

Notes for guidance:

Importation of Pure Bred Rams of Specified Breeds into the Isle of Man from Northern Ireland

These notes apply to rams of the following breeds: Scottish Blackface, Cheviot, Swaledale, Teeswater, Blue-faced Leicester or Derbyshire Gritstone.

1. NI Isolation

All rams must be resident on the holding of origin in Northern Ireland for a minimum of **30 days** prior to exportation. This means export direct from market is not permissible.

2. NI Health Certification

All rams must be accompanied by Health Certificate **EHC0024** signed by an authorized Private veterinary practitioner (aPVP) of DAERA. Before signing the authorized Private veterinary practitioner will be in receipt of:-

- i. a copy of the post-import isolation premises approval notice issued by DEFA.
- ii. a written declaration from the owner/exporter stating that the said animal(s) are of the following breeds, Scottish Blackface, Cheviot, Swaledale, Teeswater, Blue-faced Leicester or Derbyshire Gritstone.
- iii. a written declaration by the owner/exporter that the said animal(s) is/are **over 9 months** of age at the time of export.

3. Disinfection

Arrangements must have been made before the time of Health Certification for the cleansing and disinfection of vehicles for the transport of the animals. Detailed advice on the current requirements should be sought from the local Animal Health Office of DAERA.

4. Pre-Export Veterinary Inspection

All rams must be examined by an authorized Private veterinary practitioner of DAERA not more than **24 hours** prior to shipment to the Isle of Man, who must certify that the animals are free from signs and symptoms of infectious and contagious disease including ectoparasites, and are fit to travel. All rams must come from a holding that is not subject to any prohibition or restriction for reasons of animal diseases affecting Ovine animals.

5. Transport

Pick-ups: Multiple pick-ups (more than one origin in NI) are possible BUT all animals making up such load must stay at a single destination on the Isle of Man until all isolation requirements have been fulfilled.

Single origin loads may be dropped at more than one destination. N.B. separate import licences are required for each destination.

Pure bred rams must not be transported with sheep having a different M/V status. This would result in the whole consignment attaining the lowest M/V status present within that consignment.

All animals must be transported by the specified route, and on arrival, must be **taken directly to the premises specified**, and there, shall be **isolated from all other animals for the prescribed period** and be subjected to any further detention, examination, test or medication laid down by a Government Veterinary Officer in order to prevent the introduction and possible spread of animal disease.

Any person transporting animals over 65km (approx. 40 miles) as part of an economic activity must have a specific authorisation under The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Isle of Man

Order) 2007. If you require such authorisation please contact DEFA Agriculture at Agriculture@gov.im or see: <https://www.gov.im/categories/business-and-industries/agriculture/livestock-transport-regulations/>

6. IOM Import Licence

No animal shall be landed in the Isle of Man without a licence issued by DEFA, and such licence shall expire after **21 days**.

PLEASE NOTE: You must inform the Department of your intention to import, with the date/time of shipment at least 72 hours in advance. Failure to notify the Department could result in the importer being prosecuted for not meeting the conditions of the Import Licence. Contact number for notification is (01624) **685844** (answer-phone) or agriculture@gov.im

The licence must be delivered on embarkation to the Captain of the Vessel or Aircraft, or his representative, for submission as soon as possible to DEFA Agriculture. All other relevant documents and certificates mentioned hereafter for individual species must accompany the animals in transit to the final destination in the Isle of Man and be retained there for further inspection.

7. Post Import testing

After the first **20 days** of the isolation period, a blood sample must be taken from each animal and the sample (s) submitted to an approved laboratory for testing by the AGID or ELISA test for M/V Disease. All results of the tests must be forwarded to the Chief Veterinary Officer.

After **6 months** this test must be repeated and the results forwarded to the Chief Veterinary Officer. Any ram testing positive for M/V on either occasion must be slaughtered immediately. Any costs incurred in the taking of blood samples, the submission to a laboratory and any subsequent slaughter of any animal will be borne by the importer.

8. IOM Isolation, Post-Import Inspection & Movement Restriction

On arrival in the Island they will be strictly isolated from all other sheep for a period of **30 days** on the premises designated on the licence and previously approved by DEFA and will be inspected by a Field Officer.

All rams are subject to the terms of the Isle of Man Sheep Scab (Prevention) Order 1995 and within **10 days** following import must be treated with an approved treatment in the presence of a DEFA Officer.

On arrival of the consignment on a Manx farm the whole farm will come under a **21 day** movement restriction for all livestock. This will not apply to livestock moved direct to slaughterhouse or Knacker's yard for immediate slaughter.

PLEASE NOTE: for rams which require to be treated on premises other than the isolation premises, prior written approval **MUST** be granted by a GVO.

Failure to produce the required valid documentation will result in the return of the consignment to the point of origin at the importer's expense.

Transporting and landing animals without the required documentation is an offence.

With the emergence of worm resistance in the UK the Department strongly recommends that imported sheep are treated on arrival with monepantel (Zolvix). Your Veterinary Surgeon can advise further.