

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DARD)

EXPORT TO GREAT BRITAIN OF SHEEP & GOATS FOR SLAUGHTER FROM AN APPROVED EXPORT ASSEMBLY CENTRE

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF OWNERS/EXPORTERS

1. KEY DOCUMENTS

Sheep must move into the export assembly centre accompanied by a self written **SG2** if moving directly from a flock or a **market issued G Document** if coming from a market.

Flock-keepers are not permitted to use their SG2 declarations if the animals or the flock are under any restriction.

Please ensure animals at the time of export, are accompanied by fully completed documents:

- **Export Health Certificate GB –Sheep (SL) EHC** (completed by your Vet)
- **Movement licence(s) OVNLIC** (provided by your Vet)

The following key documents must be read and understood prior to export of sheep and goats to Great Britain

- **GB-SL-S/G-ONFG (EAC)** This document
- **GB 11 SL OD** Owner's/Exporter's declaration

2. SCOPE

These "Notes for Guidance" must be used for sheep and goats for **SLAUGHTER** exported to GB from an approved export assembly centre.

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 GB or EU member states. Identification must comply with the requirements of The Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement) Order (NI) 2009.

Goats for export to **GB** must be individually identified with 2 matching tags one of which **may** carry an EID device. For goats two conventional tags are acceptable for export to **Great Britain**.

Identification must comply with the requirements of The Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement) Order (NI) 2009.

4. EXPORTER'S DECLARATION

You must complete an Owner's/Exporter's Declaration **GB 11 SL OD** for the certifying Vet to cover the 30 day residency and transport arrangements for the animal(s). You will have to declare the following conditions with regard to the sheep or goats for export:

- (a) they have resided continuously in Northern Ireland for at least a period of 30 days immediately prior to export or since birth.

It is your responsibility as the exporter to assure yourself that the sheep have been resident in Northern Ireland for at least 30 days (or since birth) before signing the declaration.

(b) they will be loaded for transportation onto a vehicle which will be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected with an approved disinfectant prior to loading of the consignment.

N.B. a list of approved disinfectants is available from the DARD website www.dardni.gov.uk or from your local DARD Office

(c) they shall be kept separate from sheep/goats not similarly certified until their arrival at the point of destination in Great Britain.

5. **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 of less than one week unless they are transported less than 100 km.

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

6. **TRANSPORTER AUTHORISATION AND VEHICLE CERTIFICATION**

Articles 10 and 11 of Council Regulation 1/2005 require transporters of animals to be authorised, and Article 18 requires that the vehicle or trailer used to transport animals on long journeys has a certificate of approval.

For journeys over 65km (approx. 40 miles), transporters must:

- Hold a transporter authorisation.
- If transporting farmed animals, ensure drivers and attendants are in possession of a certificate of competence (from January 2008).
- Demonstrate they have appropriate staff and equipment to transport animals in a proper way and to have no record of serious infringements of animal welfare legislation in the preceding 3 years.
- Complete an Animal Transport Certificate for each journey.

For long journeys (over 8 hours) transporters must also:

- Be in possession of a long journey transporter authorisation.

- If the vehicle is used for transporting farmed animals and horses, get it inspected and approved.
- Ensure contingency plans in case of emergencies are in place.
- Ensure the Journey Log has been completed (for journeys of unregistered horses and livestock).

7. **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 exporter **must** notify the certifying Vet giving the relevant details so that a replacement TRACES message can be sent.

8. **EXPORT PROCEDURES**

The owner must make a booking with the ferry company and contact DARD Portal office (telephone 90752466 – Belfast Port and 28260021 – Larne) to advise of the intention to export. Portal will issue a Portal Reference Number and this must be inserted onto the application form (TRACES EXA NI) for your Vet. On arrival, the transporter presents consignment for export checks by DARD Portal Office staff. It is the transporter's responsibility to ensure that sufficient time is given for export checks to be completed, or sailings may be missed. Transporter is issued with DARD Portal office authorisation to board vessel.

There are no restrictions on the dispatch of animals from Northern Ireland to Great Britain in terms of:

- (a) single or multiple destination consignments. Each destination must be accompanied by a separate veterinary health certificate.
- (b) the point of dispatch i.e. farm, assembly centre. Multiple pickups in Northern Ireland from farm to farm are permitted.
- (c) number of batches of animals on the same vehicle.

NOTE: Animals of differing health status may not be carried on the same vehicle e.g. breeding and slaughter sheep.