

Shetland Islands Council Sheep Scab Regulations (2024)

Change 1: Allow veterinary surgeon to delegate treatment to an authorised third party.

This would mean that the authorised veterinary surgeon would be able to select the appropriate treatment option for Sheep Scab for imported sheep and this would include plunge dipping carried out by an authorised third party.
The existing regulation restricts treatment to those carried out by the authorised veterinarian.

Legislative Change:

4(2). The method of treatment required under Regulation 4(1) shall be determined by the authorised veterinary surgeon applying their reasonable and professional skill and opinion. If deemed appropriate by an authorised veterinary surgeon, such treatment may be carried out at a facility and by personnel approved by the authorised veterinary surgeon.

Change 2: Allow the slaughter exemption clause

This would mean that sheep imported to Shetland moving direct to slaughter would be exempt from treatment for Sheep Scab provided they comply with the conditions set out below. These are;

- ensuring sheep for slaughter are not mixed with other sheep being sent to elsewhere in the Shetland Islands,
- The owner of the sheep must follow the notification requirements set out in section 6(2) and 6(3) [written notifications for sheep moving straight to slaughter must be received by Environmental Health at least 2 weeks in advance of the intended date of shipping].
- Owners of the sheep must follow a protocol set out by the authorised veterinary surgeon.

These requirements aim to protect imported sheep joining home flocks from any sheep scab contagion carried on sheep imported for slaughter.

The extended notification time ensures that proper planning can take place for sheep coming in for slaughter.

The veterinary protocol will set out requirements to ensure there is sufficient provision to mitigate risks of spread of sheep scab in the Shetland Islands. This includes reducing the potential risks of indirect cross contamination.

Indirect cross contamination was highlighted during the consultation as a point of high concern.

The veterinary protocol also protects the Sheep Scab Regulation from needing further amendment should further developments in the prevention of sheep scab spread become known

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Legislative Change:

4(3). Regulation 4(1) shall not apply where:

(b) on arrival in the Shetland Islands the sheep are immediately moving direct to slaughter at a facility and by personnel approved by the authorised veterinary surgeon provided:

- i. such sheep are not, and have not been, mixed with any other consignment of sheep being sent to the Shetland Islands or any sheep already on the Shetland Islands before slaughter;
- ii. the owner, or agent of the owner, complies with the notification requirements set out in Regulations 6(2) and 6(3); and
- iii. the owner complies with the protocol or processes required by the authorised veterinary surgeon in relation to sheep coming to the Shetland Islands for slaughter.

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