



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Amended EU regulations, effective from July 1<sup>st</sup> 2013, bring EU trade requirements more in line with World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). In order to demonstrate Scrapie freedom an increased surveillance period of seven years is now added and is required for some countries.

There will be 2 categories of status for SMS members.

1) **Negligible Risk** – this is equivalent to Scrapie free and is for flocks/herds showing compliance for 7 years. Movement of sheep and goats (and their embryos/semen) to the 4 member states( see below) with an approved control programme can only take place from holdings with this status. Some South American countries also stipulate animals of Negligible Risk status.

2) **Controlled Risk** – is freedom for at least 3 years and is intended for all the other member states that do not have an approved scrapie control programme in place. This is similar to the current situation. Controlled risk flocks may achieve Negligible risk status after being monitored for 7 years.

### Questions and Answers

#### **Q: Why have these changes been introduced?**

A: To align EU rules in this area with those recommended by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), mainly to enable Member States (MSs) which are considered Negligible Risk or have an approved National Scrapie Control Programme to protect their status by only allowing ovine/caprine animals of a similar health status.

#### **Q: When will these changes come into effect?**

A: These changes came into effect from 1 July 2013.

#### **Q: Is there a transitional period?**

A: Yes.

#### **Q: What is this transitional period?**

A: The transitional period only relates to how the holding of origin is classified in terms of the classical scrapie risk. Until 31 December 2014 evidence of Controlled and/or Negligible Risk can be provided by routes other than membership of a government approved scheme.

However, from 1 January 2015, it must be through such a scheme which, in the United Kingdom, is the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (SMS). The SMS is provided by SAC Consulting: [Premium Sheep and Goat Health Scheme \(PSGHS\)](#).. SAC Consulting is part of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC).

**Q: What needs to be done to obtain/retain Negligible Risk status?**

A: The criteria are broadly equivalent to those for a scrapie free establishment as recommended in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code – namely that of demonstration of freedom from classical scrapie for at least 7 years.

Movement of sheep and goats for breeding and fattening to Member States with an approved national control programme for classical scrapie (currently Austria, Denmark, Finland and Sweden) can only take place from holdings having such a status unless they are ARR/ARR genotypes (and provided the holding is not under any official classical scrapie related restrictions).

This is subject to the following:

- Certification verifying that the sheep is 'ARR/ARR prion protein genotype' and the certification issued by an approved laboratory which tested the sheep and, at the time of testing, undertaken either as part of the National Scrapie Plan (NSP) in Great Britain (now closed) or the Northern Ireland Scrapie Plan; or
- The testing was carried out by either AHVLA or SAC Consulting: Veterinary Services under the terms of their export approved schemes. Export approved genotyping can only be done by AHVLA or SAC Veterinary Services.
- The certifying Official Veterinarian (OV) must be satisfied that the individual sheep identification correlates with the laboratory information relating to the genotype result.

**Q: What needs to be done to obtain/retain Controlled Risk status?**

A: This reflects the status quo (demonstration of freedom from classical scrapie for at least three years).

**Q: Can you trade within the EU in sheep and goats and their semen/embryos if you are not in the SMS?**

A: Not from 1 January 2015 as, from then, you must be in the SMS if you wish to trade within the EU in sheep and goats and their semen/embryos. The only exception is ARR/ARR sheep (and their semen/embryos).

**Q: If a flock has complied with the requirements for the SMS, for say 5 or 6 years, (and so nearing "Negligible Risk" status) should they be only purchasing animals from a flock with the same or more years of compliance?**

A: Yes. For a flock/herd to achieve or retain Negligible Risk status, then all obtained/purchased animals must come from other SMS flocks/herds that have (1) Negligible Risk status, or (2) are of ARR/ARR genotype and not from flocks/herds subject to scrapie restrictions. If purchasing from a Controlled Risk flock/herd caution must be taken to ensure that the flock/herd has been monitored for at least the same number of years. If this does not happen progress to Negligible Risk status will be delayed.

**Q: If I am not a member of the SMS but now wish to join to trade within the EU in sheep and goats and their semen/embryos what do I need to do?**

A: It is advisable to join the SMS. Please contact [Premium Sheep and Goat Health Schemes \(PSGHS\)](#) if you are currently not a member of the SMS.

**Q: If you have a query over how these changes will be managed who should you contact?**

A: If you are a current member of the SMS or intend to join in the future please contact [Premium Sheep and Goat Health Schemes \(PSGHS\)](#) for any queries you have on how these changes will be managed for members of the SMS.

**Q: If you have any general queries on exports who should you contact?**

A: Please contact the [exports team](#) at AHVLA Carlisle if you have any general queries in relation to these changes.

**Q: How many fallen stock must I test?**

A: The new rules state ALL FALLEN STOCK. In effect these are animals, over 18 months of age, dying on the holding. It does not include animals that enter the food chain. There is a derogation for goat herds in that it does not apply to animals culled at the end of their working life.

**Q: Where do I send fallen stock?**

A: These should be delivered to your local SAC Consulting: Veterinary Services Centre or the local centre of APHA or approved NFSCo fallen stock collectors. For the latter you need to be a NFSCo member.

The onus is on you to get fallen stock tested – there will be a charge for this.

Submitting carcasses to knackeries( apart from those meeting above criteria), hunt kennels, etc. does not meet SMS rules.

**Q: Where can I see a current list of SMS members?**

A: Please look at [www.psghs.co.uk](http://www.psghs.co.uk). If your name is not on list please contact PSGHS on 01835822456. The list published will only include producers who have authorised PSGHS to publish their details. Defra and AHVLA are issued with updated list monthly.

**Q; Where can I see the rules and conditions of Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (SMS)**

A: [www.sheepandgoathealth.co.uk](http://www.sheepandgoathealth.co.uk)