



# Rules & Conditions

For Premium Sheep and Goat Health Schemes

## SCRAPIE MONITORING SCHEME

**Operated by SAC Consulting** SAC Consulting is a division of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC).

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# Glossary

The following words and phrases have the following meanings when used in these Rules and Conditions;

“**Animal**” means sheep or goat;

“**AHVLA**” means the Animal Health Veterinary Laboratory Agency

“**Annex VIII**” means Annex VIII, Chapter A, 1 (a) (ii) of Regulation EC 999/2001 as amended;

“**Application Date**” means the date on which you apply to join the SMS;

“**Controlled Risk**” shows compliance with the rules and conditions of the SMS for a minimum of 3 years;

“**DEFRA**” means the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs or any successor body;

“**EU Regulations**” means European Regulation (EC) No.999/2001 of the European Parliament and the Council or any other European Regulations or Directives applicable to Flocks or Animals which may be in force from time to time;

“**Holding**” means any place in which Animals are held, kept, bred, handled or shown to the public;

“**Monitored**” means any Flock/Herd or Animal which is monitored in accordance with the Rules of the SMS and issued with an SMS Monitoring Certificate pursuant to Rule 1.3( or – until 31 December 2014 - a certificate of compliance issued by an OV confirming equivalence with controlled or negligible risk status - for the purposes of intra-Union trade);

“**Negligible Risk**” shows compliance with the rules and conditions of the SMS for a minimum of 7 years;

“**Non-monitored**” means any Flock/Herd or Animal which is not ‘monitored’, as defined.

“**Northern Ireland scrapie monitored flocks scheme**” means the scrapie monitoring scheme for demonstrating compliance with the EU Regulation as operated in Northern Ireland;

“**OV**” means Official Veterinarian appointed by AHVLA;

“**Rules**” means these rules and conditions relating to the SMS;

“**SAC**” means SAC Consulting Veterinary Services, a division of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC);

“**Scrapie**” means classical scrapie only;

“**SMS**” means the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme;

“**SMS Monitoring Certificate**” means a Certificate issued in respect of an Animal confirming that it is part of a Monitored Flock in accordance with the Rules of the SMS;

“**you**” means an owner of Animals or any agent or other person employed by that owner.

## INTRODUCTION

*This section does not form part of the Rules and is provided for background purposes only.*

## Background

### What is 'scrapie'?

Classical and Atypical Scrapie are Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies, of the same family of diseases as Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in cattle and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in deer. They are infectious wasting diseases which affect the nervous system of sheep and goats but are not known to affect humans

The conditions for intra-Union trade in live animals, semen and embryos laid down in Annex VIII of the EU Regulation applies to flocks and herds which have a negligible or controlled risk of **Classical Scrapie**.

- **Test:** At present there is no practical test which allows confirmation of diagnosis in the individual live Animal.
- **Cure:** At present, there is no vaccine, no cure and the disease is always fatal.

### Purpose of the scheme

- If you wish to move sheep, goats, semen or embryos for breeding, other than sheep, semen and embryos of ARR/ARR genotype, to other EU Member States (or export to most countries outside the EU which require 'establishments' to be scrapie free in accordance with the recommendations of the OIE Code), you must join the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (SMS). The SMS enables you to demonstrate that the animals originate from Holdings that have been monitored, for at least 3 years for Controlled Risk or at least 7 years for Negligible Risk, for Classical Scrapie in accordance with Annex VIII of the EU Regulation (the OIE recommendations for a scrapie free establishment are similar to the EU requirements for negligible risk status, the main difference being that resistance conferred by genotype is not taken into consideration by the OIE).
- When exporting sheep or goats you will also need to comply with other animal health certification requirements; details are available from AHVLA.
- If you want to participate in SMS, you must have your Flock or Herd monitored under the conditions laid down by these Rules for a minimum of 3 years for Controlled Risk or a minimum of 7 years for Negligible Risk status to be conferred.

### Who governs the scheme

The SMS and allied process is operated as follows:

- **Statutory responsibility:** DEFRA in conjunction with the *Scottish Government* and the *Welsh Government* have overall responsibility for export certification in Great Britain.
- **Organisation & supervision:** As part of its Premium Sheep & Goat Health Schemes, SAC Consulting Veterinary Services (a *division of SRUC*) is appointed to organise and supervise the SMS.
- **Administration of Export certification:** AHVLA administer export certification.

- **Inspections and certification of compliance with the Rules:** Practising Veterinary Surgeons who are also OVs appointed by AHVLA to an export certification and notifiable disease panel carry out Flock inspections and checks on compliance with the Rules.
- **Testing:** TSE testing must be carried out by the AHVLA (or by a laboratory subcontracted to AHVLA – currently LGC). Checks on this testing are carried out by OVs.
- **Sampling:** Samples of brain stem for TSE testing may be collected from fallen stock carcasses submitted to AHVLA Regional Laboratories in England and Wales or to Veterinary Laboratories of SAC in Scotland.

 THE RULES

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# 1 Membership and certification

## 1.1 Eligibility to join

Your Flock or Herd can join SMS provided that:

- the Flock or Herd is situated in Great Britain;
- your Flock or Herd meets the SMS requirements detailed at Rule 7.1; and
- you strictly adhere to the Rules of the SMS. Failure to do so will result in penalties as detailed in Rule 6.4.

## 1.2 Application process

- In order to join SMS, the official application form is available on request from SAC at its PSGHS Office, Drummondhill, Stratherrick Road, Inverness, IV2 4JZ, and must be completed by you and an Official Veterinarian (OV) and returned to that office. The form can also be downloaded from [www.sheepandgoathealth.co.uk](http://www.sheepandgoathealth.co.uk)
- New members have applicant status until the full requirements under SMS are met;
- If, during the 3 years following the Application Date, you want to move your Flock or Herd on to another Holding on which Animals have been present during the previous three years (prior to moving your flock or herd onto that holding), the Official Veterinarian (OV) must also check and examine the Flock or Herd movement records and (if appropriate) the SMS Monitoring Certificate(s) for that Holding. The Holding needs to either have the same status as the one on which the Flock or Herd is held at present or the Holding must be fully compliant with the requirements of Annex VIII of EC either by current full membership of the SMS or other means (see the definition of "Monitored" in the glossary).
- If, during the 3 years following the Application Date, you want to move your Flock or Herd on to another Holding on which Animals have **not** been present during the previous three years (prior to moving your flock or herd onto that holding), an OV will check and examine any Animal movement records for that Holding.

## 1.3 Certification

- Only Flocks and Herds with valid SMS Monitoring Certificates are deemed Monitored in accordance with the Rules (see also the definition of 'Monitored' in the glossary);
- SAC Consulting Veterinary Services have overall responsibility for issuing SMS Monitoring Certificates;
- Certificates will state the breed/s.
- Certificates will state if the holding has Controlled Risk or Negligible Risk Status.
- Controlled Risk shows compliance for a minimum of 3 years and Negligible Risk is Compliance for a minimum of 7 years.
- Each SMS Monitoring Certificate is valid for ONE YEAR from its date of issue. Existing members will be sent renewal forms to renew their membership certificates 6 weeks before expiry. If you do not receive your form as indicated, you should contact the SAC PSGHS office who will issue the form to you;

- The OV will check that your Flock/Herd and Holding comply with SMS rules (see also the checklist for OVs in Annex 2);
- The SMS Monitoring application / renewal form ( see Annex 3 ) must be signed and stamped by an OV and contain a declaration signed by you to be valid;
- You must return the completed application form and checklist to SAC PSGHS office.
- A certificate of Scrapie monitoring will be issued by SAC once the correctly completed application / renewal form has been received at SAC.

#### **1.4 Reporting suspected infection**

- If any of your Animals are showing clinical signs or behavioural changes consistent with Classical or Atypical Scrapie and if you or the OV suspect that an Animal is affected with Classical or Atypical Scrapie this must be reported to the local AHVLA office. This is a legal requirement. If you have not already done so you must also immediately inform the OV. You must also inform AHVLA that the suspect animal is from an SMS Flock.
- If tests carried out on the suspect Animal confirm the presence of Classical Scrapie, AHVLA will notify the OV to withdraw and cancel the current SMS Monitoring Certificate and, if this has already been issued, AHVLA will also inform SAC.

#### **1.5 Discretion of SAC and AHVLA**

SAC's decisions are deemed to be final and SAC shall have sole discretion to determine the following:

- Whether certain forms should be withdrawn under the SMS.
- Interpretation of the Rules.
- The type/breed of Animals to be included in a Monitored Flock or Herd.

SAC, with AHVLA as appropriate, will decide whether to accept, retain or remove Flocks/Herds, Holdings or individual Animals from the SMS.

It is the responsibility of AHVLA to decide whether an Animal is suspected of being infected with Classical or Atypical Scrapie. It is also the responsibility of AHVLA to decide if an Animal is confirmed to be infected with Classical or Atypical Scrapie.

#### **1.6 Official Veterinarian**

- Your Flock/Herd must be regularly checked, at least annually, by an OV to ensure your Animals are not affected with, and to ensure that your animals are not likely to be exposed to, infection with Scrapie agent.
- The OV will also carry out checks to ensure that your Flock/Herd and the Holding(s) (or part thereof) comply with the Rules.

#### **1.7 EU trade in live animals for breeding**

If you are moving live animals for breeding within GB ultimately for intra-EU trade or directly to other EU Member States, the conditions of Annex VIII must be met (For further details see Section 7 – General Legal Matters).

- The animals to be traded must have been held on Holdings as part of a Monitored Flock/Herd since birth or as part of a SMS flock/herd for 3 years (for a controlled risk flock or herd) or 7 years (for a negligible risk flock or herd) prior to trading.

- The Animals must meet all the requirements of the Rules at the time of the trade.
- Animals from negligible risk flocks and herds may be moved to negligible or controlled risk flocks and herds and unmonitored flocks and herds in GB and other EU Member States.
- Animals from controlled risk flocks and herds may only be moved to controlled risk and unmonitored flocks and herds in GB and other Member States. They cannot be traded with Austria, Denmark, Finland or Sweden because these four countries have national scrapie control programmes which gives them country-wide status equivalent to negligible risk.
- Animals from controlled risk flocks and herds with evidence that they have been monitored for more than 3 years (although not 7 years to be deemed negligible risk) may be moved to flocks or herds in GB which have been monitored for a similar number of years without compromising the latter's status. If the period of monitoring is less, the status (the 'monitored' period) of the recipient flock or herd will be reduced to that of the introduced animal.
- Semen and embryos introduced into controlled or negligible risk flocks/herds for artificial breeding purposes do not have to be derived from donors belonging to controlled or negligible risk flocks/herds. All that is required is for the donors to be permanently identified and traceable to the natal holding and not show any clinical signs of classical scrapie at the time of collection, and in the case of embryos, to be kept since birth on holdings on which classical scrapie has not been confirmed while resident on that holding. In the case of sheep the semen may be derived from donors with the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype and embryos may be of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype.

## 1.8 Semen and embryos

If you are moving semen and embryos within GB ultimately for intra-EU trade or directly to other EU Member States the conditions of Annex VIII must be met. (For further details see Section 7- General Legal Matters).

- The donor Animals must have been held on Holdings as part of a Monitored Flock since birth or as part of a SMS flock/herd for at least 3 years (ie in a controlled risk flock or herd, even if the semen/embryos are intended for negligible risk flocks/herds in other EU Member States) prior to donation of semen or embryos.
- The donor Animals must meet all the requirements of the Rules (as they relate to controlled risk status) at the time of collection of the semen/embryos.
- In the case of ovine semen these Rules do not apply to donor animals with the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype. In the case of ovine embryos, these Rules do not apply to embryos of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype.

# Security

## 1.9 Farm boundaries

- Monitored Flocks and Herds must not be allowed to come into contact with Non-monitored Animals, except in approved circumstances (see Annex 1);
- Negligible risk flocks and herds must not be allowed to come into contact with controlled risk flocks and herds;
- Farm boundaries must be adequate to prevent Flocks and Herds from straying onto or off the Monitored Holdings and to prevent nose to nose contact between Animals on other Holdings.

## 1.10 Using and sharing unmonitored stock facilities

- If Scrapie Monitored and Non-monitored Flocks/Herds are kept on the same Holding(s) they must be kept as far apart as possible, ideally, at least 2 metres apart. Keeping

Monitored and Non-monitored Flocks and Herds on the same premises increases the risks of spreading scrapie infection to the Monitored Flock/Herd.

- If Scrapie Monitored negligible risk flocks and herds are kept on the same Holding(s) as controlled risk flocks and herds, they must be kept as far apart as possible, ideally, at least 2 metres apart.
- Under no circumstances can Monitored and Non-monitored Flocks or Herds be housed together.
- Under no circumstances can Monitored Negligible Risk and Controlled Risk Flocks or Herds be housed together.
- Under no circumstances can the same premises or accommodation be used for lambing /kidding Animals from both Monitored and non-Monitored Flocks or Herds, even if the lambing or kidding takes place at separate times.
- Under no circumstances can the same premises or accommodation be used for lambing /kidding Animals from both Negligible Risk and Controlled Risk Flocks or Herds, even if the lambing or kidding takes place at separate times.
- Monitored Flocks and Herds must not be kept on Holdings or parts of Holding(s) previously occupied by Non-monitored Animals for 3 years (for a controlled risk flock or herd) or 7 years (for a negligible risk flock or herd) from when the Non-monitored Animals were removed.
- Equipment such as ear tattooing forceps, drenching guns, hypodermic needles, medicines, etc. must not be shared between Monitored and Non-monitored Flocks and Herds.
- Handling facilities and livestock trailers must be cleaned and disinfected using DEFRA approved disinfectants (at the 'General Orders' concentration) after use between non-Monitored and Monitored Flocks and Herds and after use between Monitored Negligible Risk and Controlled Risk Flocks and Herds.

### **1.11 Notice of security threats**

You must notify SAC of changes which could affect security of Flocks or Herds.

### **1.12 Identification**

All Animals exhibited or sold must be individually identified and all rules and regulations regarding identification of Animals must be complied with.

## 2 Animal movement and ownership change

### 2.1 Moving Animals

Any Animal which moves from one location to another will automatically lose its Scrapie Monitored status unless you ensure that all of the following conditions are met:

**Transport:**

- The Animal(s) must only travel directly from one permitted location to another permitted location (as listed below);
- The Animal(s) must be segregated from any Animals which are not part of a Scrapie Monitored Flock or Herd.
- Animals from Monitored Negligible Risk Flocks and Herds must be segregated from any animals which are part of a Monitored Controlled Risk Flock or Herd.
- Vehicles previously used for transporting Animals must be cleaned and disinfected using DEFRA approved disinfectants (at the 'General Orders' concentration) between use for Non-monitored and Scrapie Monitored Flocks and Herds.
- Vehicles previously used for transporting Animals must be cleaned and disinfected using DEFRA approved disinfectants (at the 'General Orders' concentration) between use for Scrapie Monitored Controlled Risk Flocks and Herds and for Scrapie Monitored Negligible Risk Flocks and Herds.

**Permitted locations:** The locations to and from which the Animal moves must be either:

- a Scrapie Monitored Holding;
- a Holding which is (and which has been for the previous three years (for a controlled risk flock or herd) or seven years (for a negligible risk flock or herd) free from Animals;
- a show, sale or artificial insemination centre which complies with the requirements detailed in Annex 1 to these Rules;
- a qualified UK veterinary surgeon's business premises; or
- such other location as may be expressly approved in writing by an authorised SAC official from time to time.

**Segregation at temporary locations:** While at any 'temporary location' (meaning any location other than a Holding), the Animal must be kept segregated from physical contact with any Animals not belonging to its Flock or Herd, except for:

- any male Animals (provided that the Animal you have taken to the temporary location is also a male and only male Animals are present at the location); and
- any Animals which are also Scrapie Monitored and are of the same status as your flock or herd (3 years for a controlled risk flock or herd or 7 years for a negligible risk flock or herd).

## 2.2 Adding or returning Animals to a Holding

If you add (or return) an Animal to your Monitored Flock/Herd's Holding during either the 3 years prior to the Application Date or at any time thereafter, the Flock(s)/Herd(s) situated at that Holding will lose their SMS Monitoring Certificate unless both of the following requirements are met:

- Origin:** The Flock from which the Animal came must be SMS Monitored or provide sufficient evidence of compliance with Annex VIII by other means (e.g. private certification by an OV - the latter only allowed to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014).
- Still certified:** The Animal must not have lost its Monitored status through non-compliance with Rule 2.1 (*moving Animals*) or otherwise.

Note: These requirements do not apply to Animals exempt under Rule 5.

*If you are unsure of an Animal's status, you are strongly advised to seek advice from your private veterinary surgeon (or the AHVLA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle) before acquiring Animals, as non-compliance may result in loss of Flock / Herd Holding status. Note: When your Flock or Herd is next inspected by an OV you will be required to provide documentary evidence (such as a copy of a certificate of SMS membership from the previous owner or a certificate of ARR/ARR genotype (see Rule 5)) for Animals moved onto your Holding.*

## 2.3 Change of ownership of an SMS Flock

If you acquire ownership of a Monitored Flock or Herd and wish to retain the Flock/Herd's Monitored status (rather than restarting the SMS application process (3 years for a controlled risk flock or herd or 7 years for a negligible risk flock or herd), then you must meet all of the following requirements:

- Register:** Promptly following acquisition of the Flock or Herd you must write to the SAC seeking re-registration of the Flock or Herd in your name and on your Holding(s).
- Rules:** You must comply with the Rules of the SMS (and any special conditions specified by SAC from time to time).
- No mixing:** You must ensure that the Flock/Herd either:
  - remains a separate entity on the existing registered Holding(s); or
  - is moved to another Holding in accordance with Rule 2.1 (*moving Animals*).

## 3 Testing fallen stock

### 3.1 Animals which must be tested

You must ensure that any Animal (whether male or female) which is culled or otherwise dies is submitted for Scrapie testing if it meets all of the following conditions:

- It was part of your Monitored Flock or Herd at the time of its death
- It was over 18 months of age when it died.
- It was not culled as part of an official disease eradication campaign.
- It was not culled solely for reasons of physical injury (e.g. a broken leg).
- It was not culled for the purpose of human consumption.

Note: (i) Testing requires TSE testing of a sample of each animal's brain. As such the head of the animal (or the whole animal) must be submitted for testing.

(ii) All fallen stock aged over 18 months at the time of death MUST be tested.

### 3.2 Testing procedure

You must ensure that testing for Scrapie of all fallen stock is carried out.

Samples must be sent to AHVLA (either by submitting the carcasses to AHVLA Regional Laboratories in England and Wales or to Veterinary Laboratories of the SAC in Scotland). Samples for testing will be forwarded to our appointed testing lab (currently LGC) by AHVLA or SAC Consulting Veterinary Services.

**Note:** You will be charged for private testing – check prices with AHVLA or SAC Veterinary Services.

### 3.3 Explaining few or no test results

If the number of Animals from your Monitored Flock or Herd which you have had tested in accordance with Rule 3.2 in any year (*being a 12 month period which starts on the (Application Date or its anniversary)*) is:

- low (as defined below) you must provide information to the OV to verify that there is a legitimate explanation (for example exceptionally low mortality);

and if the number you have tested in that year is:

- zero then you must also complete Section D of the 'Application for Registration/Renewal' form before submitting it (whether for initial membership or renewal purposes).

To determine whether the number tested is 'low':

(i) *Calculate Total:* You must calculate the total number of Animals which both:

- were part of the applicable Flock or Herd at any time during the year in question; and
- were aged over 18 months by the end of that year.

(ii) *Calculate Percentage:* If in the year in question you have tested less than 2% of that total then the number you have tested is 'low' for the purposes of these Rules.

## 4 Record keeping and records required at initial and annual inspections

### 4.1 Specific records you must keep and disclose

For each of your Monitored Flocks or Herds / Holdings, you must maintain records detailed below. These records must be provided to an OV when the Flock or Herd and Holding are inspected by an OV. The records must also be made available on request at any other reasonable time to an OV (or a veterinary inspector under the Animal Health Act 1981).

#### ■ MOVEMENT & TRANSFERS

- Certification:** An SMS Monitoring Certificate for each individual Animal added to the Flock or Herd for the three years (for a controlled risk flock or herd) or seven years (for a negligible risk flock or herd) prior to the Application Date.
- Movement records:** Any individual movement record for each Animal added to the Flock or Herd for the three years (for a controlled risk flock or herd) or seven years (for a negligible risk flock or herd) prior to the Application Date (giving details of all transit to and from the registered Holding). This requirement is additional to the requirements of the national rules on sheep and goat ID and movement records.
- Show/sale approval:** SMS Monitoring Certificates (where required (see Annex 1)) for all shows and sales which are attended by any Animal from the Flock or Herd in the previous three years (for a controlled risk flock or herd) or seven years (for a negligible risk flock or herd).

#### ■ FALLEN STOCK

- Fallen stock numbers:** A record of all Animals over 18 months of age which have died in the last 3 years (for a controlled risk flock or herd) or 7 years (for a negligible risk flock or herd) which were part of the Flock or Herd at the time of their death. This is in addition to your obligations for recording disposal of carcasses as animal by-products under the Animal By-Products Regulations 2013.
- Private testing report:** A copy of the laboratory reports relating to fallen stock which have died in the last 3 years (for a controlled risk flock or herd) or 7 years (for a negligible risk flock or herd) and were subsequently tested for Scrapie privately (SAC will record test results you disclose to the OV on its '*Premium Sheep & Goat Health Schemes*' database); and

**Members should note that it is their responsibility to present the results of private TSE testing for the previous three years (for a controlled risk flock or herd) or seven years (for a negligible risk flock or herd) to the OV at the time of the annual inspection.**

### 4.2 General records that you must disclose

You must also promptly make the following records available to the OV on request:

- Census:** A copy of the return for the national annual livestock census as carried out by DEFRA, Irish, Welsh and Scottish governments/assemblies of all farmed livestock.
- ABPR Record:** Animal By-Product Regulation record of disposal of carcasses as animal by-products under the Animal By-Products Regulations 2013.
- Farm Records:** Such other relevant farm records as the OV may reasonably request such as medicines records and records of use of semen and embryos.

## 5 ARR/ARR Exemption

### 5.1 Genotype exemption

You are not required to comply with Rules 1 to 4 to the extent that they relate to any sheep which have the '*ARR/ARR prion protein genotype*', provided that both of the following requirements are met:

**Certification:** You must be able to provide certification verifying that the sheep is '*ARR/ARR prion protein genotype*' and the certification issued by a laboratory which tested the sheep and, at the time of testing, was either:

- a UK Government laboratory (such as AHVLA); or
- a laboratory authorised by the UK Government to carry out prion protein genotyping for the purposes of certification for intra-Union trade. These laboratories are currently SAC Veterinary Service, Allan Watt Building, Bush Estate, Penicuik, EH26 0QL.

When submitting samples for genotyping for this purpose you should first check with the laboratory that such authorisation is still current at that time.

**OV check:** The Animal must be individually identified and an OV must be satisfied that the sheep in question is the sheep referred to in the genotyping certification you provide.

**Intra-Union trade:** Sheep with the ARR/ARR genotype may be certified for intra-Union trade without any Scrapie monitoring requirement from the European Union member state of origin and regardless of the Scrapie Monitored status of the Holding(s) of origin.

### 5.2 Exemption limitations

The exemption provided under Rule 5.1 (*genotype exemption*) does not apply to:

- ✗ Goats (including caprine semen and embryos).
- ✗ Sheep that do not have the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype (e.g. heterozygous ARR sheep, which have only one ARR allele or none).
- ✗ Embryos from sheep (unless the embryo itself meets the conditions laid down for exempt sheep in Rule 5.1).
- ✗ Semen from sheep (unless it was from a sheep which is exempt under Rule 5.1).

## 6 Withdrawal from SMS or loss or change of status

### 6.1 Loss of status

Your Flock or Herd will immediately lose its Monitored status if any of the following events occur:

- 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 AHVLA in an Animal which left the Flock or Herd within the last 3 years (for a controlled risk flock or herd) or 7 years (for a negligible risk flock or herd).
- You do not comply with Rules (for example, an Animal is added or returned to your Flock or Herd but you fail to meet the requirements under Rule 2.2 (*Adding or returning Animals to a Holding*)). Other reasons for loss of status are buying stock of no status or of the wrong status, of wrong genotype or purchasing (or returning to flock or herd) of stock bought at non-segregated sales
- You do not carry out TSE testing as required under Rule 3.
- You tell SAC in writing that you wish your Flock or Herd to be withdrawn from the SMS. In this case you must also surrender your current certificate of SMS membership.

### 6.2 Regaining SMS status

You can be re-admitted to the SMS at the discretion of the SAC (and AHVLA) providing your Flock or Herd and Holding have complied with the rules of the Scheme for the last three years. All aspects of the health and management of the Flock or Herd will have to be of a standard acceptable to SAC and as necessary to AHVLA.

### 6.3 SMS Controlled and Negligible Risk status

SMS Controlled Risk status is achieved when your Flock or Herd and Holding have complied with the rules of the Scheme for the last three (3) years. SMS Negligible Risk status is achieved when your Flock or Herd and Holding have complied with the rules of the Scheme for the last seven (7) 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 is Controlled Risk for 5 years they cannot buy from flocks or herds with less than 5 years status.

### 6.4 Penalties

- If you breach or fail to comply with these Rules, your Flock or Herd may be suspended or removed from the SMS.
- If the SAC propose to suspend or remove a Flock or Herd from the SMS, you will be informed of their decision in writing and given 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.

## 7 General legal matters

### 7.1 Notification

7.1.1 The SMS rules provide that you must:-

- ensure that your Flock/Herd and Holdings are subject to checks by an OV;
- ensure that all Animals exhibited for sale or sold are individually and uniquely identified;
- keep records of all dead Animals over 18 months old moved from your Holding(s);
- keep records of all fallen stock over 18 months old in your SMS flock or Herd for the previous 3 years (for a controlled risk flock or herd )or 7 years (for a negligible risk flock or herd);
- ensure that all fallen stock over 18 months of age are TSE tested (see rule 3);
- ensure that movement of Animals to and from Holdings are individually recorded, including movement to shows, sales, etc. (as detailed in Annex 1);
- ensure that Animals are only introduced onto Monitored Holdings from similarly Monitored Holdings. Sheep of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype are exempt from this requirement (see Rule 5). Certification of genotype must be provided
- ensure that no stock is introduced from non-segregated shows/sales.
- ensure that natural breeding only occurs between Animals of equivalent SMS Monitored status. Sheep of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype are exempt from this requirement (see Rule 5); certification of genotype must be provided. SMS monitored females may be artificially bred using artificial insemination and embryo transfer using semen and embryos which do not necessarily have to be derived from SMS Monitored donors provided that semen and embryos used originate from donors which meet the following requirements and a veterinary certificate is available to that effect. Donors must be permanently identified to enable trace back to their holding of birth and they must show no clinical sign of classical scrapie at time of collection. In the case of embryos the donors were kept since birth on holdings which were not subject to official scrapie related restrictions during their residency. It is recommended that the embryos are in-vivo derived and processed (including use of trypsin) in accordance with the requirements of the International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS).
- ensure that you obtain all SMS Monitoring Certificates for all bought-in Animals.
- ensure that flocks in negligible risk category only purchase from same category.
- ensure that no case of Scrapie has been confirmed on the holding in the last 3 years (for a controlled risk flock or herd) or 7 years (for a negligible risk flock or herd).

7.1.2 If you do not strictly comply with these Rules, you shall incur penalties as set out in Rule 6.3

### 7.2 Liability

SAC is not liable for any losses incurred by a member or any other person as a result of a Flock or Herd's loss of status or the imposition of any penalties under the SMS.

# Annex 1:

## Show, Sale & AI Centre Requirements

- This annex deals with the movement of Animals from Flocks/Herds to shows, sales and other places such as artificial insemination centres.
- The rules detailed below do not supersede other national or EU legislation or the requirements of AHVLA relating to animal health and welfare (for example rules relating to transport of animals).

### **( A ) Shows and Sales (General)**

- AHVLA may approve the following types of shows/sales where SMS animals are segregated from non-SMS animals:-
  - (a) Dedicated shows/sales where only animals from SMS holdings can attend.
  - (b) Segregated show/sale where SMS and non-SMS animals are kept separate.
- SMS animals may attend unsegregated shows during a seasonal window from May 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>. The risk of exposure to scrapie agent at an unsegregated show between these dates is considered to be low but there could possibly be an incident which could lead to loss of SMS status. To avoid this, you must take care to follow the rules of the show or sale, especially the requirement that animals must not mix with non-SMS animals in holding pens, as well as ensuring that the other animals at the show are seasonal breeders and not pregnant.
- SMS animals must be transported separately from non-SMS animals at all times and SMS animals from negligible risk flocks and herds must be transported separately from SMS animals from controlled risk flocks and herds.
- Vehicles previously used for transporting non-SMS animals must be adequately cleansed and disinfected (with a DEFRA approved disinfectant at the 'General Orders' dilution) before carrying SMS animals.
- Vehicles previously used for transporting SMS animals from controlled risk flocks and herds must be adequately cleansed and disinfected (with a DEFRA approved disinfectant at the 'General Orders' dilution) before carrying SMS animals from negligible risk flocks and herds.
- Monitored sheep or goats (SMS animals) must generally be managed separately from those which are not members of the SMS and SMS animals from negligible risk flocks and herds must be managed separately from SMS animals from controlled risk flocks and herds. This is especially important at times of year when non-monitored stock may lamb/kid or abort and hence may heavily contaminate SMS animals with the scrapie agent.
- You are required to comply with the general rules for the shows and sales.
- You can find out which shows and sales are approved by contacting your local AHVLA Office. Shows and sales (including markets approved under the Animal Gathering Order) taking place outside the window or involving goats and/or non-seasonal breeds need to be specifically approved to ensure the health status of SMS animals is not compromised.
- Organisers of shows/sales should apply to AHVLA a minimum of 6 weeks before the event takes place for the premises to be inspected, approved and registered.

**( B ) Dedicated shows/sales**

At dedicated shows/sales only animals from SMS holdings can attend. Requirements relating to these shows/sales are listed in (C) below.

**( C ) Requirements for Segregated Shows/Sales**

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

However the following requirements must be observed at and in relation to dedicated and segregated shows or sales:-

- Ideally, the whole area used by SMS animals will be paved. 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 for a period of 3 years (for areas used by controlled risk flocks or herds) or 7 years (for areas used by negligible risk flocks or herds).
- Paved areas which have been used in the previous 27 days or for lambing/kidding of non-SMS animals in the last 3 years (for areas used by controlled risk flocks or herds) or 7 years (for areas used by negligible risk flocks or herds) 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 SMS animals must be separated from that of non-SMS animals by a solid division or a fixed 2 metre stock free zone (which may contain other species such as cattle or pigs). Drainage from the area used by non-SMS stock must not flow into SMS area.
- Accommodation for SMS animals from negligible risk flocks/herds must be separated from that for SMS animals from controlled risk flocks/herds by a solid division or a fixed 2 metre stock free zone (which may contain other species such as cattle or pigs). Drainage from the area used by controlled risk SMS stock must not flow into the negligible risk SMS area.
- There must be separate loading and unloading areas for SMS animals and non-SMS sheep and goats.
- There must be separate loading and unloading areas for SMS animals from negligible risk flocks/herds, and SMS animals from controlled risk flocks/herds.
- There must be separate rings and entrance walkways for the exhibition/judging/sale of SMS animals and non-SMS sheep and goats. Alternatively, the SMS animals must be handled through the ring before any non-SMS sheep or goats.
- There must be separate rings and entrance walkways for the exhibition/judging/sale of SMS animals from negligible risk flocks/herds and SMS animals from controlled risk flocks/herds. Alternatively, the negligible risk SMS animals must be handled through the ring before any controlled risk SMS animals.
- SMS 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.

- SMS animals from negligible risk flocks/herds must not come into close contact (2m distance) with SMS animals from controlled risk flock/herds when being moved from the segregated accommodation to and from the ring.

**After the show/sale, the show/sale secretary must notify AHVLA on the same day or on the next working day if a lambing/kidding or abortion occurred at the event.**

#### **( D ) Requirements for non-segregated Sheep or Goat Shows/Sales**

##### **Attendance at non-segregated shows and sales held in the 'window'**

- Animals from Monitored flocks can attend non-segregated shows / sales which must be held during the 'window' **[May 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>]**.
- SMS animals must not be kept in the same pen or transported in the same vehicle as non-SMS animals.
- SMS animals from negligible risk flocks/herds must not be kept in the same pen or transported in the same vehicle as SMS animals from controlled risk flocks/herds.

During this period most animals will not be pregnant and the risk of spread of classical scrapie infection is considered to be low. If any of your animals comes into contact with animals which give birth or abort your SMS status could be threatened. Attendance is at your own risk and vigilance must be high at all times.

##### **Attendance at non-segregated shows and sales held outside the 'window'**

- Animals from Monitored flocks must **NOT** be shown at non-segregated shows / sales held in the period of **September 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>**.
- SMS animals will lose their status if moved to such a sale or show and/or moved to another SMS member's holding.
- If returned to holding of origin the holding will lose its status.

#### **( E ) Attendance at Non-Approved Shows or Sales**

If Animals from Monitored Flocks are moved to a non-approved show or sale and return to the Holdings of origin the Monitored status of those Holdings will be affected (see Rule 6) and no Animal from the Holdings can be exported to a Member State for a three year period.

#### **( F ) Attendance of male sheep and goats at shows and sales**

If the only sheep or goats at a sale or show are male there is no requirement to maintain separation between SMS and non-SMS animals

- If Monitored male and female animals are presented together at a segregated show or sale they must be penned separately and kept separate from Non-monitored animals (see A above).

**( G ) Export of Animals to a Member State**

- If Animals are to be directly exported from a show/sale to another Member State, the premises must be approved as an EU Assembly Centre. Organisers of the show/sale should apply to the local office of AHVLA a minimum of 6 weeks before the event takes place for the premises to be inspected, approved and registered.

**( H ) Other places such as Artificial Insemination Centres:**

- Male and female animals from Monitored Flocks must be kept separate from females from Non-monitored flocks.
- Male and female SMS animals from negligible risk flocks/herds must be kept separate from SMS animals from controlled risk flock/herds.
- Monitored males do not need to be kept separate from Non-monitored males.
- Where separation is required, there must be physical separation by means of a solid barrier or physical separation. This does not necessarily require separate buildings.
- Separation from indirect contact (e.g. via aerosols) is not required.

**( I ) ARR/ARR Exemption**

- The above conditions described in paragraphs A-H imposed upon Animals attending shows/sales do not apply to sheep for which you can provide a certificate verifying that the sheep has/have the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype in accordance with Rule 5.

## ANNEX 2

### Checklist For Official Veterinarian

#### OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN CHECKLIST/SUPPORT DOCUMENT FOR COMPLETION OF AN APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL OF THE SCRAPIE MONITORING SCHEME

This checklist/support document should be completed by the Official Veterinarian (OV) before s/he completes Section C (and if appropriate Section D) of the application form.

Name of the owner and address of the holding/collection centre to which the application refers:

Name:  Address of owner:  Address of (proposed) SMS holding (if different):
---

I hereby certify that I have made due enquiries and that the answers to the following questions are as follows (please tick):

	YES	NO
1 Has the applicant been a member of the SMS in the last 12 months? Do they have a certificate of previous membership? (In which case the applicant will have complied with the conditions of membership for the three years prior to the current application). Either way, you must have evidence that the Flock and Holding have complied with the conditions of the scheme for the last three years.		
2 Has the applicant completed the owner's declarations on page two (and four if appropriate) of the application form? The owner's declarations must be completed before the OV can complete the form.		
3 Has the applicant provided you with the results of all private TSE tests. Have you checked the dates of these tests and that the animals originated from the applicant's Flock and that the animals were fallen stock over 18 months of age as explained in the scheme rules?		
4 Have you checked that the number of TSE tests in each of the last three years is consistent with the size of the Flock? Have you checked the farm records for disposal of carcasses under the Animal By-Products Regulation?		
5 If the number of TSE tests in the last three years is not consistent with the size of the Flock has the owner provided information to explain this?		
6 Have all the animals in the Flock been inspected by an OV for clinical evidence of scrapie at least once every year in each of the last three years?		

	YES	NO
7 Are you aware of any reports of confirmed scrapie in any Animals in this Flock or Animals originating from this Flock in the last three years?		
8 Are all Animals individually identified and have they been individually identified for the last three years?		
9 Are the movements of all individual animals on and off the Holding in the last three years recorded and have you checked the movement records?		
10 Has the applicant provided evidence that Animals moved onto the Holding in the last three years have complied with the rules of the scheme?		
11 If the Animals moved onto the Holding in the last three years included any that had been at shows or sales, has the owner provided evidence that those shows or sales complied with the rules of the scheme?		
12 Has there been any purchases of stock within the last year? If the answer is yes, please list below the details of the previous owners. Please use separate sheet if necessary.		
13 Where applicable the genotype certificate has been enclosed		

Name	Address	Ear Tag No.	Sex	Date of Purchase	SMS	Source
			M/F		N/Y	Private/Market
			M/F		N/Y	Private/Market
			M/F		N/Y	Private/Market
			M/F		N/Y	Private/Market

Comments:

**OV Stamp**

**Signed.....RCVS**

.....  
**Name in block letters**

**Date .....**

**Address.....**

.....  
.....

Before signing the application form the OV must ensure that s/he has duly completed this checklist. This checklist MUST be sent to SAC with the completed application form. The OV must keep a copy for record keeping purposes for a period of three years.

# ANNEX 3

## SCRAPIE MONITORING SCHEME

(Three Year Scrapie Monitored)

As Operated by SAC Consulting Veterinary Services

### Application for \*Registration/Renewal

\*Delete as appropriate

Please read the enclosed Rules and Notes for Guidance

- To the Owner
- Please keep a copy of this document
  - Please send copy to Official Veterinarian (OV)
  - Please send copy to SAC (PSGHS, Drummondhill, Stratherrick Road, Inverness, IV2 4JZ)

#### ■ Section A – Details of premises

Name of \*flock/herd owner

Full postal address   
Postcode:

Telephone No:

Mobile:

Email:

Website:

Holding(s) where \*flock/herd is kept (if different from above)

County, Parish, Holding(s) No:   
(of \*flock/herd(s))

\*Flock/Herd mark(s)

Breed(s)

**■ Section B – Declaration by the Owner/\*Agent/\*Keeper of the Animals  
(See Abridged Notes for Guidance attached)**

I,

being the \*owner/agent in charge of the \*flock/herd detailed above do declare that a copy of the Rules and Conditions of the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme have been made available to me via website [www.sheepandgoathealth.co.uk](http://www.sheepandgoathealth.co.uk). I acknowledge that the abridged guidance notes attached to this application do not constitute the full Rules and Conditions of the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme. I further declare that:

- a) in respect of the holding(s) above that during the past three years:
  - i) at least once each year all animals on the holding have been inspected by an Official Veterinarian (see rules para 4),
  - ii) the \*sheep and \*goats on the holding(s) are identified in conformity with National legislation; all animals are individually identified and that movements of all individual animals (both live and dead) on and off the holding(s) are recorded (see rules para 5),
  - iii) ovine and caprine animals, with the exception of sheep of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype, are introduced on to the holding only if they come from a holding which complies with the requirements of the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme<sup>1</sup> (see rules para 6),
  - iv) no case of scrapie has been confirmed (see rules para 3),
  - v) all fallen sheep/goats over the age of 18 months have been submitted for examination for scrapie in accordance with the scheme rules (see rules para 9). The following animals have been submitted for TSE testing in the last three years:

(please provide details on a separate sheet if further space is needed)

Date Submitted	Animal Identification	Age	Laboratory where examined	Test Type if known	Test Result

- b) I agree to abide by the Rules and Conditions of the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme notwithstanding the foregoing. If the holding(s) cease(s) to comply with the scheme rules, I will notify SAC of this and surrender my certificate of registration accordingly.
- c) I have read and retained a copy of the scheme rules. I consent to my contact details (name, address, contact telephone number, breed) being shown on the Premium Sheep & Goat Health Schemes website( [www.psghs.co.uk](http://www.psghs.co.uk) ) Yes  No

Signed  Status

If other, specify \_\_\_\_\_

Date of application

<sup>1</sup> The Scrapie Monitoring Scheme previously operated by Defra and which was transferred to SAC on 1 January 2009 provides an assurance that the sheep flock or goat herd on a holding has complied with the scrapie monitoring requirements of Annex VIII of Regulation EC 999/2001 (as amended).

**Section C – Certificate of Official Veterinarian**

I,  certify that the flock/herd on the above holding(s) has:

a) been under the care of an Official Veterinarian (OV) since  (see rules para 4)

b) been inspected by a OV at least annually on the dates when the numbers of \*sheep/goats/sheep and goats over 18 months of age were as follows (see rules para 4). (For new applications give dates for 3 years).

Number of adults		Date of Inspection		
Males over 18 mths of age	Females over 18 mths of age	Day	Month	Year

- c) I have examined the movement records and the registration certificates which accompanied all the \*sheep/goats/sheep and goats moved onto the premises in the \*three year/one year period prior to the date of this application and I am satisfied that all these animals originated from Scrapie Monitored \*flocks/herds (see rules para 5 et seq);
- d) All \*sheep/goats are individually marked so as to allow the origin of all animals to be determined and all movements of individual animals on and off the holding(s) are recorded (see rules para 5);
- e) I have examined the records of movements of fallen stock and records of TSE testing for all fallen stock over 18 months of age in the \*three year/one year period prior to the date of application and I am satisfied that TSE testing has been carried out as required by scheme rules (see rules para 9);
- f) No case of scrapie has been confirmed in this \*flock/herd in the past three years (see rules para 3);
- g) \*Flocks/herds referred to on this application do not reside in buildings or on grazing with animals of lesser status.
- h) All animals in the \*flock/herd will be inspected by the certifying official veterinarian within the 30 day period prior to each export to confirm freedom from signs of scrapie.

**Authorised Official Veterinarian**

Signature:

Name in BLOCK letters:

OV Number:

Date:

Address

Postcode

Telephone No:   
(including national dialling code)

\*Delete as appropriate

■ **Section D – Only for completion by the owner/manager/agent where fallen stock have not been submitted for TSE testing**

I,

Of

confirm that in the \*\*period covered by this application to join/renew membership of the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme no sheep or goats over 18 months of age have died on farm or in transit and have been suitable for examination (e.g. any such animals may have been unsuitable due to decomposition);

Signed

Status

If other, specify \_\_\_\_\_

Date

---

**Official Veterinarian's Declaration**

I, , being the supervising

Official Veterinarian for the flock/herd noted above, confirm that to the best of my knowledge and belief the written Section D declaration above is correct.

**Authorised Official Veterinarian**

Signature:

Name in BLOCK letters:

OV Number:

Date:

Address

Telephone No:   
(including national dialling code)

\*Delete as appropriate

\*\* 3 years for a new application; 1 year for an application for renewal.

**Abridged notes giving guidance as to completion of an application for registration/renewal for membership of the SAC Scrapie Monitoring Scheme. Please read the Rules and Conditions for the scheme on [www.sheepandgoathealth.co.uk](http://www.sheepandgoathealth.co.uk)**

1. **General:** The rules of the SAC Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (SMS) are designed to facilitate certification of scrapie monitoring of holdings for intra-community trade in Sheep and Goats for breeding in accordance with the rules of Regulation EC 999/2001 as amended.
2. **Certification** must be provided by an Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed by the Animal Health Veterinary Laboratory Agency (AHVLA) to an export certification and notifiable disease panel. The OV must ensure that there is sufficient detail of the flock/herd veterinary history and animal movement records, animal by-product (carcase) records and TSE testing records to enable the declaration to be signed.
3. **Declaration of holding(s) freedom from scrapie.** SAC will obtain authorisation from AHVLA that the holding is certified free from both classical and atypical scrapie for at least 3 years. If the farmer/OV suspects that an animal in his / her care is affected with scrapie this must be reported to the local Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM). If scrapie is confirmed, the DVM will notify the OV, who should withdraw and cancel the original certificate, if it has already been issued and inform SAC.
4. **Monitoring.** A minimum monitoring period of 3 years is required on the holding(s) for new applications of controlled risk status and renewals. All sheep and goats in the flock/herd on the holding(s) must have been inspected by an OV at least once a year over the period of certification. It is not necessary for the whole flock/herd to be gathered together on one particular day for inspection, although this may be a convenient method of achieving the inspection requirement. The flock/herd inspection may be carried out in the course of more than one visit during the year provided that the OV can satisfy him/herself that all groups or hefts comprising the flock/herd have been inspected within a 12 month period.
5. **Animal identification.** All sheep and goats must be individually and uniquely identified in accordance with National legislation. In addition, to allow checks on movements of individual animals, all movements of sheep and goats on and off the holding must be individually recorded. Records must also be provided for dead sheep and goats moved off the holding as required under the Animal By-Products Regulation (ABPR) 2013.
6. **Movements on and off the holding.** With the exception of sheep of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype, for all sheep and goats which are moved onto the holding in the three years prior to the application date, the owner must obtain certification from the previous owner to show that the previous holding complied with the scheme requirements at the time the animals were moved from the holding. Individual movement records must be provided.
7. The OV must examine the movement records and the veterinary certificates which accompanied all animals(male and female) moved on to the premises in the three years prior to the date of application.
8. **Movements to and from shows, sales and other places** such as Artificial Insemination Centres are permitted provided the animals are segregated from other

stock in accordance with the rules referred to in Annex 1 of the Rules and Conditions of the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme. If animals from the flock / herd have been taken to shows or sales the owner must provide movement records to corroborate this and if necessary must provide copies of declarations by show / sale organisers if segregated shows or sales approved by the local DVM have been attended.

9. **TSE testing of fallen stock<sup>2</sup>**. All sheep and goats over 18 months on a scrapie monitored holding, which have died, been killed on the holding or which have died in transit must be examined for scrapie. The animals which must be tested excludes any animals killed in the framework of a disease eradication campaign (eg for the control of FMD) or animals which are fit for human consumption (including those killed on the holding).

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<sup>2</sup> The current EU Regulation requires TSE testing of fallen stock over 18 months of age.