

# DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DARD)

## INTRA-COMMUNITY TRADE IN SHEEP & GOATS FOR FATTENING FROM AN EU APPROVED ASSEMBLY CENTRE TO A MEMBER STATE

### NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OWNERS/EXPORTERS AND ASSEMBLY CENTRE OPERATORS

#### 1. KEY DOCUMENTS

The following documents must accompany the sheep into the approved export assembly centre:

- An Owner's Declaration **OD (AC) AVI (91/68 EII)**
- Veterinary Service support certificate (**VSSPT(1) (AC) AVI**)
- AVI support certificate (**AVI SPT (AC) AVI**)
- Self written movement declaration (**SG2**)

The Owner's declaration can be obtained from your Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI), local DARD Direct Office or the DARD Internet site ([www.dardni.gov.uk](http://www.dardni.gov.uk)). The Veterinary Service support certificate must be obtained from your local DVO and the AVI support certificate should be obtained from your AVI. (Please note: a minimum of 3 working days is needed in order to process the necessary paperwork.)

#### 2. COMPLETION OF OWNERS DECLARATION (OD (AC) AVI)

##### 2.1 RESIDENCY AND STANDSTILL

In order to complete paragraphs 5(a), 5(b) and 5(c)(i) (where on farm isolation facilities are not available) of the Owner's Declaration (**OD (AC) AVI**), flock keepers should refer to the following details recorded as part of their flock register/records:-

- Individual Identification number
- Date of Birth or age (if purchased)
- Dates of movement into flock
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**These records (fully completed and up to date) must be available for inspection by your Vet.**

For the purposes of Paragraph 5(c)(i) and (ii), bi-ungulate animals are two-toed hoofed mammals and include cattle, sheep, pigs and deer. Exporters should contact their veterinary surgeon in the event of any doubt in the classification of imported livestock.

##### 2.2 ON FARM ISOLATION

Paragraph 5(c)(ii) refers. With regard to movements of sheep and goats onto the holding and movements onto the holding of bi-ungulate animals imported from third countries, the animal(s) moved onto the holding must have been kept in a DARD approved export isolation facility away from the remaining animals on the holding.

##### 2.3 HEALTH STATUS

Paragraph 5(d) refers. The sheep/goats to be exported must not come from holdings

where the listed diseases have been clinically diagnosed within the specified time periods. If any of the sheep for export have come into contact with sheep or goats from holdings where disease has occurred within the specified time periods, those animals are disqualified from export but this does not disqualify any other sheep or goats on the same holding which comply with the requirement of Paragraph 5(d).

## **2.4 TRANSPORT**

Paragraph 5(e) refers. Suitable transport arrangements must have been made to ensure that the requirements of this paragraph are complied with. Council Directive 91/68/EEC requires that ovine and caprine animals shall not be outside their holding of origin for more than 6 days before final certification to the final destination in the Member State as indicated on the Intra Trade Animal Health Certificate.

### **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** born or first tagged after 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 **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;
- 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 AVI will reject any animal where, in his or her professional judgement, there is doubt over its fitness on the intended journey.

## **5. 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).

## **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 message can be sent.

## **7. SHEEP UNSUITABLE FOR CERTIFICATION**

Any sheep rejected by the AVI as unsuitable for certification should be moved out of the EAC flock to another Northern Ireland flock or to slaughter in Northern Ireland.

## **8. RETENTION OF SUPPORT CERTIFICATES BY ASSEMBLY CENTRE OPERATOR**

An original AVI support certificate (**AVI SPT (AC) AVI**) must accompany the animals into the Assembly Centre and should be made available to the Assembly Centre AVI before completion of the final export health certification.

Copies of the Owners Declaration, AVI support certificate and Veterinary Service support certificates must be retained by the Assembly Centre operator for at least 2 years. The AVI(s) at the Assembly Centre should also retain copies for their records.