Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs FDEA

Federal veterinary office FVO
Intenational affairs

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Supplementary specific regulations on importing domestic sheep (Ovis aries) and goats (Capra hircus) from the EU

This document forms an integral part of the import regulations published on the website of the Federal Veterinary Office (FVO) – for full information, see www.bvet.admin.ch.

Import regulations:

No import permit (founded on animal health laws) from the FVO is needed for importing domestic sheep/goats from the EU. After their import, domestic sheep/goats are subject to **official veterinarian monitoring** according to the instructions of the cantonal veterinary officer. The importer must **notify** the **cantonal veterinary office** responsible for the place of destination about the planned import 1 week beforehand and report the receipt of the animals not later than 24 hours after their arrival. Please enquire with the responsible cantonal veterinary office beforehand about the duration of the official veterinarian monitoring and the measures to be undertaken during this period.

The animals must satisfy the conditions for intra-community trade in domestic sheep and goats as set forth in Council Directive 91/68/EC.

In the bilateral agreements between the EU and Switzerland, it was acknowledged that the Swiss sheep and goat population is officially free of brucellosis in small ruminants (B. melitensis).

Note on CAE (caprine arthritis encephalitis): the import certificates do not provide for any guarantees with regard to this disease. If the cantonal veterinary officer cannot be furnished with evidence to show that the goats come from a herd that is free of CAE according to Swiss criteria, the herd of destination is placed under an embargo order according to the ordinance on animal diseases, and the herd then loses its status as “free from CAE”, see website (in German) > Tiergesundheit > Übersicht Krankheiten > Auszurottende Seuche > Caprine Arthritis Enzephalitis.

To import any animals that do not meet the requirements of the standard veterinary certificates (e.g. return after brief stays in the EU) **an application must be submitted to the FVO for a permit** in advance (for application form, see page on importing of live animals from the EU).

Import documents:

When crossing the border, the animals (depending on animal category) must be accompanied by one of the health certificates defined in Annex E, models I-III, of Council Directive 91/68/EC. Explanations on the form in which the health data must be entered in the [1]TRACES system when the animals are shipped to Switzerland can be found in the model TRACES certificates on the website. In addition, the official veterinarian in the country of origin must notify the consignment by means of the TRACE system.

Animals for slaughter must also be accompanied by confirmation 06/04 on the health status and use of medicines for animals (see website for document, not available in English), which must be completed by the animal owner and handed to the veterinary meat inspector responsible for the abattoir of destination.

[1] **TRACES** (Trade Expert Control System): integrated veterinary information system as set forth in Decision 2003/24/EC. For the trade in animal and part-animal goods, the system provides a platform of information exchange between the veterinary authorities in the country of origin and the country of destination. For more information, see “Border veterinary controls – TRACES”