Owner’s Declarations and Veterinary Support Certificate to Accompany Sheep/Goats for Breeding into an EC Approved Assembly Centre for Intra-Union Trade

Notes for Guidance of Owners/Exporters, Official Veterinarians and Assembly Centre Operators (6227 SPTN)
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Background

1. Sheep and goats for export to other Member States must comply with the residency/standstill requirements of Council Directive 91/68/EEC (as amended). This requires that the animals meet certain provisions relating to residency and standstill periods and transport.

Scope

2. Supplementary certificate 6227SPT has been prepared to meet the requirements of Council Directive 91/68/EEC (as amended).

3. 6227SPT must accompany all breeding sheep and goats intended for export from Great Britain to Member States other than the Republic of Ireland into an EU approved assembly centre. There are separate support health certificates for fattening and slaughter sheep/goats.

4. Sheep and goats for export direct from a holding do not require support certification into an assembly centre.

5. For exports of breeding sheep/goats to the Republic of Ireland please contact Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Centre for International Trade (CIT) – Exports, Carlisle as there are additional requirements to be complied with.

Completion of 6227SPT

6. Exporters should download and complete 6227SPT. The details of the Official Veterinarian (OV), the number and identification details of the animals and the name and address of the approved assembly centre to which the animals will be moved should be included. Failure to provide this information will result in delays in the processing of your documentation.

Completion of the Schedule of Identification of Animals

7. Each page of the Schedule must bear a page number and the support health certificate reference number. The schedule must be stapled inside the health certificate and the Official Veterinarian should “fan” and stamp over the pages of the schedule and certificate. One corner of the schedule and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule should be deleted with diagonal lines.

Age of Animals

8. The age of each animal may be stated as either the date of birth or age in days, weeks, months or years. In the case of large consignments, it is acceptable to give a range of ages, e.g. 1-2 months. Vague descriptions of age, e.g. under 6 months, are not acceptable.

Official Identification

9. Sheep and goats for export must be individually identified before they enter the assembly centre. Identification must comply with the requirements laid in the Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movements)(England) Order 2009 and equivalent legislation in Scotland and Wales. Guidelines on official identification can be found at Annex A.
Completion of 6227SPT - Owner Declarations and Veterinary Support Certificate

10. 6227SPT is a two part document. 6227NFG should be consulted for additional guidance where necessary

(a) Part I is signed by the owner/keeper of the animals and contains the following declarations:

- residency and standstill;
- health status of the holding of origin;
- Classical Scrapie Requirement: either
  i. scrapie monitoring of the flock/herd of origin (achieved by being listed as Controlled or Negligible Risk in the SAC SMS; or
  ii. that sheep are of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype and that the genotyping of the animals was carried out at a Defra laboratories, or SAC/SRUC or the National Scrapie Plan (NSP); the holding of origin is not under any official classical scrapie restrictions; and
- transport of the consignment to the assembly centre.

For consignments intended for Austria, Finland or Sweden (a negligible classical scrapie risk MSs) and Denmark, (MS with a national control programme for classical scrape), the flock has to be Negligible Risk.

(b) Part II is a veterinary support certificate and is signed by the Official Veterinarian. Part II contains the following declarations:

- OV verification of the owner declarations;
- confirmation that the classical scrapie requirements (including Negligible Risk status if intended for Austria, Finland and Sweden) have been met – see 6227NFG for further detail;
- attestation regarding contagious epididymitis of rams (if applicable);
- confirmation that bluetongue requirements have been met (if applicable).

Part I - Owner Declarations

Residency and Standstill

11. For the purposes of Part I. 5(d)(ii), biungulate animals are two-toed hoofed mammals and include cattle, sheep and goats, pigs, camelids and deer. Exporters should contact their veterinary surgeon in the event of any doubt in the classification of imported livestock.

On Farm Isolation

12. Part I.5 (b)(iii) refers. With regard to movements of sheep and goats onto the holding and movements onto the holding of biungulate animals imported from third countries, the Official Veterinarian must be satisfied that the animal(s) in question have been kept in an approved isolation facility away from the remaining animals on the holding.

13. The Official Veterinarian can approve isolation premises on behalf of the Department provided that the conditions in Annex B are met.
Health Status

14. Part I.5 (f) refers. The sheep/goats to be exported must not come from holdings where the listed diseases have been clinically diagnosed within the specified time periods. If any of the sheep for export have come into contact with sheep or goats from holdings where disease has occurred within the specified time periods, those animals are disqualified from export but this does not disqualify any other sheep or goats on the same holding which comply with the requirement of Part I 5(f).

Transport

15. Part I.5(j) refers. Suitable transport arrangements must have been made to ensure that the requirements of this paragraph are complied with.

16. Council Directive 91/68/EEC (as amended), requires that ovine and caprine animals shall not be outside their holding of origin for more than six days before final certification to the final destination in the Member State as indicated in the health certificate.

Part II - Veterinary Support Certificate

Verification of Owners Declarations

17. In order to certify that the residency and standstill requirements of Council Directive 91/68/EEC (as amended) and other health and transport conditions are met, the Official Veterinarian must ensure that Part I of 6227SPT is signed by the owner or keeper of the animals to be exported.

18. The Official Veterinarian must carry out sufficient checks on the movement records of the holding of origin in order to be satisfied that the residency and standstill requirements in the owner's declaration are correct.

19. Classical Scrapie Requirements – The owner should provide the necessary documents (SAC SMS registration/listing) to confirm Controlled or Negligible Risk status, OR in the case of ARR/ARR sheep, a genotyping certificate. Also that ARR/ARR sheep cannot be certified from holdings under any official – e.g. CSFS - restrictions for classical scrapie. If such restrictions are in place, movement of ARR/ARR sheep for trade is not allowed. If unsure as to whether the holding is under such restrictions, the OV may contact the local APHA or CIT Carlisle.

Rams - Residency Requirement and Pre-Export Testing

21. Part I paragraph 5(e) refers. Each ram to be exported must have remained on the holding of origin for a continuous period of 60 days immediately prior to export. Official Veterinarians should check the validity of the owner’s declaration by reference to the movement records. This period of residency is not required in the case of male goats.

22. Part II paragraph 3(ii) refers. Blood samples must be taken from all rams within 30 days of consignment and sent to the APHA Laboratories, Weybridge for testing using the complement fixation test for Brucella ovis. A negative result is less than 50 icftu/ml. This test is not required in the case of male goats.
Completion of the Certificate

25. Part II of the support certificate should be signed and stamped by the Official Veterinarian, following checks on the validity of the owner’s declarations.

23. If the Official Veterinarian has reason to doubt the validity of the owner’s declarations, the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Centre for International Trade (CIT) – Exports, Carlisle should be consulted.

Retention of Veterinary Support Certificate

24. An original copy of the Veterinary Support Certificate must accompany the animals into the assembly centre and should be made available to the Official Veterinarian before completion of final export health certification. The original of the Veterinary Support Certificate must be retained by the assembly centre operator for at least 3 years. The Official Veterinarian(s) at the holding of origin and at the assembly centre should also retain copies for their records.
Annex A

Guidance on Identification of Sheep/Goats

Official Identification of Sheep Intended for Export

1. **Identification for export**: Regardless of their age, all sheep and goats intended for export (both intra-Union and Third Country Trade) must be double identified by two ear tags or two means of identification, both bearing the same unique identification number consisting of “UK” followed by the **flock/herd number** and the **individual animal ID number**, for example UK 123456 00001, where 123456 is the flock/herd number of the holding. The numbers must be visible.

   Animals which have had their ear tags replaced with a double set of red replacement identifiers (both having the same individual numbers) can be exported as they are fully traceable.

   **For animals born, or identified for the first time, after 31/12/2009**, one of these means of identification must be electronic (electronic ID – EID), either an electronic eartag or bolus. EID numbers have a 12-digit format consisting of the unique 6-digit flock number (preceded by a zero), followed by a 5-digit animal number. UK EID tags will be yellow, and will have the unique letters and numbers printed visually on the tag. This information is programmed into the chip in the EID tag (or other EID device), so that when the EID tag is scanned with a reader, it will display the number printed on the tag, although ‘UK’ will display as ‘826’ - the internationally recognized code for the UK. If bolus, is used the match up must be black.

   For animals identified before 31 December 2009 (where the likelihood is that they will not have been electronically identified), exporters are recommended to confirm with their importers in the MSs of destination that they are prepared to accept animals which are not electronically identified. Some Member States have introduced retrospective EID domestically and it is possible that the importer is not prepared to accept animals which are not electronically identified. If this is the case, electronic identifiers can be applied in accordance with the requirements laid down in the Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movements)(England) Order 2009. Please refer to the Defra guidance for further information. [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/299025/pb14142-sheep-goats-guidance-140328.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/299025/pb14142-sheep-goats-guidance-140328.pdf)

2. **If animals originate from another Member State of the**, please see: [http://ec.ropa./food/animal/identification/ovine/ovine_tags_en.htm](http://ec.ropa./food/animal/identification/ovine/ovine_tags_en.htm) for information on how the animals should have been identified.

3. **Identification for entry into the assembly centre**: In order to be eligible for entry into an assembly centre, animals must be individually identified as described above.

4. **Record-keeping**: Exporters and assembly centre operators are obliged under The Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement) (England) Order 2009 and equivalent legislation in Wales and Scotland to record the full identification number of the eartag.
Annex B

Conditions for Approving on Farm Isolation Units

1) Management of the unit
   a) Buildings used for the on farm isolation premises must be dedicated for the on farm isolation and be physically separate from any buildings used for other livestock.
   b) Pastures used for on-farm isolation premises must be dedicated for on farm isolation and be physically separate from any pastures or buildings used for other livestock on the premises. A minimum distance of 5 metres is required between the perimeter of the isolation fields and any other livestock. This 5 metre separation would be satisfied with stock-proof double fencing.
   c) Animals may only be moved between isolation premises on the same farm under licence of the Animal Health and under any conditions that the licence may contain.

2) Specification for animals entering and remaining on the on farm isolation premises
   a) The animals entering the approved isolation unit must be individually identified.
   b) The animals shall be kept in the isolation unit during the standstill period required under Council Directive 91/68/EEC (as amended).

3) Construction for buildings
   a) Any buildings used in the isolation unit must be designed such that any discharges, effluent and manure are retained there or disposed of in such a manner that they do not come into contact with other livestock.
   b) A dedicated loading / off loading facility must be provided for each isolation unit. This facility shall be fully cleansed and disinfected after each use.

4) Operating Procedures
   a) Dedicated protective clothing for staff must be provided for the isolation unit.
   b) Protective clothing to be provided for visitors.
   c) Disinfectant footbaths to be provided and used at the entrance(s) to the isolation units
   d) Any person entering the isolation unit must wear protective clothing and footwear and use the disinfectant footbaths at the entrance(s).
   e) Any unused feeding stuffs, fodder, bedding etc. intended for animals in the isolation unit must remain there while animals are present.
   f) All equipment, pens, hurdles, etc in the isolation premises must remain there until the 30 day period has been satisfactorily completed.
   g) Special rules apply to any lactating animals that are in these isolation units. The welfare of these animals must be safeguarded and it may be necessary to take these animals to a milking parlour on the farm if other means of milking them cannot be found. The following conditions apply in these circumstances:
      i) The animals in isolation must be brought to the parlour after any other resident stock have been milked and have been returned to their accommodation or fields. A minimum of 5 metres separation must be maintained between the resident animals and the animals in isolation.
ii) The animals in isolation must be put through the parlour after all other resident milking stock.

iii) Any farm yards, the parlour collecting area, the parlour itself and the milking equipment e.g. clusters a must be thoroughly washed down after the animals in isolation have passed through. A 'full standard wash cycle' as required under the dairy Hygiene Regulations must be applied to the milking equipment in the parlour after the isolation animals have been through and before it is used again for the resident lactating animals.

iv) The animals in isolation must be returned to their own approved accommodation immediately after they have been milked.