



Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada

Terrestrial Animal Health Division,
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

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Modifications to the Canadian import requirements for intact female small ruminants:

Since the lifting of the prohibition on the import of small ruminants from the US both the importing and exporting flocks have been required to be enrolled in their respective country's scrapie flock certification program. As previously indicated these requirements are changing in 2009. The proposed modifications include that the intact female small ruminants are to be imported to a premises that has been enrolled in the voluntary scrapie flock certification program in Canada for at least 12 months with at least one annual* inventory having been completed; and the premises of origin from which animals are to be exported must have been enrolled in the USDA officially recognized scrapie flock certification program in the United States for at least 12 months with at least one annual* inventory completed and compliant with requirements equivalent to the Canadian program via participation in the voluntary scrapie flock certification program (vSFCP). (*initial inventory is not considered an annual inventory)

- a) at the Export Monitored program level; or
 - b) Complete Monitored Program level with additional testing of all mortalities over 18 months of age for at least the 12 months;
- and, the exporting premises in the United States is of an equivalent or higher status than the importing premises in Canada

In addition, an alternate protocol is being proposed for the importation of intact female small ruminants in groups that are being imported and maintained in Canada with an expectation that no deaths will occur in the group for many years (eg. small groups of rare breeds; animals for ongoing fibre production) and aged animals are not routinely sent to slaughter. This new protocol proposes, that intact female sheep or goats may be imported to a premises in Canada that is not on the scrapie flock certification program, if the females to be imported (or the dams of females less than 12 months of age) are subject to the recto-anal mucosa associated lymphoid tissue (RAMALT) biopsy test prior to importation and prior to any movement off the importing premises. Annual inventories and surveillance of any on-farm mortalities will be required for a period of 5 years or until RAMALT biopsies have been repeated 24-30 months after importation of the intact females. The availability of this protocol is subject to operation feasibility at the local CFIA district office.

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