



IMPORTATION OF SMALL RUMINANTS (SHEEP/GOATS)

Conditions for Importation:

- 1) Animal(s) must be accompanied by a **health certificate** issued by the ***veterinary authority** of the country of origin stating:-
 - a) The country of origin has been free of Foot and Mouth Disease and other Vesicular Disease, Peste Des Petits Ruminants, Rift Valley Fever, Rinderpest, Sheep Pox, Goat Pox and Blue Tongue twenty-four (24) months for the past thirty-six(36) months.
 - b) That Scrapie has not existed on-premises of origin during the three (3) years immediately before shipment and that animal(s) is/are not the progeny of a sire or dam that was affected with Scrapie.
 - c) Animal(s) must be tested negative for **Tuberculosis, Scrapie, Blue Tongue and Brucellosis** within thirty (30) days before exportation.
 - d) Animal(s) has/have been tested negative for Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis or premises of origin are free of Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis.
 - e) That animal(s) is/are clinically healthy with no signs of infectious or contagious diseases and that there has/have been no reported cases of Pulmonary Adenomatosis, Nairobi Sheep Disease, Maedi-visna or Rabies (12 months before shipment) in the area of origin.
 - f) That animal(s) was/were treated for internal and external parasites with appropriate pharmaceuticals.
 - g) That animal(s) was/were kept in a facility frequently visited by a veterinarian and certified to be of acceptable standards.
- 2) With Blue Tongue (BT) endemic countries, animal(s) must be kept in a quarantine station; BT free establishment for forty (40) days before the shipment and was/were subjected to a diagnostic test for BT with negative results during this period.
- 3) Animal(s) must be found healthy on arrival.
- 4) **All required conditions must be met, and all relevant documents (import permit, veterinary health certificate, vaccination certificate, lab test results, etc.) must be presented at the port of entry to facilitate veterinary clearance and to avoid the otherwise unpleasant, but necessary measures such as animals being kept in a facility, deportation or euthanasia.**
- 5) **The Veterinary Division must be given at least 24 hours notice of confirmed arrival date, time, airline/vessel and the port of entry. This will facilitate unnecessary delays, and avoid detention of animal(s) for veterinary clearance at the port of entry.**
- 6) **Upon submission of the application, the specified fee schedule will be applied.**

Therefore, the granting of permits for animals to be presented for inspection to enter the Virgin Islands does not signify automatic entry.

***An official health certificate is a document issued and certified by a veterinarian working full time with the government of the country of origin (e.g. USDA, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, DEFRA, etc.). The document may be filled out and signed by a licensed veterinarian, but must also be endorsed by a government veterinarian.**

Please be advised, these requirements are subject to change since animal disease status in various countries is dynamic. Therefore, the granting of permission for animals to be presented for inspection to enter the Virgin Islands does not signify automatic entry. It is your responsibility to contact the Veterinary Division, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to confirm these conditions are current.

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