

Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (GB)

Qualifying Status – Notes for guidance

- Qualifying status is a new, temporary status within the SMS. Animals from Qualifying status flocks are not Scrapie Monitored as defined in the SMS rules but may be exported to Northern Ireland under a limited derogation to standard EU trade regulations.
- Flocks applying to join the SMS **before the 1st of January 2022** may apply for Qualifying status. They must undertake to comply with SMS rules for the next three years.
- After the three-year period, flocks that have continued to comply with the scheme rules may progress to standard SMS Monitored (Controlled Risk) status.
- Flocks that join the SMS after this window do not have Qualifying status. During the initial three-year monitoring period they have only standard applicant status and such animals cannot join or mix with Qualifying status flocks without the latter losing this status.

- Qualifying status flocks can admit animals from Qualifying, Controlled Risk or Negligible Risk status flocks, or animals of certified ARR/ARR genotype.
- Animals from Qualifying status flocks are allowed nose-to-nose contact at temporary locations with animals of Qualifying status, or animals of certified ARR/ARR genotype.
- If they have nose-to-nose contact with animals of Controlled or Negligible risk status, they retain their Qualifying status but the in-contact animals also drop to Qualifying status.

- **Temporary locations** - Qualifying status animals (other than ARR/ARR certified sheep) can only move to the following locations without losing their status:
 - a Scrapie Qualifying or Monitored holding (the Monitored holding would drop to Qualifying status)
 - a holding which has had no non-Qualifying/Monitored animals present since the start of the Qualifying period (any Monitored animals would drop to Qualifying status). See the Temporary Location form linked to from the web page.
 - a show, sale or AI centre which complies Defra requirements (details to follow)
 - a qualified UK veterinary surgeon's business premises

*For queries about SMS Qualifying status, please contact the
SRUC Health Schemes team on psqhs@sruc.ac.uk*

- On 01/01/2023 and 01/01/2024 Qualifying flocks become due to submit an annual inspection form for the previous calendar year signed by both OV and owner declaring OV inspection, TSE testing and adherence to biosecurity and other rules, plus a list of added animals with proof of status of holdings of origin or compliant genotype certificates of ARR/ARR status. They are given two months to do this i.e. status lapses on 1st March.
- After 01/01/25 Qualifying status flocks that have complied with the process to that point may submit a Registration form for standard Scrapie Monitored Controlled Risk status. Qualifying status no longer exists after 01/03/2025.
- If the owner/keeper has already started following all the SMS rules but the flock has not yet been monitoring for three years, and wishes to export live animals to Northern Ireland under the temporary derogation, they must apply for Qualifying Status before 1st January 2022 as above.
 - If no Qualifying status animals are added to the flock, and no animals return to the flock after contact with Qualifying status animals then the flock can register for SMS Controlled status when they have been monitoring for three years.
 - However, if Qualifying status animals are added to the flock, or animals return to the flock after contact with Qualifying status animals then the three-year monitoring period starts from scratch in line with the standard timetable for Qualifying flocks (see above).

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