



**Ref: CTO 2018 007 [1]**

Ovine Embryos: Maedi-visna testing

**CTO direction as to equivalent measures in relation to ovine embryos**

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Lucy Johnston, Manager Animal Imports, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following directions for ovine embryos in relation to the Import Health Standard: Semen and Embryos from Sheep (*Ovis Aries*) and Goats (*Capra hircus*) (OVCAGERM.GEN):

The requirements for Maedi-visna (MV) in the IHS are:

“(2) Donors must only reside with herds/flocks where MV has neither clinically nor serologically been diagnosed and where animals of inferior health status have not been introduced during the 3 years before collection for New Zealand; and

b) Embryo donors must be subjected to a MV test in accordance with MPI-STD-TVTL.”

The negotiated requirement for MV in the UK veterinary certificate for ovine embryos is:

- (a) The donors were tested for MV with negative results using either \*agar gel immunodiffusion test (AGIDT) or \*enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), during the 21 day period prior to embryo collection; and
- (i) All embryos were washed in trypsin, according to the recommendations of IETS;

MPI has determined that testing of donors for Maedi-visna virus antibodies with negative results 16 weeks after the collection of ovine embryos effectively manages the risk.

On arrival in New Zealand, the laboratory test reports and evidence of accredited status of the donor flock are required to be presented.

The reason for this direction is that the biosecurity risks associated with this commodity have been assessed and are managed effectively.