

Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) Import Policy for Small Ruminants and their Products

AHPD-DSAE-IE-2007-15-1

Introduction

The term “small ruminants” applies to sheep, goats and their exotic relatives (animals of the genus *Ovis* and *Capra*). Following preliminary consultation with small ruminant industry associations, the following conditions were prepared as a draft for use in a broader consultation process both with Canadians, via posting on the CFIA website, and with the international community (via a World Trade Organization [WTO] notification). Following receipt and evaluation of comments from all sources, these conditions were modified as below.

The conditions are meant to address all transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) known to affect small ruminants (of the genus *Ovis* and *Capra*). The conditions are divided into two broad categories, commodities prohibited from entering Canada and those which are eligible for importation into Canada.

1. Commodities prohibited from importation into Canada

Ruminant derived meat-and-bone meal or greaves, or any commodities containing such products, are specifically prohibited from importation into Canada unless a risk assessment has been undertaken and the country is classified, in accordance with the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) import policy, as Category 1 (negligible BSE-risk).

An exemption from this prohibition may be considered on a case-by-case basis if the materials used in the production of ruminant derived meat-and-bone meal or greaves, or any commodities containing such products, have undergone a treatment or process to eliminate the BSE-agent equivalent to that applied in Canada. Details of the treatment or process deemed to be equivalent together with supporting data and references as appropriate should be provided to the CFIA for approval.

2. Commodities allowed importation into Canada

For all animals and animal products imported into Canada there are general zoosanitary conditions, not specific to the TSEs, which are applied to animals (other than for immediate slaughter) or shipments. These include:

- Animals imported into Canada must bear official identification of the country of origin; and
- Animals imported into Canada must be certified to be free from signs of clinical disease.

Similarly all donors of germplasm imported into Canada are subject to general zoosanitary conditions not specific to the TSEs, which must be certified for all shipments of embryos and semen. These include that the donor animal must have been free from signs of clinical disease when collected and that the germplasm was collected and processed in accordance with IETS standards.

Animals imported into Canada for temporary stay (generally for exhibitions) must be re-exported within a set period of time after the exhibition and are not permitted direct contact with other animals for reproductive purposes while in Canada.

Animals (of the genus *Ovis* and *Capra*) for immediate slaughter must:

- be imported under an import permit;
- be less than 12 months of age;
- bear individual identification traceable to country / flock of origin;
- be licensed to a federally inspected abattoir in Canada in a sealed conveyance.

Animals (of the genus *Ovis* and *Capra*) for feeding for slaughter must:

- be imported under an import permit;
- bear individual identification traceable to country / flock of origin; and
- be slaughtered by 12 months of age; confirmation of slaughter must be submitted to CFIA within one week of the date of slaughter.

Live animals (of the genus *Ovis* and *Capra*) imported for breeding purposes :

Males

- must be imported under an import permit; and
- must bear individual official identification traceable to country / flock of origin

Females

- must be imported under an import permit;
- must bear individual official identification traceable to country / flock of origin;

AND

- must qualify under option A, B or C listed below.

Option A:

- imported with certification that they originate from a country recognized by the CFIA as negligible risk for TSEs in small ruminants (of the genus *Ovis* and *Capra*).

Option B:

- imported with certification that they originate from an establishment of negligible risk for TSEs in small ruminants (of the genus *Ovis* and *Capra*).

An establishment may be considered eligible for recognition as negligible risk for TSE if:

- 1) In the country or zone where the establishment is situated, the following conditions are fulfilled:
 - the disease is compulsorily notifiable;
 - affected sheep and goats are slaughtered and completely destroyed;
 - the feeding to sheep and goats of meat-and-bone meal or greaves potentially contaminated with an animal TSE has been banned and effectively enforced in the whole country;
 - national standards for recognition of scrapie-free establishments have been developed or endorsed by the National Veterinary authority.
- 2) In the establishment, the following conditions have been complied with for at least 5 years:
 - sheep and goats must be permanently individually identified and records maintained, to enable trace-back to their establishment of birth;

- records of movement of sheep and goats, in and out of the establishment, are created and maintained;
- introductions of females and embryos are allowed only from establishments of an equal or higher stage in the process of accreditation/recognition;
- sheep and goats of the establishment must have no direct or indirect contact with sheep or goats from establishments of a lower status;
- an Official Veterinarian (as defined by the World Organisation for Animal Health [OIE]) inspects sheep and goats in the establishment and audits the records at least once a year;
- all animals over 18 months of age that have died or have been killed for reasons other than routine slaughter on the establishment itself must be tested (including 'fallen' stock and emergency slaughter).

Option C:

An additional option for females of the genus *Ovis* and *Capra* permits the importation from an establishment enrolled in a scrapie certification program in another country to an establishment enrolled in a scrapie certification program in Canada.

Establishments in Canada that are actively participating in a scrapie flock certification program may import breeding females of the genus *Ovis* and *Capra* from flocks/herds which have complied with the conditions listed in option B for less than 5 years by importing animals from flocks/herds that are of equivalent or higher status in an equivalent scrapie flock certification program in the exporting country. Equivalence of a country's scrapie flock certification program with Canada's will be determined by the CFIA.

Live females (of the genus *Ovis* and *Capra*) for temporary stay in Canada

Sexually intact female animals that could not meet the import requirements for breeding animals must be certified by ultrasound examination not to be pregnant.

Live animals (of the genus *Ovis* and *Capra*) for Transshipment

Live animals (of the genus *Ovis* and *Capra*) require an import permit for transshipment across Canada. No standard conditions specific to TSE will be placed on the permit unless the animals were known to be infected with a TSE (e.g. research animals). Generalized zoosanitary import conditions require that transshipment occurs via a sealed conveyance, however, if for humane reasons the conveyances must be opened and the animals unloaded, conditions will be placed on the import permit to address the risks of the individual scenario on a case-by-case basis.

Embryos (of the genus *Ovis* and *Capra*)

Embryos would have to be collected from female donors meeting import requirements for breeding animals and be collected in accordance with IETS standards.

Semen (of the genus *Ovis* and *Capra*)

No conditions specific to TSEs will be added to the import permit.

Meat

Meat from animals of the genus *Ovis* or *Capra* would be subject to the following zoosanitary conditions pertaining to TSEs:

- Meat from animals of the genus *Ovis* and *Capra* of any age could be imported from countries recognized by the CFIA as negligible risk for TSEs with certification of origin.

From countries recognized by the CFIA as controlled risk for TSEs, meat must not have been harvested

from an animal which tested positive* for a TSE, and it must have been harvested from an animal under 12 months of age.

*An animal which has been sampled for a TSE test and for which the test result is not known, is not eligible for export to Canada (as the test result could be positive).

Other animal products

Importation will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

November 14, 2007