



Animal Health: Global Trade & Aquaculture Health

Customer Information Note (CIN)

GEN/2013/58

Date: 21 June 2013

To: Interested parties

Changes to scrapie requirements: intra-Union trade in Sheep/Goats and their Semen/Embryos

Purpose

The purpose of this Customer Information Note (CIN) is to advise you that, from 1 July 2013, the rules for intra-Union trade in sheep and goats for breeding and fattening and their semen and embryos will change.

Background

The European Commission has reviewed the requirements for Scrapie in line with their commitment in the EU TSE Roadmap, published in July 2010. On 12 December 2012, Member States (MSs) voted, by qualified majority, to adopt a specific Commission legislative proposal to amend certain scrapie controls and the requirements for intra-Union trade in live sheep and goats for breeding and fattening and their semen and embryos to take effect from 01 July 2013.

The amended legislation brings:

- (i) the scrapie requirements for trade more in line with those recommended by World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) i.e. increases the surveillance period required to demonstrate scrapie freedom from 3 to 7 years; and
- (ii) accepts it is unnecessary to restrict movement of animals where a case of atypical scrapie has been confirmed.

However, provisions have been retained to allow:

- (i) movement between holdings within the EU which have demonstrated freedom for 3 years; and also
- (ii) sheep belonging to the scrapie resistant genotype ARR/ARR.

Annex VIII to Regulation (EC) 999/2001 which sets out the conditions for intra-Union trade in live sheep, goats and their semen and embryos has been amended accordingly.

The amended rules for intra-Union trade in sheep and goats for breeding and rearing, and their semen and embryos will not adversely impact existing intra-Union trade among those Member States that do not have a national control programme in place for classical scrapie (only Austria, Denmark, Finland and Sweden currently have such a programme).

Conditions for intra-Union trade from 01 July 2013

A two tiered system for classical scrapie status on holdings will apply. A **negligible risk** status and a **controlled risk** status.

A **negligible risk** status is equivalent in broad technical terms, to scrapie free status as recommended in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (demonstration of freedom from classical scrapie for at least seven years). Movement of sheep and goats for breeding and *fattening* (and their semen/embryos) to Member States with an approved national control programme for classical scrapie (currently Austria, Denmark, Finland and Sweden) can only take place from holdings having such a status, unless they are ARR/ARR sheep.

A **controlled risk** status reflects the status quo (demonstration of freedom from classical scrapie for at least three years) and is intended for Member States that do not have an approved national control programme in place – currently all other Member States including the UK.

Movement of sheep and goats for breeding (and their semen/embryos) to Member States without an approved national control programme for classical scrapie (MSs other than Austria, Denmark, Finland and Sweden) can only take place from holdings having a controlled (or negligible) risk status, unless they are ARR/ARR sheep.

How the changes will be administered

A further Customer Information Note (with Q&A) will be issued as soon as possible setting out in full the requirements that holdings will need to meet to gain **negligible risk** and **controlled risk** status. It is envisaged that membership of the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (SMS) will become the primary means of demonstrating compliance with either status. This is because from January 2015, movements may only take place from holdings which have been given a 'status' in respect of classical scrapie and there is an expectation that Competent Authorities will confer such a status or have oversight of the process; the SMS is best placed to do this. The SMS is provided by SAC Consulting: Premium Sheep and Goat Health Schemes. SAC Consulting is part of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC).

If you have any enquiries or questions please contact AHVLA.

Contact point for enquiries

[AHVLA Specialist Service Centre](#)