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EXPORT OF SHEEP/GOATS FOR BREEDING TO ST. LUCIA

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV's) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7657EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7657EHC.

Exporters are strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. Scope of the Certificate

Export health certificate 7657EHC may be used for the export of sheep and/or goats for breeding purposes from the United Kingdom to St. Lucia. The scrapie requirements at Paragraph IV f) (iii) may be certified on the basis of the scrapie support certificate 7657SPT and further guidance below. 7657SPT should not accompany the consignment to St Lucia as it is a support certificate only.

2. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)

This certificate may be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or by an authorised Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed to the appropriate panel for export purposes by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government. In Northern Ireland, this certificate may be signed by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed as an OV to the appropriate export panel for export purposes by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD).

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) Centre for International Trade at Carlisle within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DARD, Dundonald House, Belfast.

The OV should keep a copy for his/her own records.

3. Obtaining an import permit

The exporter/agent should be aware of the requirements of the importing country particularly with respect to the requirement for an import permit. The import permit number should be given in the health certificate at paragraph III c).

4. Laboratory tests

The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out pre-export testing is officially approved for this purpose by Defra or DARD.

In Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the AHVLA Laboratory, New Haw, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB, (Tel: 01932 341111). Some tests are carried out at AHVLA Lasswade, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0PZ, (Tel: 0131 445 6169). Certain specialist tests are carried out at regional AHVLA laboratories.

In Northern Ireland, the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the Veterinary Sciences Division (VSD) Laboratory, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3SD (tel: 028 9052 0011).

For operational reasons however, the laboratories involved may change periodically. Accordingly, the OV is advised to check with the AHVLA or VSD to determine to which laboratories samples should be sent for testing. Samples should always be sent to the laboratory concerned

sufficiently in advance of the export date to enable the tests to be carried out and reported. If in doubt as to the procedures for collection, the requirement for transport medium if any, dispatch of samples and the length of time a test is likely to take, the OV should seek the advice of the relevant laboratory.

5. **Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)**

Paragraph IV. b) refers: OVs may certify paragraph IV. b) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the AHVLA Centre for International Trade (CIT) at Carlisle or the issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland.

6. **Scrapie**

Paragraph IV.f) refers.

IV.f) (i)

Although the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code does not currently have any recommendations for **eradicating** scrapie, it does recommend that surveillance and monitoring is in place to establish the scrapie free status of an establishment - see Article 14.9.2 http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_1.14.9.htm#article_1.14.9.2 on the basis of which the scrapie risk associated with the international trade in sheep and goats can be managed. This subparagraph can therefore be certified on the basis that scrapie is notifiable in the UK/EU and the EU TSE Regulation (No EC 999/2001) and the implementing Regulation in the UK goes beyond OIE in that it sets out requirements for the control and eradication of TSEs as well.

IV.f) (ii)

The OIE Code Chapter on scrapie sets out the criteria for a scrapie free establishment. In practice, any holding that has a negligible (classical scrapie) risk status under the SRUC scrapie monitoring scheme (SMS) can be deemed to meet the OIE criteria.

IV.f) (iii)

The details of the parents and siblings must be established and if necessary (e.g. if the parents/siblings cannot be traced to establish they are still alive), subjected to a thorough search of Defra's **Scrapie Notification Database (SND)**, as follows:

SND checks: The owner/exporter must complete forms 7657SPT for submission to the certifying OV. The OV must then forward them to Carlisle CIT who would arrange for the details (the identity of the animals, their parents and full siblings) to be checked to establish whether scrapie has been confirmed in the parents/full siblings and whether the animals are the progeny/full sibling of any case in which scrapie has been confirmed. If satisfactory, a veterinary officer will complete paragraph II of the 7657SPTs and return them to the OV. **If such a check is necessary, the certifying OV must allow good time for the search to be completed before paragraph IV f) (iii) can be signed.**

6. **Disclaimer**

This certificate is provided on the basis of information available at the time and may not necessarily comply fully with the requirements of the importing country. It is the exporter's responsibility to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country. If these do not match, the exporter should contact the AHVLA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/imports-exports/international-trade/>