

# DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DARD)

## INTRA-COMMUNITY TRADE IN SHEEP & GOATS FOR SLAUGHTER DIRECT FROM THEIR PREMISES OF ORIGIN TO A MEMBER STATE **(EXCLUDING THE ROI)**

### NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OWNERS/EXPORTERS

#### 1. **KEY ACTIONS**

**1.1** Apply for export paperwork to your Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) using **TRACES EXA APPLICATION FORM**

**1.2** Complete an **Owners Declaration OD (PO) (91/68 EI)** using the notes below for guidance.

Both documents are available from the DARD website at [www.dardni.gov.uk](http://www.dardni.gov.uk) or your AVI. They may also be obtained from the local DARD Office on request.

#### 2. **COMPLETION OF OWNERS DECLARATION OD (PO) (91/68 EI)**

##### 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 (PO) (91/68 EI)** 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

**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 **APPROVED ON-FARM EXPORT ISOLATION**

Paragraph **5(c)(ii)** refers. With regard to movements onto the holding of sheep, goats or bi-ungulate animals 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.

### 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 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.