DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS (DAERA)

EXPORT OF SHEEP & GOATS FOR SLAUGHTER FROM AN EU APPROVED ASSEMBLY CENTRE TO AN EU MEMBER STATE WHERE THE ANIMALS HAVE MOVED DIRECTLY TO THE ASSEMBLY CENTRE FROM A MARKET OR A PREMISES OF ORIGIN

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR ASSEMBLY CENTRE OPERATORS

1. Sheep/goats for slaughter moving direct from a market to an Assembly Centre for export for direct slaughter in the EU must, for entry into the Assembly Centre, be accompanied by a market issued **G document**. This document should carry the following wording – “the animals come from establishments where there were no abnormal mortalities with an undetermined cause”. Market operators should ask for this wording on incoming documentation from the premises of origin.
2. Sheep/goats for slaughter moving direct from a Premises of Origin to an Assembly Centre for export for direct slaughter in the EU must, for entry into the Assembly Centre, be accompanied by a self-written **SG2** declaration. When a keeper signs an SG2, he/she is specifically signing that neither his/her flock/herd nor any of the animals in the consignment is/are restricted for disease reasons. This document should also carry the following wording – “the animals come from establishments where there were no abnormal mortalities with an undetermined cause”.
3. Assembly Centre operators should record the identification details of animals entering and leaving the Assembly in their movement records.
4. The exporter should apply to the EAC aPVP for export paperwork on the **TRACES EXA** application form. This is available on the DAERA Internet or from your local DAERA Office.
5. The transporter of the consignment to its final destination needs to complete a Transporter Declaration EU SL TD (AC)**.** This is available on the DAERA Internet or from your local DAERA Office.
6. The final **ITAHC** will be issued by the aPVP at the Assembly Centre on the basis of support documents received.

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

1. **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.
2. **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.

**WELFARE**

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

1. **TRANSPORT FROM ASSEMBLY CENTRE**

Commission Regulation 2020/688 requires that ovine and caprine animals shall not be outside their holding of origin for more than 14 days before departure for the final destination in the Member State as indicated on the Intra Trade Animal Health Certificate. **APHIS will block moves out of the EAC after 14 days from initiation i.e. when the first animal moves in.**

The Assembly Centre operator must ensure that a declaration of transport EU SL TD (AC) is completed by the transporter responsible for the delivery of the animals to their final point of destination in the EU.

**11 RETENTION OF SUPPORT CERTIFICATES IN THE EAC**

All documents accompanying the animals into the Assembly Centre should be made available to the Assembly Centre Vet before completion of the final export health certification. Copies must be retained by the Assembly Centre operator for at least 3 years. The aPVP(s) at the Assembly Centre should also retain copies for their records.

**12 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.

**13 ANIMALS UNSUITABLE FOR CERTIFICATION**

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