DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS (DAERA)

 EXPORT OF SHEEP & GOATS FOR SLAUGHTER DIRECT FROM THEIR PREMISES OF ORIGIN TO AN EU MEMBER STATE

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OWNERS/EXPORTERS

**1. KEY ACTIONS**

**1.1** Apply for export paperwork to your Authorised Private Veterinary Practitioner (aPVP) using **TRACES EXA APPLICATION FORM**

**1.2** Complete an **Owners declaration** **OD (PO) () (OV/CAP-INTRA-Y)** using the notes below for guidance.

Both documents are available from the DAERA website at [www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk) or your aPVP. They may also be obtained from the local DAERA Office on request.

**2. COMPLETION OF OWNERS DECLARATION OD (PO) (OV/CAP-INTRA-Y)**

 **MORTALITY RATES ON THE PREMISES OF ORIGIN**

 Refer to your flock records

**These records (fully completed and up to date) must be available for inspection by your Vet.**

**3. OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION OF SHEEP AND GOATS INTENDED FOR EXPORT**

 **Sheep** leaving any premises in Northern Ireland must be individually identified with two matching identifiers (usually tags), one of which must carry an EID device.  This identification meets the requirements for export to EU member states.  Identification must comply with the requirements of The Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement) Order (NI) 2009.

**Goats** born or first tagged after 31st Dec 2009 for export to EU Member States including the Republic of Ireland must be individually identified with 2 matching identifiers (usually tags) one of which must carry an EID device.  Goats born or first tagged before 31st Dec 2009 for export to EU Member States must be individually identified with 2 matching identifiers (usually tags) one of which may carry an EID device. Identification must comply with the requirements of The Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement) Order (NI) 2009.

**4. WELFARE**

Council Regulation 1/2005 lays down the provisions for the protection of animals during transport. The Regulation is enforced in Northern Ireland by the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Regulations (NI) 2006. Article 3 of the EU Regulation requires that animals must be fit for the intended journey before the journey starts *and must remain sufficiently fit throughout the journey* and that no person shall transport them in a way likely to cause injury or undue suffering. This means that animals should be healthy enough to tolerate the entire journey they are about to make (including loading, unloading and any journey breaks) with no or very little adverse effect on them and that the journey should not cause the animals any suffering or injury.

Animals not considered to be fit for transport include those that:

* + are unable to move independently without pain or to walk unassisted;
	+ present a severe open wound, or prolapse;
	+ are pregnant females for whom 90% or more of the expected gestation period has already passed, or females who have given birth in the previous week;
	+ are new-born mammals in which the navel has not completely healed;
	+ are lambs less than one week of age, unless they are transported less than 100 km.

The certifying aPVP will reject any animal where, in his or her professional judgement, there is doubt over its fitness on the intended journey.

**6. CANCELLATION OR CHANGES TO THE CONSIGNMENT DETAILS FOLLOWING CERTIFICATION**

If the consignment is

*  cancelled, or
*  its date/time of departure has changed significantly, or
*  a different vehicle is used, or
*  all the animals are not loaded,

The owner must notify the certifying Vet giving the relevant details so that a replacement TRACES NT message can be sent.