outbreak of sheep and goat pox (SPGP) (see OVS note [2024/38](#)):
  - 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 (GBHC540).
4. OVS note [2024/56](#) was distributed on 2 December, notifying of the PPR outbreak and requesting that consignments of raw milk and raw milk products (GBHC 410 and 411) and untreated wool and hair (GBHC586) derived from ovine and caprine animals be held.
5. The UK Office for SPS Trade Assurance amended the [Milk and Milk Products list](#) on 12 December 2024 to suspend imports from Bulgaria of raw milk and raw milk products, including raw colostrum, from ovine and caprine animals. This

has been achieved through the application of footnote (b) to Bulgaria's entry in column A.

6. The UK Office for SPS Trade Assurance is also coordinating the delivery of safeguard declarations that will suspend the import of:
  - a. untreated wool and hair of ovine and caprine animals
  - b. fresh and chilled (untreated) hides and skins of ovine and caprine animals.

Although there is already a safeguard measure in place restricting imports from Bulgaria of untreated hides and skins due to the aforementioned SPGP outbreak in Bulgaria, a PPR-specific safeguard measure is also needed to ensure comprehensive controls exist in case of future recognition of SPGP-freedom in Bulgaria. We will issue a separate OVS note once these safeguard declarations have been published.

7. In the meantime, in addition to the current restrictions (as outlined in point 3), any consignments from Bulgaria of untreated wool and hair from ovine and caprine animals should be detained, and Defra informed at [bbtp-issue-triage@defra.gov.uk](mailto:bbtp-issue-triage@defra.gov.uk).

#### **Action for OVSs**

8. To note the contents of this OVS note.

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

**Email:** [bbtp-issue-triage@defra.gov.uk](mailto:bbtp-issue-triage@defra.gov.uk)  
[imports@apha.gov.uk](mailto:imports@apha.gov.uk)

*Imports and EU Trade Team*