

Notes for guidance:

Importation of Sheep & Goats (aged over 9 months) 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 **EHC 0024** 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 the UK.

In the case of M/V accredited sheep bought from a sale: if specific maedi-visna premises cannot be found, the LVI must be satisfied that the consignment has been maintained in isolation in order to meet the certification requirements.

5. Pre & Post Import Testing

All sheep and goats must **EITHER**

(i) originate from a Maedi-Visna or Caprine Arthritis-Encephalitis accredited flock or herd under the Sheep and Goat Health Scheme;

OR

(ii) have been retained in a DAERA isolation premises for a period of at least 180 days and during that time must have undergone two blood tests at least six months and not more than eight months apart which were submitted for Maedi-Visna/Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis AGID or ELISA test at an approved laboratory with negative result. The second sample to have been taken within 14 days of the export date.

OR

(iii) have been retained in a DAERA approved isolation premises immediately prior to export and during the period of isolation have had a blood sample taken which has been submitted to the for Maedi-Visna/Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis AGID or ELISA test at an approved laboratory with negative result. These animals must then be moved directly to DEFA approved isolation premises on the Isle of Man and remain there until a further blood test, at least six months and not more than eight months after the first, is taken and submitted to the for Maedi-Visna/Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis AGID or ELISA test at an approved laboratory with negative results. Any sheep subsequently testing positive for Maedi/Visna

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.

In addition animals in (ii) or (iii) above must be accompanied by:-

- A.** a declaration by the owner that in so far as can be ascertained all animals were **over 9 months** of age at the start of isolation and;
- B.** certification that there has been no evidence, either clinically or as a result of laboratory tests, of Maedi-Visna/Caprine Arthritis-Encephalitis with negative result.

6. Transport:

Pick-ups: Multiple pick-ups (more than one origin in the 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.

M/V accredited sheep 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/>

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

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 **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 Etc. (Prevention) Order 1995 and must be treated within the **10 days** isolation period following importation for sheep scab 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.

For European Union imports - please contact the Department on 685844 or 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.