



Ref: CTO 2016 077 [B]

Veterinary Certification for Sheep and Goat Semen from France

CTO direction as to equivalent measures in relation to sheep and goat semen from France according to the France's veterinary certificates.

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Howard Pharo, deputy chief technical officer at the Ministry for Primary Industries, give the following direction for sheep and goat semen from France in relation to the *Import Health Standard for Semen and Embryos from Sheep and Goats OVCAGERM.GEN* (10 November 2016).

1. Removal of the requirement that tests (other than scrapie genotyping) be documented or attached to the certificate -1.14(1b).

France is not required to provide evidence of test information (dates, type, and results). For bovine germplasm with the EU, this requirement was eliminated due to the confidence MPI has in the EU veterinary authorities. Instead of requiring this information with each consignment, MPI will request the ability to perform an audit in the future. The same equivalence was granted to the EU for sheep and goat semen and embryos.

2. Bluetongue vaccination option.

The option allows for vaccination with a live attenuated vaccine, as listed in *MPI-STD-TVTL*. The live attenuated vaccine produces protective immunity after a single inoculation and is effective in preventing clinical BT disease. The virus is only considered likely to enter semen and embryos when the animal is viraemic and therefore if the vaccine is administered at least 2 months before collection, the viraemic period would not align with the collection period. Since the overall risk is considered very low, vaccination given at least 2 months before collection and no more than one year before collection, in a country which monitors for circulating strains and vaccinates appropriately. Corsica region has been excluded because it does not monitor BTV strains appropriately.

MPI has deemed that vaccination as described above manages the risk with equivalent outcome as OVCAGERM.GEN.

3. An exclusion for the Jaagsiekte virus measure – 2.3(2).

The exclusion, where semen collection centres (SCCs) do not have to keep animals that are older than 5 years, is based upon the knowledge that transmission is from ewe to lamb (adults are less susceptible). Therefore, centres without ewes, or at least without pregnant ewes, are considered to present negligible risk and granting this equivalence therefore manages the risk with the same outcome.

4. The Jaagsiekte requirement for 5 years absence of clinical signs has been changed to 3 years - 2.3(2a).

In the case of sheep, only 3 years of clinical freedom must be accompanied by negative test results for *Brucella ovis*. *B. ovis* causes the type of testicular pathology that increases the likelihood of seminal shedding of the jaagsiekte virus and allows for a shorter period of clinical freedom.

In goats, the same type of testicular pathology does not result from *B. ovis*. *Trypanosoma congolense* is one organism that would cause similar pathology, but it is not present in Europe. Goat germplasm production in France has strict health controls (Capgenes), and for that reason lowering the requirement from 3 to 5 years manages the risk with the equivalent outcome.

I, Lucy Johnston, recommend that you accept that the proposed veterinary certificates for sheep and goat semen from France provide an equivalent level of risk management as the requirements of the IHS OVCAGERM.GEN.

I recommend that you issue the CTO direction 2016 077 [B], under section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act, that these measures, different to those set out in the IHS, may be applied to effectively manage the risks.

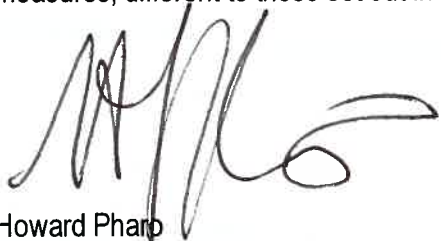


Lucy Johnston, Manager Animal Imports

Date: 23.12.16

I, Howard Pharo, accept that France's proposed veterinary certificates for sheep and goat semen provide measures that deliver an equivalent level of risk management as the requirements of the IHS OVCAGERM.GEN.

I agree to issue the CTO direction 2016 077 [B], under section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act, that these measures, different to those set out in the IHS, may be applied to effectively manage the risks.



Howard Pharo

Deputy Chief Technical Officer

Animal and Animal Products

Regulation & Assurance Branch

Ministry for Primary Industries

Date: 23/12/16