



## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND MINING

### 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 (USA).

**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 (VSD), Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Mining (MoAFM), 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, VSD, MoAFM (Jamaica) for the animals specified in the import permit. To apply for an import permit please visit the Ministry's trade portal at <http://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 valid VETERINARY IMPORT PERMIT issued by the Director VSD, MoAFM (Jamaica) for the importation of sheep and goats into Jamaica from the USA for that specified in the permit.
- 4.2. An *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 VSD Import Permit number must be specified on the Health Certificate.

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.

- 4.3. A 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. 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 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 entry.
- 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/HERD 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 the flock/herd has/have had no clinical signs, diagnosis or epidemiological evidence of the stated diseases for the stated period prior to export and also that no sheep/goat from a flock/herd of inferior health status was introduced into these premises during that period.

- Brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*, *B. mellitensis* or *B. ovis*) and scrapie - **seven (7) years**
- Bovine tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*), caprine arthritis/encephalitis - **three (3) years**
- Rabies, paratuberculosis (Johne's disease), vibriosis, maedi visna, Q-Fever and caseous lymphadenitis (*Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*) - **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 have 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:

#### **EITHER**

- **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 sheep and goats were born and raised in a compartment or farm free of scrapie as defined in the corresponding Chapter of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Code);

**OR**

- **C.** The **goats** have complied 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. The sheep or goats** are not offspring or siblings of animals affected by Scrapie.
- **E. The sheep or goats** originate from an exporting country that adopts the measures recommended by the WOA 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 flocks/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 pre-export quarantine for shipment to Jamaica. All treatments administered must be stated with the product name/active ingredient, concentration, dose and date of treatment must be recorded on the health certificate.

- 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** must 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** are to be tested for genetic resistance 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 must undergo pre-export quarantine in a vector-protected facility approved and under the supervision of the USDA/APHIS. Protection from attacks from *Culicoides* must be in accordance with Article 8.3.13. of the WOAH Code and comingling prevented 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.
- 6.3.4. Fourteen (14) days prior to entering the pre-export quarantine the selected sheep/goats should be separated and treated a broad-spectrum anthelmintic preparation registered and approved for use in sheep/goat within the USA. Seven (7) days after the treatment the animals, a quantitative faecal flotation test (such as the Modified McMaster Faecal Egg Counting Procedure) should be conducted. Only animals with an egg count of less than 200 eggs per gram are eligible for entry in the pre-export quarantine facility.
- 6.3.5. Seven (7) days prior to or upon entry in the pre-export quarantine facility the selected sheep/goats should be treated for ectoparasites using products registered in the USA for all the stages of the agents' life cycles according to the manufacturer's specifications,
- 6.3.6. During the pre-export quarantine period the animals were examined and treated for ectoparasites using products registered in the USA for all the stages of the agents' life cycles according to the manufacturer's specifications, **within seven (7) days** of export.
- 6.3.7. During the pre-export quarantine period, each animal was treated with a broad-spectrum anthelmintic preparation registered and approved for use in sheep/goat within the USA. The anthelmintic or combinations thereof, should be effective against gastrointestinal parasites (nematodes, cestodes and trematodes, including both adult and immature forms of *Fasciola hepatica*). The treatment was given within seven (7) days of entering the pre-export quarantine facility. A quantitative faecal flotation test (such as the Modified McMaster Faecal Egg Counting Procedure) should be conducted at least seven (7) days after the anthelmintic treatment stated above. Faecal samples should be collected and tested from at least fifteen (15) animals or all the animals if the total number of animals is less than 15. These animals are representative of the herd/flock of origin, species, breed and age of the animals for export and are the same animals sampled in both rounds

of testing. An egg count of less than 200 eggs per gram or not detected is required for export.

6.3.8. 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 or RT-PCR, carried out at least 14 days after introduction into the vector-protected establishment;  
Animals with a positive c-ELISA may be retested by RT-PCR. Where there are positive results for the RT-PCR tests, ALL the sheep and/or goats that tested negative must be retested after three (3) days by RT-PCR or ten (10) days by c-ELISA. Where there are newly positive animals there may be indication of Culicoides activity and ALL the animals are rejected for the next 28 days subject to retest.
- **Brucellosis** (*B. abortus*, *B. mellitensis* or *B. ovis*): BBAT or c-ELISA or FPA
- **Caprine arthritis/encephalitis** (goats) & **maedi-visna** (sheep)– AGID or ELISA (for animals over one year of age)
- **Leptospirosis** -  
**EITHER**
  - Isolation and Identification or MAT**OR**
  - Treated with two (2) doses of a long acting oxytetracycline at a dosage of 20 mg/kg bodyweight ten (10) days apart or any other appropriate preparation approved for treating leptospirosis (preparation used and treatment protocol needs to be indicated). The final treatment is to be given within seventy-two (72) hours prior to the scheduled export.
- **Coccidiosis** -
  - Treatment with an appropriate preparation effective against both coccidia stages within forty-eight (48) hours of entering the pre-export quarantine facility and again within ten (10) days of export if pathogenic *Eimeria* spp. was detected.;
  - Detection of coccidian is by faecal flotation (saturated salt or sucrose solution) with speciation for the presence of pathogenic *Eimeria* spp. and appropriate treatment as above, if present.

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

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

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

#### 6.4. ANIMAL WELFARE

6.4.1. Within **forty eight (48) hours** of export, the sheep/goats must be inspected by an USDA veterinarian and found to be fit for travel, having no locomotory issues, signs of infectious and communicable diseases and tumors, fresh wounds, enlarged lymph nodes, abscesses or wounds in the process of healing as well as ectoparasites.

6.4.2. The sheep/goats must be transported in accordance with the recommendations of the transport of live animals by the WOA and the International Air Transport Association (**IATA**) live animal regulations as appropriate.

6.4.3. Does and ewes should not be exported over **one hundred (100) days** past last service by natural or artificial insemination.

#### 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. The actual date of embarkation and the Vessel or Airline/Flight number must be communicated to the Chief Veterinary Officer, MoAFM, Jamaica (Telephone: (876) 977-2489/92, fax (876) 977-0885, Email: [vsdpermits@moa.gov.jm](mailto:vsdpermits@moa.gov.jm) or [vsd@moa.gov.jm](mailto: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 directly without contact with any ruminants not of equivalent certified health status, from the pre-export quarantine facility to the port of departure in the exporting country and the port of entry in Jamaica.

7.4. 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.

7.5. Where there is an extension of the quarantine period this shall be either at the National Quarantine Station or at a location approved by the VSD as a Quarantine Depot. The period of extended quarantine will be stated by the Quarantine Office and the animals and location subject to the oversight of the VSD.