

USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Strategy & Policy
PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF GOAT AND SHEEP SEMEN FROM NEW ZEALAND

Amended October 2019

This protocol describes the conditions required to import semen from domestic sheep (*Ovis spp.*) and goats (*Capra spp.*) according to regulations found in 9 CFR Part 98.

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1. The U.S. importer must obtain an import permit from:

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
Veterinary Services (VS)
Strategy & Policy (S&P)
4700 River Road, Unit 39
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231

Telephone: **(301) 851-3300, Option 2**
Fax: **(301) 734-4704**

Web Site: [APHIS Imports](#)

The application, **VS Form 17-129, "Application for Import or in Transit Permit,"** may be obtained by writing or telephoning S&P, or by downloading it from the APHIS web site: [Animal Health Permits](#)

- 1.2. An official health certificate is required. The official health certificate must be issued by a veterinarian designated by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), New Zealand, and must be endorsed by a MPI veterinarian attesting to the certifications and tests as required in this protocol. The health certificate must accompany the semen to the port of entry designated on the USDA import permit.
- 1.3. The semen must originate from a semen collection unit or premise that is under the general supervision of the MPI for the export of sheep or goat semen to the United States.

2. CERTIFICATION AND TESTING

- 2.1. New Zealand is free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), scrapie, contagious caprine pleuropneumonia, Akabane, bluetongue, Aino, epizootic hemorrhagic disease and *Brucella melitensis*.
- 2.2. No cases of disease caused by Schmallenberg virus have been detected or reported in New Zealand.
- 2.3. The donor animals were born, raised, and continuously resident in a country recognized by the USDA as free of FMD and Scrapie (List of countries is located in Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 94, Section 94.1).
- 2.4. The donor animals must be part of New Zealand's national herd for a minimum period of time. Paragraph 2.4.1 and 2.4.2 describe how the United States defines "part of the national herd" and for what time frame it must be part of the national herd:

USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Strategy & Policy

PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF GOAT AND SHEEP SEMEN FROM NEW ZEALAND

Amended October 2019

- 2.4.1. If the donor animals were imported from countries recognized by the USDA to be free of FMD, then these animals must have been free of any import quarantine restrictions and able to move freely within New Zealand's national herd for a minimum of 60 days prior to starting the qualifications necessary to begin collecting semen for export to the United States.
 - 2.4.2. If the donor animal was legally imported from a country not recognized by the USDA to be free of FMD, then the donor animals must have been free of any import quarantine restrictions and have been able to move freely within New Zealand's national herd for a minimum of 90 days prior to starting the qualifications necessary to begin collecting the germplasm for export.
 - 2.5. During the 60 days prior to the collection of semen for export to the United States, the donors were inspected by the veterinarian issuing the health certificate and found to be clinically free of contagious diseases.
 - 2.6. During the 60 days prior to the collection of semen for export to the United States, the donors were not corralled, pastured, or held with other animals that are under restrictions which would make them ineligible as donors of embryos or semen for export to the United States.
 - 2.7. During the 12 months prior to the collection of semen for export to the United States there has been no clinical or test evidence of tuberculosis found in the donor or the donors' herd of origin.
 - 2.8. **Addendum: embryos imported to New Zealand that will become donor rams/ bucks being collected for semen export to the United States:**
 - 2.8.1. The rams/ bucks must be at least 12 months of age to meet the conditions of this protocol to become donors, as stated in section 2.8.
 - 2.8.2. These donor rams/ bucks donor must meet tuberculosis testing requirements as defined in 2.9 of this import protocol.
 - 2.9. The donor is tested and found negative for tuberculosis using an intradermal test in not less than 30 days nor more than 120 days after semen is collected.
 - 2.10. There must be no clinical evidence of *B. abortus* or tuberculosis in the semen collection unit or on the premise where semen is collected on the date semen is collected.
- 3. THE HEALTH CERTIFICATE WILL INDICATE:**
- 3.1. The identification of the donors by breed and registry number.
 - 3.2. The dates on which semen was collected.

USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Strategy & Policy
PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF GOAT AND SHEEP SEMEN FROM NEW ZEALAND

Amended October 2019

- 3.3. The dates and methods of testing and results of the tests on the donors.
- 3.4. The name and address of the semen collection unit or premise where the semen was collected and processed for this shipment.
- 3.5. The name and address of the consignor and consignee.
- 3.6. The name and address of the laboratory conducting the tests.

4. PROCESSING CERTIFICATION

- 4.1. The veterinarian issuing the health certificate must supervise the collection and processing of the semen for shipment to the United States.
- 4.2. The semen must be packaged in ampules or straws permanently marked with the name, breed, and individual identification number of the donor and the date of collection.
- 4.3. The veterinarian issuing the health certificate must certify that the shipping tank is either new or it has been cleaned and disinfected under his supervision and only fresh liquid nitrogen has been used to charge the tank.
- 4.4. The veterinarian issuing the health certificate must certify that after processing, the ampules/straws were segregated in a storage area, at a storage facility designated by MPI and were maintained under his supervision until such time as they were placed in the shipping tank and sealed with Government of New Zealand seals. The seal numbers must be recorded on the health certificate.
- 4.5. The shipment must be routed direct to the United States with no stops en route other than those provided for on the USDA import permit.

5. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Importers are advised that individual states may have additional import regulations. It is the importer's responsibility to verify these conditions and to meet them. The importer should contact the U.S. State veterinarian ([State Regulations and Import Requirements](#)) of the destination state to determine the requirements.

5. ARRIVAL AND INSPECTION AT THE PORT OF ENTRY

- 5.1. The shipment must be routed directly to the United States from New Zealand with no stops en route other than those provided on the USDA import permit. This shipment may not transit a region considered by USDA APHIS to have foot and mouth disease (FMD) as noted on the USDA APHIS webpage: [Animal Health Status of a Region](#)

USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Strategy & Policy
PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF GOAT AND
SHEEP SEMEN FROM NEW ZEALAND

Amended October 2019

- 5.2. On arrival at the port of entry, the importer or the importer's agent must present the original health certificate and the original import permit for the semen to an APHIS inspector at the port.
- 5.3. The shipping container and all straws or ampules or straws containing semen must be made available for inspection at the port of entry and may not be removed until an APHIS inspector determines that the shipment meets import requirements and releases them.

6. SEMEN REFUSED ENTRY:

If any tanks of semen are determined to be ineligible for importation into the United States on arrival at the port of entry, the importer or agent must remove them from the United States within 30 days, or the semen will be destroyed.