



**Ref: CTO 2018 014 [G]**

Goat semen: Testing for Maedi Visna

**CTO direction as to equivalent measures in relation to goat semen**

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 goat semen exported from the United Kingdom in relation to the *Import Health Standard: Semen and Embryos from Sheep (Ovis aries) and Goats (Capra hircus)*, OVCAGERM.GEN.

23. (a) The donors were tested for MV with negative results using either agar gel immunodiffusion test (AGIDT) or enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), at least 21 days after entering the pre-entry isolation premises and at least annually whilst resident at the semen collection centre; and

(i) The donors were subjected to a complement fixation (CF) test for ovine epididymitis (*B. ovis*) as described in the OIE Manual, with negative results, during the 30 days prior to collection.

Maedi Visna virus predominantly affects sheep and produces life-long infections, therefore testing at any time would reveal the infected animals. Moreover, "30-day" testing requirement in the health certificate is for ovine epididymitis due to *Brucella ovis*, and this is not a significant disease in goats.

The testing with negative results within 42 days, instead of 30 days, will manage the risk effectively.

This direction takes effect from the date of signing and continues in effect until amended or revoked.