

Notes for guidance:

## **Importation of Sheep & Goats (aged under 9 months for breeding) into the Isle of Man from Northern Ireland**

### **1. NI Isolation**

All sheep 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**

The animals must be accompanied by Health Certificate **EHC0024**, certificates must be signed by an authorized Private veterinary practitioner (aPVP) of DAERA.

### **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 cloven footed animals must be examined by an aPVP 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 sheep or goats must come from a holding that is not subject to any prohibition or restriction for reasons of animal diseases affecting Ovine animals.

In the case of non-M/V accredited sheep you need to obtain written approval from DEFA for the proposed isolation premises on the Manx farm and produce this for the certifying veterinarian in UK.

### **5. Pre & Post Import Testing:**

All sheep and goats must **EITHER**

(i) come from accredited flocks/herds which are members of the Sheep and Goat Health Scheme;

**OR**

(ii) have been isolated, together with their dams, in premises approved by DAERA.

**AND** during the period of isolation the dam/dams of the animals to be imported have had blood samples taken which have been sent to the Central Veterinary Laboratory, Weybridge/Lasswade Unit where they have been submitted the AGID or ELISA test for Maedi visna/caprine arthritis encephalitis with negative results.

**AND** there has been no evidence either clinically or as a result of laboratory test of Maedi visna/caprine arthritis encephalitis on any premises where the animals or their dams have been during the past twelve months or since birth.

**AND** will be moved to isolation premises in the Isle of Man, without coming into contact with other animals. Before signing the export certificate the Official Veterinarian must be in receipt of a copy of the post import isolation premises approval notice issued by the Department of Environment, Food & Agriculture.

**AND** the animals will remain in isolation and will have blood samples taken at the age of nine months and fifteen months which will be submitted to the AGID or ELISA test for Maedi Visna/Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (to an approved laboratory). The results of all tests must be forwarded to the Chief Veterinary Officer. The animals must be detained in isolation until their release is authorised in writing by the Chief Veterinary Officer.

## **6. 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.

All animals must be transported, without coming into contact with animals not similarly certified, 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](mailto:Agriculture@gov.im) or see: <https://www.gov.im/categories/business-and-industries/agriculture/livestock-transport-regulations/>

## **7. 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](mailto:agriculture@gov.im)

This 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.

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

The period of isolation is a minimum of **10 days** for sheep and goats, during this time the sheep will be inspected by a Field Officer.

All sheep 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 sheep 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.**

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**For European Union imports** – please contact the Department on 685844 or [agriculture@gov.im](mailto:agriculture@gov.im)

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.**

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NB. If any of the sheep or goats are neutered, please contact DEFA in the first instance: [agriculture@gov.im](mailto:agriculture@gov.im) or (01624) 685844.