



Scrapie Monitoring Scheme - Exports Guidance

The Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (SMS) is an export certification scheme run by the Scotland's Rural College (SRUC). This includes the new temporary qualifying status within SMS to support movements from GB to Northern Ireland.

Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) administers an SMS in GB as part of the SRUCs Premium Sheep and Goat Health Schemes. The scheme is called the SRUC Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (SRUC SMS).

To facilitate the continued movement of breeding sheep and goats from Great Britain to Northern Ireland a new temporary Scrapie Qualifying Status (SQS) has been created within the pre-existing Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (SMS). Further information on SRUC SQS can be found on SRUC website: [scrapie-monitoring-scheme-qualifying-notes.pdf \(sruc.ac.uk\)](https://www.sruc.ac.uk/scrapie-monitoring-scheme-qualifying-notes.pdf)

For the purpose of this guidance, reference to SMS refers to SQS, unless specified separately in relation to segregation requirements and approval of sales and shows. SMS Negligible and Controlled Risk animals are Scrapie Monitored (SM). SQ status animals are members of the SMS but are non-Monitored.

One Health Customer Service Centre (CSC) will be informed of positive scrapie results arising from SMS fallen stock enquiry, but not of the negative results required for the SMS. Any enquiries should be referred to the SRUC website www.sheepandgoathealth.co.uk and directly to [Scrapie monitoring for export | SRUC](#)

Responsibility within the SMS

APHA Centre for International Trade Carlisle (CITC)/The Veterinary Head of Field Delivery (VHoFD), Veterinary Lead Scotland (VLS)/Veterinary Lead Wales (VLW) are responsible for referring prospective members to the SRUC.

APHA are responsible for approving events such as shows and sales and arranging spot checks of approved premises

Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) will be responsible for all new memberships and renewals of membership and liaising with Defra on matters relating to membership of the scheme

CITC will continue to retain overall responsibility for export certification and will conduct risk-based checks of Official Veterinarian (OV) certification for exports.

Testing Fallen Stock

The SMS requirements include the testing of fallen stock. Owners must ensure any animal which is sent for slaughter or dies is submitted for scrapie testing. The animal must meet all the following conditions:

- it was part of the monitored flock or herd at the time of its death
- it was over 18 months of age when it died
- it was not slaughtered as part of an official disease eradication campaign
- it was not slaughtered solely for reasons of physical injury (e.g. a broken leg)
- it was not slaughtered for the purpose of human consumption
- head of the animal must be submitted for testing (or the whole animal)
- all fallen stock aged over 18 months at the time of death **must** be tested.

Testing procedure:

- samples sent from fallen stock must be sent to APHA (by submitting the carcasses to APHA Laboratories in England and Wales), to Veterinary Laboratories of SRUC in Scotland or to agreed fallen stock collection centres.
- samples for testing will be forwarded to a SRUC appointed testing lab by APHA, SRUC or the fallen stock collector.

Withdrawal from SMS or loss or change of Status

1. Loss of status:

The flock/herd owner can lose SMS monitored/qualifying status if:

- Classical scrapie is confirmed in the flock or herd or on the holding or part of a holding where the flock or herd is kept.
- Classical scrapie is confirmed by APHA in an animal which left the flock or herd within the last three years (for a controlled risk flock or herd) or seven years (for a negligible risk flock or herd)
- they do not comply with rules and requirements including avoiding contact with animals of a lower scrapie status (see rules for details)
- TSE testing is not carried as required
- owner request their flock or herd is withdrawn from the SMS. The owner must also surrender their current certificate of SMS membership.

Regaining SMS status:

- herd/flock owners can be re-admitted to the SMS at the discretion of the SRUC (and APHA)
- the herd/flock must have complied with the rules of the scheme for the last three years (noting the temporary exception for Qualifying status for flocks/herds that joined before 1 January 2022)
- all aspects of the health and management of the flock or herd will have to be of a standard
- acceptable to SRUC and as necessary to APHA.

SMS Controlled and Negligible Risk status:

- SMS controlled risk status is achieved when the flock or herd and holding have complied with the rules of the scheme for the last three years
- SMS negligible risk status is achieved when the flock or herd and holding have complied with the rules of the scheme for the last seven years
- if animals from an SMS controlled risk status flock or herd are added to a flock or herd with negligible status the status of the negligible risk status flock will become controlled risk
- controlled risk flocks or herds can only buy from flocks or herds with the same (or higher) years status e.g. if a flock or herd has been scrapie monitoring for five years they cannot buy from flocks or herds with less than five years status without dropping to the lower status

Penalties:

- if the herd/ flock owner breaches or fails to comply with these rules, the flock or herd may be suspended or removed from the SMS
- if SRUC propose to suspend or remove a flock or herd from the SMS, SRUC will inform the owner of their decision in writing and provide an opportunity to make any objections within 14 days

- non-compliance of the rules or a confirmation of scrapie will result in loss of monitored status under the SMS and your SMS monitoring certificate may be cancelled or withdrawn.

Shows and Sales

SMS members (including those with Qualifying status) must comply with the SRUC guidelines. This will allow sheep and goats from Scrapie Monitored or Qualifying premises to be safeguarded and maintain their status. This allows their premises to continue to qualify for export and/or movement to Northern Ireland despite attendance of animals at shows or sales.

APHA are responsible for approving free movement of scrapie monitored/qualifying animals between shows and sales and the flock or herd of origin.

ARR/ARR Exemption

The conditions described below imposed upon SMS animals attending shows/sales do not apply to sheep with an approved certificate verifying that the sheep has/have the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype in accordance with Rule 5.

APHA will:

- ensure movements to/from unsegregated shows/sales only take place when the show or sale is held in the 'window' from 1 May to 31 August
- inform the SMS owner it is not acceptable for monitored/qualifying sheep or goats to attend an unsegregated show or sale with, the following exemptions:
 - animals from SMS flocks can attend unsegregated shows/sales during the annual window (1 May to 31 August). During this period most animals will not be pregnant and the risk of spread of classical scrapie infection is low
 - male SMS animals can attend unsegregated all-male shows/sales at any time of year

In either situation, the following must apply:

- animals of different scrapie status (non-SMS, Qualifying, Controlled Risk and Negligible Risk) must be transported separately from one another at all times
- animals of different scrapie status (non-SMS, Qualifying, Controlled Risk and Negligible Risk) must not be kept in the same pen/paddock or allowed nose-to-nose contact between one another

Dedicated and Segregated Shows/Sales

APHA may approve the following types of shows/sales where SMS animals are segregated from non-SMS animals:

- dedicated shows/sales where only animals from SMS holdings can attend
- segregated shows/sale where SMS and non-SMS animals are kept separate

Dedicated and Segregated shows and sales need to be specifically approved by APHA to ensure the health status of SMS animals is not compromised.

Please note Assembly Centres have additional requirements to these (e.g. only on paved areas).

When approving the shows or sales for Scrapie Purposes, the APHA Veterinarian will ensure the show or sale is segregated to approved standards.

Export animals to Northern Ireland or EU Member State

1. If animals are to be directly exported from a show/sale to an EU Member State or Northern Ireland, the premises must be approved as an assembly centre. The biosecurity requirements for approved assembly centres must be complied with to ensure the health status of the export eligible animals are maintained. For further information on the general biosecurity requirements of assembly centres, please contact APHA CITC.

2. Organisers of the show/sale must apply to CITC a minimum of six weeks before the event takes place for the premises to be inspected, approved and registered.

Segregation Requirements at Approved Shows and Sales

With the introduction of the scrapie qualifying status under the SMS, there are now four distinct scrapie health status animals that could be present at approved sales and shows:

- animals from SMS Negligible risk premises
- animals from SMS Controlled risk premise
- animals from SMS Qualifying status premises (SQ)
- animals not from Scrapie Monitored or Qualifying premises

Animals of the first three statuses are members of the SMS. Negligible and Controlled Risk animals are Scrapie Monitored (SM). SQ animals are members of the SMS but are non-monitored.

Requirements for Dedicated and Segregated shows/sales

The risk of exposure to the scrapie agent at a dedicated or segregated show is considered to be very low.

The APHA Veterinarian will carry out checks and ensure:

- ideally, the whole area used by SMS animals will be paved. For use by Monitored animals, unpaved areas must not have been used by non-Monitored animals in the previous 27 days and not used for lambing or kidding of non-Monitored animals for a period of 3 years (for areas used by Controlled Risk animals) or 7 years (for areas used by Negligible Risk animals). For use by SQ animals, unpaved areas must not have been used by non-SMS animals in the previous 27 days and not used for lambing or kidding of non-SMS animals since 31 December 2021
- paved areas which have been used in the previous 27 days (or for lambing/kidding within the periods outlines above must be adequately cleansed and disinfected (with a Defra approved disinfectant at the 'General Orders' dilution) before being used by SMS animals
- accommodation for the Monitored animals must be separated from that of non-Monitored animals by a solid division or a fixed two-metre stock-free zone (which may contain other species such as cattle or pigs)
- accommodation for the SQ animals must be separated from that of non-SQ animals by a solid division or a fixed two-metre stock-free zone (which may contain other species such as cattle or pigs)
- drainage must not flow from an area of lower scrapie status to an area of higher scrapie status
- animals of different Scrapie status (non-SMS, Qualifying, Controlled Risk and Negligible Risk) must be transported separately at all times
- vehicles be adequately cleansed and disinfected (with a Defra approved disinfectant at the 'General Orders' dilution) before carrying animals of a higher scrapie status than the previously transported animals
- animals of different scrapie status (non-SMS, Qualifying, Controlled Risk and Negligible Risk) must generally be managed separately
- there must be separate loading and unloading areas provided for monitored animals, SQ animals and non-SMS animals
- there must be separate rings and entrance walkways for the exhibition/judging/sale of Monitored, SQ and non-SMS sheep and goats. Alternatively, the Monitored animals must be handled through the ring before any non-Monitored sheep or goats, and SQ animals before any non-SMS animals
- monitored, SQ and non-SMS animals must not come into close contact (2m distance) with non-Monitored sheep or goats when being moved from the segregated accommodation to and from the ring, and SQ animals must not come into close contact (2m distance) with non-SMS sheep or goats when being moved from the segregated accommodation to and from the ring

- animals of different scrapie status (non-SMS, Qualifying, Controlled Risk and Negligible Risk) must not come into nose-to-nose contact with animals of a lower scrapie status at any time
- if lambings, kiddings or abortions occur, the scrapie status of animals at the show and their premises of origin (if they return) is not jeopardised
- the approved accommodation for the animals from monitored premises is separated from that of animals not on the register by a solid division or a fixed two metre stock free zone (which may contain other species such as cattle or pigs)
- try to limit the effect of such lambings, kiddings or abortions, the Show Secretary must report them immediately to the local APHA office to allow a visit to the showground by APHA who will then conduct an inquiry and more easily identify those animals put at risk

An APHA Veterinarian will carry out spot checks on shows or sales to check the above procedures are being followed (a level of one shows or sales per local area per year is suggested).

Exporting of animals directly from a show or sale:

- for the direct export of sheep or goats from the market, show or sale to another Member State, the premises must be an Assembly Centre. Assembly Centres have additional requirements to the requirements for dedicated and segregated at shows/sales (e.g. Assembly Centres are only permitted on paved areas)
- inform organisers they will be required to apply to the local APHA office and request the event will be inspected, approved and registered a minimum of six weeks before the event

Animals attending non-approved shows and sales outside the window:

- if sheep or goats from monitored and qualifying premises are moved to a non-approved show or sale outside the 'window' (i.e. between 1 September and 30 April) and return to the premises of origin, the status of those premises will be affected and no sheep or goat from the premises can be exported to a Member State (for breeding) for a three year period (other than the all-male or ARR/ARR exceptions noted above).

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.