



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 48/21

Amendments to the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme

Date issued: 10 November 2021

Purpose

1. To provide an update to Veterinarians on amendments to the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (SMS) which affect flock holders' ability to move breeding sheep and goats from Great Britain (GB) to Northern Ireland (NI).

Background

2. Since the introduction of the Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP), all sheep moving from GB to NI must be accompanied by an EU Export Health Certificate (EHC) that contains conditions regarding scrapie monitoring and genotyping. This has meant that a high proportion of sheep cannot meet the new rules.
3. The EU's Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF) voted for an amendment to scrapie requirements for the movement of sheep and goats from GB to NI. To facilitate the continued movement of breeding sheep and goats from GB to NI a new temporary Scrapie Qualifying Status (SQS) has been created within the pre-existing Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (SMS). Please see SRUC website for more details: [Scrapie monitoring for export | SRUC](#)
4. The introduction of SQS will now allow flock holders to move breeding sheep and goats from GB to NI provided they apply for SQS by **the deadline of 31 December 2021**. If flock holders do not apply for SQS by the deadline and are not already part of SMS, or sheep do not have an ARR/ARR type 1 resistant genotype (not applicable to goats), they will need to follow the standard application process for SMS in order to move breeding sheep and goats from GB to NI.

Information for OVs

5. Breeding sheep and goats can continue to be moved from GB to NI if the flock holder is already part of the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (controlled or negligible risk status) or has applied to the Scrapie Qualifying Scheme by 31 December 2021 deadline or sheep are of a type 1 resistant genotype (this does not apply to goats). The OV must see documentation to support the certification of the relevant option chosen in the EHC.
6. It is important to note that any sheep/goats moving from GB to Northern Ireland (NI) will require the relevant EHC available here: [Domestic ovine and caprine animals intended for breeding or production to the European Union: certificate 8220 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-ovine-and-caprine-animals-intended-for-breeding-or-production-to-the-european-union-certificate-8220)
7. Official Veterinarians must certify the scrapie status of the animals to be moved from GB to NI as part of the EHC. For animals originating from an SQS flock, [a complementary attestation](#) is required. II.2.8.1 in the EHC (the scrapie attestation) will be struck out entirely when the complementary attestation is used. The attestation must accompany the animal, alongside the EHC. The [Notes for Guidance](#) explain this in detail.

Sheep identification requirements

8. The animals to be moved to NI must be clearly and permanently identified by means of two ear tags which permit tracing of their premises of origin. The identification used must be in accordance with the requirements set out in The Sheep and Goat (Records, Identification and Movement) (England) Order 2009 or equivalent legislation in Scotland and Wales.
9. GB keepers who are selling or moving livestock to a keeper in NI will be expected to attach to the animals an “export” tag printed with the country code ‘GB’, unless those animals already have the letters GB printed on their existing official ear tags.

Breeding or Production Sheep/Goats

10. Breeding or production sheep must have been resident in GB since birth or for at least six months prior to the move. They must also have been resident on their current holding since birth or for at least 40 days, with no contact with other imported cloven-hooved animals for 30 days before movement.
11. Uncastrated rams for breeding or production must for 60 days have been on a holding that has been free from brucellosis for 1 year and they must have undergone a complement fixation test to detect contagious epididymitis (*Brucella ovis*) with result <50 IU/ml.
12. The EHC must certify that, within 24 hours of loading for the movement to NI, all the animals described on the health certificate were examined and found to be healthy, free from clinical evidence of infectious or contagious disease and were fit to travel.

Further Information

- General Guidance: [Export or move livestock and poultry - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-or-move-livestock-and-poultry)
- EHC link: [Domestic ovine and caprine animals intended for breeding or production to the European Union: certificate 8220 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-ovine-and-caprine-animals-intended-for-breeding-or-production-to-the-european-union-certificate-8220)
- Notes for Guidance: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5f686267e90e075a00db6e87/8220N_FG_Oct21_v11.pdf
- DAERA link: [Sheep and goat imports from GB | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](https://daera-ni.gov.uk/guidance/sheep-and-goat-imports-from-gb)
- SRUC SQS information: [Scrapie monitoring for export | SRUC](https://www.sruc.ac.uk/news/scrapie-monitoring-for-export)