



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

VETERINARY SERVICES DIVISION

IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR BREEDING SHEEP AND GOATS FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD

- 1.1. Pursuant to the Animals (Diseases and Importation) Law, this document is the import Health Standard (IHS), for the importation into Jamaica of live domestic sheep (*Ovis aries*) and/or goats (*Capra hircus*) from the United States of America.

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT AN IMPORT PERMIT.

- 1.2. Obtaining biosecurity clearance for each consignment of sheep and goats imported into Jamaica from the USA is dependent upon the consignment meeting the requirements of this Import Health Standard and as stated in a current version of an Import Permit issued for this purpose.
- 1.3. This import health standard may be reviewed, amended or revoked if there are changes in Jamaica's import policy or the animal health status of the originating country, or for any other lawful reason, at the discretion of the Chief Veterinary Officer/Director of Veterinary Services, Jamaica.
- 1.4. The Veterinary Authority of the USA is recognized as the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (**USDA-APHIS**).

2. PERMIT TO IMPORT

- 2.1. Importation into Jamaica from the USA of sheep and goats for breeding and rearing is authorized at the issuance of an *Import Permit* by the Director, Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Jamaica) for the animals specified in the import permit. To apply for an import permit please visit the Ministry's trade portal at moatrade.gov.jm.

3. ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1. Eligibility for importation under this import health standard is confined to domestic sheep (*Ovis aries*) and goats (*Capra hircus*)

The sheep and goat(s) must:

- 3.2. be sourced from holdings/farms, which have been approved by the Competent Authority (USDA-APHIS) for export.
- 3.3. have official identification/ an officially approved identification marker (e.g. ear tag, tattoo)
- 3.4. be in good health, physically sound and free from signs of contagious and infectious disease.
- 3.5. have met the health requirements stated in **Section 6**.

4. DOCUMENTATION TO ACCOMPANY CONSIGNMENT

Each consignment shall be accompanied by:

- 4.1. A VETERINARY IMPORT PERMIT issued by the Director, Veterinary Services Division (VSD), Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Jamaica) for the importation of sheep and goats into Jamaica from USA for that specified in the permit.
- 4.2. An appropriately completed approved *Official Health Certificate*, which meets the conditions of the import permit as is stated in ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION (Section 6), inclusive of Embarkation Statement indicating physical examination at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to export with the following information:
 - The name and address of the consignor.
 - The name and address of the consignee.
 - The number, species and permanent identification of the animals to be exported.
 - Statement that “Each sheep/goat appears to be in good health, physically sound and free from visible symptoms of infectious disease”

The Official Health Certificate must be issued by an official veterinarian of the **United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (USDA/APHIS-VS) OR** by an accredited veterinarian authorized by the USDA **and** endorsed by a USDA/APHIS-VS veterinarian.

(The VSD Import Permit number must be specified on the Health Certificate)

- 4.3. Copy of the test results. These test results must also be submitted to the VSD at least seven (7) days prior to shipment.
- 4.4. Documentation shall be in **English**, but may be bilingual (language of exporting country/English).

- 4.5. It is the **importer's** responsibility to ensure that any documentation presented in accordance with the requirements of this import health standard is **original** (unless otherwise specified) and clearly legible. Failure to do so may result in delays in obtaining biosecurity direction and/or clearance or rejection of consignments.

5. BIOSECURITY CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

- 5.1. Upon arrival in Kingston, Jamaica, which shall be the only port of entry into the island, the documentation accompanying the animals shall be inspected by an Inspector appointed under the law at the port of arrival.
- 5.2. Providing that the documentation meets all requirements noted below and the consignment meets the conditions of eligibility, every sheep and goat shall then be examined by the Inspector, who will order quarantine at the owner's expense.
- 5.3. Any sheep and goat imported into Jamaica in contravention of any condition of the import permit (of which these conditions form a part) will be seized and may be destroyed or re-exported at the owner's expense.

6. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION

6.1. COUNTRY STATUS

- The USA is free of Akabane disease, contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (*Mycoplasma mycoides*), East Coast fever, foot-and-mouth disease, goat pox, heart water, louping ill, (Ovine encephalomyelitis), Nairobi disease, peste des petits ruminants, Rift Valley fever, sheep pox, and trypanosomiasis (Nagana)
- The ban on the feeding of meat and bone meal or greaves to ruminants has been effectively enforced in the whole country for at least (7) years.

6.2. FLOCK OF ORIGIN

- 6.2.1. The sheep/goat(s) and the flocks/herds, from which they originate must be from premises, which fulfil the following requirements:
- At the time of consignment, **not** be the subject of any animal health restrictions applicable to sheep and goats;
 - **Not** be located in an area, which for animal health reasons is subject to restrictive measures in accordance with the legislation of

the exporting country as a result of the outbreak of a disease to, which ruminants are susceptible.

6.2.2. The sheep/goat(s) must originate from premises, where there has/have been no clinical signs, diagnosis or epidemiological evidence of the stated diseases for the prescribe period prior to export:

- Brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*, *B. mellitensis* or *B. ovis*) and scrapie - **seven (7) years**
- Bovine tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*) - **three (3) years**
- Rabies, paratuberculosis (Johne's disease), vibriosis, maedi visna, and Q-Fever - **one (1) year**
- Anthrax, leptospirosis, contagious agalactia - **six (6) months**

6.2.3. Vesicular stomatitis is notifiable in the state of birth and holding of each sheep/goat for export and there has been no reported cases,

EITHER:

- in the state, in the past - **twenty-one (21) days**

OR:

- on the premises, for at least the past - **two (2) years**

6.2.4. In regards to scrapie:

- **A.** The flock(s)/herd(s) of origin of the sheep/goat(s) for export have been enrolled in the **Scrapie Free Flock Certification Programme** for at least **twelve (12) months** prior to the date of export, and there have been no diagnosed cases of scrapie during the last **seven (7) years**.

OR

- **B.** The animals were born and raised in a compartment or farm free of Scrapie as defined in the corresponding Chapter of the OIE Terrestrial Code

OR

- **C.** Comply with the following requirements:
 - i. Were permanently identified to enable traceability to their establishment of origin;
 - ii. Were kept since birth in establishments, in which no case of scrapie has been confirmed during the past 7 years;

iii. Showed no clinical sign of scrapie at the time of inspection for export.

AND

- **D.** Are not offspring or siblings of ovines and caprines affected by Scrapie, and are genetically resistant to or rarely susceptible to scrapie in compliance with statement 6.3.1 below.
- **E.** Originate from an exporting country that adopts the measures recommended by the OIE Terrestrial Code to manage the animal health risks associated with the presence of the scrapie agent in sheep and goats.
- **F.** The disease is compulsorily notifiable in the exporting country.
- **G.** The flock(s)/herd(s) associated with the source herds have not been designated as a scrapie infected, scrapie exposed or suspicious herd.

6.3. INDIVIDUAL ANIMALS

6.3.1. The sheep/goat(s) must have been born in the USA or legally imported into the country and free from all quarantine restrictions since birth or for at least the twelve (12) month period immediately prior to their entry into isolation for export to Jamaica.

- The sheep/goat(s) must not be the progeny of related animals and free from hereditary diseases (e.g. entropion, cleft palate, parrot mouth, undershot jaw, cryptorchidism, hernias, abdominal impaction, spider lamb syndrome and prolapses (vaginal, rectal)).
- The sheep should be genetically resistant to or rarely susceptible to scrapie, i.e., with alleles **AA RR** or **AA QR**, where amino acid, alanine (A) is at codon 136 and glutamine (Q) at codon 171 (histamine (H) or lysine (K) at 171 is treated as a Q). Goats should be genetically resistant to scrapie, with **S146** or **K222** alleles.

6.3.2. The sheep/goats must not be vaccinated against the diseases listed in Section 6.1.

6.3.3. Each sheep/goat was treated with a broad spectrum preparation effective against gastrointestinal parasites and both adult and immature forms of *Fasicola hepatica* during the first **forty-eight (48) hours** of the pre- export quarantine; gave a zero parasite egg count to a fecal flotation concentration test carried out at least **seven (7) days** after the

anthelmintic treatment as stated above or re-treated according to the manufacturer's requirement;

6.3.4. Each sheep/goat must undergo pre-export quarantine in premises approved under the supervision of the USDA/APHIS, constructed in such a manner so as to protect from insect vectors such as *Culicoides* and prevent comingling with non-quarantined animals, for at least **twenty-one (21) days** immediately prior to the scheduled date of export, or **twenty-eight (28) days** if the state of origin has a common border with a state or country considered infected with vesicular stomatitis.

6.3.5. Within **seven (7) days** prior to export, the animals were examined and treated for ectoparasites using products registered in the United States of America for that purpose and according to the product's/manufacturer's specifications. (The product, concentration, dose and date of treatment must be recorded on the health certificate).

6.3.6. While in the pre-export quarantine, each sheep/goat should be subjected to the following tests with negative results (date of test should be indicated):

- Tuberculosis- intradermal Tuberculin test
- Bluetongue – c-ELISA,(positive c-ELISA must be negative by PCR)
- Brucellosis (*B. abortus*, *B. mellitensis* or *B. ovis*): BBAT or c-ELISA or FPA

- Leptospirosis –

EITHER:

- ELISA

OR:

- Treated with two (2) doses of a long acting oxytetracycline at a dose of 20 mg/kg bodyweight at ten (10) days interval or other appropriate preparation. The final treatment is to be given within seventy-two (72) hours prior to the scheduled export.

6.3.7. All diagnostic tests must be conducted at a laboratory approved by the veterinary authority of USA to conduct export testing, and laboratory result sheets attached.

6.3.8. Animals are to be vaccinations against the following, not less than fourteen (14) days prior to export.

- Haemorrhagic Septicaemia; *Clostridium septicum* and *Clostridium chauvoei*

7. OTHER INFORMATION

- 7.1. Prior to arranging shipment of the sheep/goats, at least one month notice must be given to the VSD in order for quarantine booking to be arranged.
- 7.2. Additionally, the actual date of embarkation and the Vessel or Airline/Flight number must be communicated to the Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Jamaica (Telephone: (876) 977-2489/92, fax (876) 977-0885, Email: vsdpermits@moa.gov.jm or vsd@moa.gov.jm) at the earliest opportunity, but at least three (3) working days prior to shipping.
- 7.3. The sheep/goats must be transported in accordance with the recommendations of the transport of live animals of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) and the International Air Transport Association (**IATA**) live animal regulations as appropriate.
- 7.4. The sheep/goat must be transported directly without contact with any ruminants not of equivalent certified health status, from the port of departure in the exporting country to the port of entry in Jamaica.
- 7.5. On arrival at the designated port in Jamaica, an official veterinarian shall examine each sheep/goat, which must be transported (by the importer under VSD supervision) to the National Quarantine Station, Plumb Point, Palisadoes and there remain isolated for a period of not less than fourteen (**14**) days.