



A Code of Practice for the Importation of Live Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, Poultry and Deer into Northern Ireland



Department of
**Agriculture and
Rural Development**

www.dardni.gov.uk

FOREWORD

The resumption of live cattle exports in May 2006 has been a significant milestone for the Northern Ireland agricultural industry and has placed a greater focus on the animal health status of Northern Ireland. This in turn has increased pressure on importers to ensure imported animals do not compromise this high status.

The Code is a voluntary Code and is intended to provide all potential importers with the guidance necessary to minimise the risk of importing animal disease into Northern Ireland.

I am delighted to be associated with this Code of Practice, which has been jointly developed by the Ulster Farmers' Union, Northern Ireland Meat Exporters' Association, Northern Ireland Poultry Federation, the North of Ireland Veterinary Association and the Association of Veterinary Surgeons Practising in Northern Ireland and DARD officials. In particular I wish to acknowledge the contribution of the late Cecil Mathers of NIMEA to the Code.

The Code has been developed through a close working relationship between DARD, the industry and veterinary profession, under the auspices of the Animal Health and Welfare Sub-Group of the Rural Stakeholders' Forum, and this demonstrates what can be achieved by working together.

I would encourage all potential importers to use this Code when considering importing livestock, to ensure trade is conducted in a safe and responsible manner.

Compliance with the Code will help towards ensuring Northern Ireland's animal health status is protected and enhanced facilitating growing national and international trade.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Cairns". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline.

DAVID CAIRNS

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INTRODUCTION

This is a voluntary code of practice drawn up by the Northern Ireland livestock industry in conjunction with the local veterinary associations and DARD. The intention of the code is to provide all potential livestock importers with the guidance necessary to minimise the risk of importing animal disease. The animal health status of Northern Ireland has deteriorated with the effective removal of frontiers between EU Member States and, with an enlarging European Union, diseases which were once considered exotic are now unfortunately a feature of everyday life.

No sector of our livestock industry in Northern Ireland has escaped the importation of new diseases, some of which have presented major challenges for livestock keepers and food processors alike. Diseases with which the industry has not been familiar are now much more of a threat than ever with the enhanced logistics of moving animals and people over long distances. The Foot and Mouth epidemic in the UK during 2001 should forever serve as a stark reminder of the consequences of getting things seriously wrong.

As an industry which contributes so much to the fabric of society in Northern Ireland it is incumbent on all those who seek to import livestock that they study the guidelines in this code and take all reasonable steps to ensure that trade in live animals is conducted in a safe and responsible manner.

This code is not aimed at providing guidance on reducing the spread of disease from movements of livestock within Northern Ireland – for guidance on this reference should be made to the Northern Ireland Biosecurity Code which was distributed to all livestock keepers in 2004 and is available from local DARD offices.

Disclaimer:

The information contained in this code of practice is designed to give general advice to livestock importers. It is important that importers check with the Competent Authority (DARD) for the most up-to-date and specific conditions of import and animal transport as rules governing these areas will inevitably continue to change after publication of this code.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The risks of importing animal disease into Northern Ireland are very significant and it is appropriate to weigh up the potential impact before moving any consignments into the Province. The following is a summary of the key considerations that should be weighed up before proceeding with import:

- **Regional Health Status:**

The animal health status of Northern Ireland has been under intense scrutiny in recent years with established diseases such as Bovine TB and Brucellosis proving very difficult to bring under effective control. On top of this many hitherto uncommon diseases such as Caseous Lymphadenitis (CLA) in sheep, Post-weaning Multisystemic Wasting Disease (PMWS) in pigs and Newcastle Disease in poultry have all presented challenges to local livestock populations. There are also a host of other production diseases which farmers now have to vaccinate their livestock against as a result of animals being imported without due care and consideration of their health status.

- **Fitness To Trade:**

The Northern Ireland livestock industry is one which is geared heavily towards export with some sectors having to export as much as 90% of the produce it generates. As an exporting nation the status of the herds / flocks of origin is often a key determining factor in doing successful business with certain importing nations – Russia is a prime example where stringent veterinary certification limits our capacity to access that huge marketplace. A further consideration is our position within the Island of Ireland. Work has been ongoing to develop an all-island animal health and welfare strategy, in recognition of agri-business developments throughout the island - livestock importers need to be aware of the dangers of potentially jeopardising the further enhancement of this work. The FMD crisis in 2001 for example caused the closure of the border and resulted in significant difficulties moving sheep for slaughter and milk for processing in RoI.

- **Economic Impact:**

Clearly a major consideration on any livestock farm has to be the costs associated with animal disease control. An animal disease breakdown on a farm, or indeed an underlying sub-clinical infection, can have major financial consequences for the affected premises, and in the case of notifiable diseases, the regulatory authority and the public purse. Anyone considering the importation of animals should therefore assess whether they have satisfactory disease insurance cover or have guarantees that any infected animals can be re-exported.

A FEW GOLDEN RULES TO FOLLOW WHEN IMPORTING LIVESTOCK:

- Satisfy yourself that suitable livestock are not available locally for the purpose
- Familiarise yourself with the basic livestock import requirements
- Identify a consignment of livestock for import
- Ascertain the health status of the farm of origin, discuss with the herd vet and your own vet
- Carry out additional health / veterinary checks on the livestock where necessary
- Notify the Competent Authority (DARD) of your intention to import well in advance
- Acquire the necessary veterinary health certification including that which must accompany the consignment; ensure that the correct premises of destination is entered on the certificate, as animals may only be delivered to the address on the certificate
- Read the conditions of your import licence carefully and comply fully with these before, during and after importation
- Use appropriate haulage vehicles which must be cleansed and disinfected prior to loading and after delivery of animals.
- On landing on the farm carry out a visual inspection of the animals
- Isolate animals on farm of destination for at least 30 days and check regularly for signs of disease or stress. Introduce the animals gradually to the rest of the herd / flock when you are satisfied they are healthy.

IMPORTATION OF CATTLE FROM GREAT BRITAIN – REQUIREMENTS

CATTLE FROM GB	ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS	DETAIL OF REQUIREMENTS
FOR BREEDING & PRODUCTION	1. VALID SPECIFIC IMPORT LICENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issued from Trade Section Dundonald House
	2. VALID EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE SIGNED BY APPROVED DEFRA VET (LOCAL VETERINARY INSPECTOR, LVI) CONFIRMING:	<p>(A) CONSIGNMENT DETAILS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name and address of Consignor and Consignee Address of premises of origin and destination Description / ear number / sex / age / category of each animal <p>(B) HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herd of origin must be TB and Br free Animals must have been examined within 24 hours of export, to be free from all signs of disease including ringworm and fit to travel Must not be animals to be slaughtered under a disease control programme Must not be vaccinated against FMD
	3. SUPPLEMENTARY VETERINARY CERTIFICATE SIGNED BY PVP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stating that animals have been tested for TB within 30 days prior to export with negative results. Animals have remained on a single holding for 30 days prior to export
	4. IDENTIFICATION TAGS IN EACH EAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With approved ear tags bearing herd and individual numbers
	5. PASSPORT OR OFFICIAL DOCUMENTATION CONFIRMING:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The official identification code of the ear tag marks; The date of birth; Identification code (the ear marks) of the dam; The sex and breed; The official identification number issued by the competent veterinary authority to the holding of birth; The movement history of the animals since birth
	6. TRANSPORTATION/ANIMAL TRANSPORT CERTIFICATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsibility of haulier Transport vehicle to be cleansed and remove all visible organic material No contact with animals of a lower health status

CATTLE FROM GB FOR IMMEDIATE SLAUGHTER	1. VALID SPECIFIC IMPORT LICENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issued from Trade Section Dundonald House
	2. VALID EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE SIGNED BY APPROVED DEFRA VET (LOCAL VETERINARY INSPECTOR, LVI) CONFIRMING:	<p>(A) <u>CONSIGNMENT DETAILS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name and address of Consignor and Consignee • address of premises of origin and destination • description / ear number / sex / age / category of each animal <p>(B) <u>HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herd of origin must be TB, Br and Leucosis free • The animals are all born on or after 1 August 1996 • Animals must have been examined within 24 hours of export, to be free from all signs of disease including Ringworm and fit to travel • Must not be animals to be slaughtered under a disease control programme • Must not be vaccinated against FMD
	3. IDENTIFICATION TAGS IN EACH EAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With approved ear tags bearing herd and individual numbers
	4. PASSPORT OR OFFICIAL DOCUMENTATION CONFIRMING:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The official identification code of the ear tag marks; • The date of birth; • Identification code (the ear marks) of the dam; • The sex and breed; • The official identification number issued by the competent veterinary authority to the holding of birth; • The movement history of the animals since birth
	5. TRANSPORTATION/ ANIMAL TRANSPORT CERTIFICATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility of haulier • Must be consigned directly to the slaughter house • Transport vehicle to be cleansed and remove all visible organic material • No contact with animals of a lesser status while in transit

IMPORTATION OF CATTLE FROM OTHER EU MEMBER STATES- REQUIREMENTS

CATTLE FROM EU MEMBER STATES	ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS	DETAIL OF REQUIREMENTS
FOR BREEDING	1. IMPORT LICENCE IS <u>NOT</u> REQUIRED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All cattle imported from Member States and Norway must comply with EU animal health rules governing intra-community trade
	2. ORIGINAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE SIGNED BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN OF THE VETERINARY AUTHORITIES OF THE MEMBER STATE CONCERNED, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE MODELS LAID DOWN IN DIRECTIVE 64/432.	<p>The certificate must provide the following assurances:</p> <p>(a) <u>General Assurances:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conform to the model set out in Annex F to Council Directive 64/432/EEC (as amended) and be drawn up on the day of loading; Be in English (it can be, and usually is, also in the language of the Member State of export); Consist of a single document in such a form that any two pages or more are part of an integrated whole and indivisible; Be made out for a single Consignee; and Be valid for a period of 10 days Cattle must have been resident for a continuous period of 30 days on the holding of origin prior to export. <p>(B) <u>Health Assurances:</u></p> <p>Cattle must come from -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Officially Tuberculosis-free herd (as defined) and; if over 6 weeks old and originating in a region which does not have Officially Tuberculosis-free status, to have reacted negatively to an Intradermal Tuberculosis test carried out during the 30 days prior to export; An Officially Brucellosis-free herd (as defined) and; if over 12 months old and originating in a region which does not have Officially Brucellosis-free status, to show a Brucella count of less than 30 international units of agglutination per millilitre in a sero-agglutination test carried out during the 30 days prior to export; An Enzootic Bovine Leukosis-free herd (as defined) and; if over 12 months old and originating in a region which does <u>not</u> have EBL-free status, to have reacted negatively to a test for EBL carried out during the 30 days prior to export.
	3. CORRECT ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cattle must be identified in accordance with 92/102/EEC
	4. PASSPORT / OFFICIAL DOCUMENTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animals must be accompanied by a valid passport and ITHAC whilst in transit.

	5. ANIMAL TRANSPORT CERTIFICATE, OR IF JOURNEY OVER 8 HOURS, JOURNEY PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility of haulier
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CATTLE FROM EU MEMBER STATES FOR IMMEDIATE SLAUGHTER	1. IMPORT LICENCE IS <u>NOT</u> REQUIRED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All cattle imported from Member States and Norway must comply with EU animal health rules governing Intra-Community trade
	2. ORIGINAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE SIGNED BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN OF THE VETERINARY AUTHORITIES OF THE MEMBER STATE CONCERNED, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE MODELS LAID DOWN IN DIRECTIVE 64/432.	<p>The certificate must provide the following assurances:</p> <p>(a) <u>General Assurances;</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conform to the model set out in Annex F to Council Directive 64/432/EEC (as amended) and be drawn up on the day of loading; Be in English (it can be, and usually is, also in the language of the Member State of export); Consist of a single document in such a form that any two pages or more are part of an integrated whole and indivisible; Be made out for a single consignee; and Be valid for a period of 10 days <p>(B) <u>Health Assurances;</u></p> <p>Cattle must come from herds which are -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officially Tuberculosis-free (as defined) and Officially Enzootic Bovine Leukosis-free (EBL) (as defined) and Either Officially Brucellosis-free (as defined) <u>or</u> the cattle have been castrated
	3. CORRECT ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animals must be identified in accordance with 92/102/EEC
	4. PASSPORT / OFFICIAL DOCUMENTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animals must be accompanied by a valid passport and ITHAC whilst in transit.
	5. ANIMAL TRANSPORT CERTIFICATE, OR IF JOURNEY OVER 8 HOURS, JOURNEY PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsibility of haulier

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN IMPORTING CATTLE INTO NORTHERN IRELAND

IMPORTATION OF PEDIGREE AND COMMERCIAL BREEDING CATTLE

It is recommended that breeding animals should have been in their herd of origin for at least 6 months. In the case of calves, their dam should have been in the herd of origin for at least 6 months.

Importers of this type of animal should demand additional certified assurances of freedom of the herd of origin from the diseases listed in Table 1. A list of suitable diagnostic tests for these diseases, together with post-importation recommendations, is suggested.

Importers should endeavour to deal directly with the owner of this type of animal. If possible, importers should arrange reliable transport or personally travel with the animals to ensure that they are properly fed, watered, and rested.

IMPORTATION OF NON-BREEDING CATTLE

Note that cattle for production are included on the same import licence as for breeding cattle, and must be certified to the same standard. It is only slaughter cattle which are of a lower standard. However, relevant recommendations outlined in Table 1, especially post-importation measures, should be carried out as far as possible. Slaughter cattle must of course be transported directly and immediately to the premises of slaughter as specified on the health certificate.

IMPORTATION OF CALVES

If calves less than 2 weeks of age are being purchased, a zinc sulphate turbidity (or equivalent) test should be carried out on the farm of origin to assess immune status, and hence the degree of protection against common diseases such as scour and pneumonia.

ALL CATTLE

All imported cattle should be isolated for at least 30 days before introduction to the main herd. Isolate well away from the main herd in accommodation with separate air space and separate drainage. Ideally, the animals should be tended by separate personnel. If this is not possible, careful cleansing and disinfection of clothing must be carried out and imported animals attended to after the main herd.

Imported animals should be clinically assessed by your veterinary surgeon within 2-3 days of arrival. Any evidence of disease in imported animals should be reported immediately to your DVO and to your veterinary surgeon. If deaths occur and post-mortem examination is advised, then the carcase should be taken to the veterinary laboratory accompanied by notification from your veterinary surgeon, or DVO, of its import status.

The vehicles used to transport the stock to Northern Ireland should be cleansed and disinfected prior to loading. It is also recommended that wheels are disinfected on arrival and that the vehicle is cleansed and disinfected after leaving the farm of destination.

During transit, stock should not be accompanied by animals of a lower health status.

Remember **isolation** of imported animals gives you the opportunity to observe the stock, treat any disease symptoms and hopefully prevent the condition spreading to the rest of the herd. It also serves to introduce the imported stock gradually to diseases or organisms present on the farm to which they have not been exposed in their herd of origin.

TABLE 1

Disease	Requirements of Herd of Origin	Tests in Herd of Origin	Post-Importation Recommendations at Destination
IBR (respiratory or reproductive disease)	Purchase only from herds accredited free of IBR. If not possible, purchase only from herds with no clinical evidence of IBR.	Negative blood test to field IBR virus. (Positive blood test to marker vaccine may be acceptable to some purchasers.*)	Isolate for 30 days. Carry out a check blood test 21 days after arrival and do not release from isolation unless negative. If positive, consult your vet. If IBR virus is present in your herd, vaccination of imported stock may be appropriate.*(Consult your vet).
Johne's disease (scour, wasting)	Purchase only from herds accredited free of Johne's disease. If not possible, purchase only from herds with no clinical evidence for 2-3 years.	Negative blood test	Unless from an accredited herd, isolate for 120 days and carry out check tests on blood and faeces 100 days after arrival. Do not release from isolation unless negative. If positive or inconclusive, consult your vet.
<i>Mycoplasma bovis</i> and <i>Mycoplasma californicum</i> (mastitis, arthritis, pneumonia)	No clinical or bacteriological evidence of mycoplasma mastitis, arthritis or respiratory disease for the previous 2 years.		Isolate for 30 days. Take milk or dry udder secretion for laboratory culture. Do not release from isolation unless negative. If positive. Consult your vet.
<i>Trichomonas foetus</i> (reproductive discharges and disease)	No clinical evidence (vaginal or preputial discharges) for 2 years. Only purchase bulls that have not mated.	Culture of preputial sample (bulls)	Bulls should be sheath-washed with a suitable antibiotic for 3 consecutive days. (There is no guarantee that treatment will eliminate infection).
<i>Campylobacter foetus</i> subspecies <i>venerealis</i> (reproductive discharges and disease)	No clinical (vaginal discharges or abortions) or bacteriological evidence for 2 years. Only purchase bulls and heifers that have not mated.		Bulls should be sheath-washed with a suitable antibiotic during isolation.
Salmonella	No recent evidence of salmonellosis		Observe in isolation and if symptoms develop, consult your vet.

Table 1 Continued

Leptospirosis	Purchase only from herds accredited free of leptospirosis. If not possible, purchase only from herds with no clinical evidence for 2-3 years.	Negative blood tests for <i>L. hardjo</i> , <i>L. pomona</i> , <i>L. gryppotyphosa</i> . (Positive blood test to <i>L. hardjo</i> may be acceptable to some purchasers.*)	Treat cows and bulls for 3 days post-import with dihydrostreptomycin. Consider vaccination of new stock if seronegative and home herd already infected.
BVD	Purchase only from herds accredited free of BVD. If not possible, purchase only from herds with no clinical evidence for 2-3 years.	Virus isolation test negative on blood. Ideally do not purchase pregnant cattle. If unavoidable, purchase only if virus-negative and serologically negative.	Blood sample for virus isolation and serology after 21 days in isolation. Do not release if virus-positive. If pregnant cows are seropositive, consult your vet. If BVD virus is present in your herd, vaccination may be appropriate. (Consult your vet).
Digital dermatitis (also known as Mortellaro disease or superfoul)	No clinical evidence on farm of origin during previous two years		Footbath on arrival using medication advised by a vet. Inspect feet during isolation and call vet if any signs of disease or lameness.
Endoparasites (including anthelmintic-resistant worms)			Treat with an ivermectin or eprinomectin product followed by levamisole before allowing access to pasture.
Liver fluke			Treat sequentially with triclabendazole or closantel or nitroxylnil while in isolation.
Warbles			DARD requires all cattle to be treated post-importation.

*Cattle seropositive to IBR marker (gE deleted) vaccines and to *Leptospira hardjo* are currently precluded from use as AI sires in Northern Ireland. IBR-vaccinated cattle may be unsuitable as dams for suckling bulls intended for use in AI.

Note: Any evidence of disease in imported animals should be reported immediately to your DVO and to your veterinary surgeon. If deaths occur and post-mortem examination is advised, the carcase should be taken to the veterinary laboratory accompanied by notification from your veterinary surgeon, or DVO, of its import status.

IMPORTATION OF SHEEP FROM GREAT BRITAIN – REQUIREMENTS

SHEEP FROM GB	ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS	DETAIL OF REQUIREMENTS
FOR BREEDING	1. VALID SPECIFIC IMPORT LICENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issued from Trade Section Dundonald House
	2. VALID EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE SIGNED BY APPROVED DEFRA VET (LOCAL VETERINARY INSPECTOR, LVI) CONFIRMING:	<p>(a) <u>Consignment Details:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name and address of Consignor and Consignee Address of premises of origin and destination Breed / ear number / sex / age of each animal <p>(b) <u>Health Requirements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flock of origin has fully Maedi Visna accredited status under SAC or DEFRA scheme or If not from fully accredited flocks, animals must be over 12 months of age, or if less than 12 months of age, come from a flock which has been sampled within 6 months of export to confirm that it is free from Maedi Visna. All animals from non fully accredited flocks be sampled for Maedi Visna within 30 days prior to export Animals must have been examined within 24 hours of export, to be free from all signs of disease and fit to travel Animals come from a holding with no case of scrapie in the last 3 years No Caseous lymphadenitis in past 12 months. Animals have been resident for 20 days.
	3. CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL OF POST IMPORT ISOLATION FACILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required for imports of non Maedi Visna fully accredited sheep (in accordance with the SAC and DEFRA schemes) Issued by importer's local Divisional Veterinary Office Note that all such animals must be isolated for 6 months post import

		and tested for Maedi Visna before release
	4. SUPPLEMENTARY VETERINARY CERTIFICATE SIGNED BY PVP CONFIRMING:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flock/s from which the sheep are being exported from must have been examined by a veterinary surgeon within 14 days of export and there is no sign of Scrapie in the flock.
	5. CORRECT ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be clearly and permanently identified by means of an individual tattoo and/or ear tag which permits tracing of their premises of origin Must include an individual and unique number (of not more than 6 characters) to distinguish it from any other sheep marked with the same holding number Horn brands alone are not acceptable.
	6. TRANSPORTATION/ANIMAL TRANSPORT CERTIFICATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsibility of haulier Transport vehicle to be cleansed and remove all visible organic material No contact with animals of a lesser status while in transit
SHEEP FROM GB FOR IMMEDIATE SLAUGHTER	1. VALID SPECIFIC IMPORT LICENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issued from Trade Section Dundonald House
	2. VALID EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE SIGNED BY APPROVED DEFRA VET (LOCAL VETERINARY INSPECTOR, LVI) CONFIRMING:	<p>(a) <u>Consignment Details:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name and address of Consignor and Consignee Address of premises of origin and destination Breed / ear number / sex / age of each animal <p>(b) <u>Health Requirements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animals must have been examined within 24 hours of export and found to be free from all signs of disease and fit to travel
	3. TRANSPORTATION/ANIMAL TRANSPORT CERTIFICATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsibility of haulier Transport vehicle to be cleansed

		<p>and remove all visible organic material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No contact with animals of a lesser status while in transit
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IMPORTATION OF SHEEP FROM OTHER EU MEMBER STATES – REQUIREMENTS

SHEEP FROM EU MEMBER STATES	ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS	DETAIL OF REQUIREMENTS
FOR BREEDING	1. IMPORT LICENCE IS <u>NOT</u> REQUIRED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All sheep imported from Member States and Norway must comply with EU animal health rules governing Intra-Community trade
	2. ORIGINAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE SIGNED BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN OF THE VETERINARY AUTHORITIES OF THE MEMBER STATE CONCERNED, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE MODELS LAID DOWN IN DIRECTIVE 91/68	<p>The certificate must provide the following assurances:</p> <p>(a) <u>General Assurances;</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conform to the model set out in Annex F to Council Directive 91/68/EEC (as amended) and be drawn up on the day of loading; • Be in English (it can be also in the language of the Member State of export); • Consist of a single document in such a form that any two pages or more are part of an integrated whole and indivisible; • Be made out for a single Consignee; and • Be valid for a period of 10 days <p><u>(B) Health Assurances;</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consignments must be inspected by an Official Veterinarian during the 48 hours preceding loading of the animals • Must have been resident on the holding of origin for 30 days prior to export. • No introduction of sheep in previous 21 days (if from Third Country previous 30 days) • They must show no clinical signs of disease • They must not come from a holding which is the subject of a prohibition on health grounds and must not have been in contact with animals from such a holding. • Animals must originate either from an Officially Brucellosis free ovine or caprine holding or come from a Brucellosis free holding. Animals originating from a Brucellosis free holding must in addition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be individually identified; • Not have been vaccinated against Brucellosis within the previous two years (except females over two years old which were vaccinated before the age of 7 months); and • Have been isolated under official supervision on the holding of origin and, during such isolation have undergone, with negative results, two tests for Brucella Melitensis separated by an interval of at least six weeks.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep for breeding must, in addition, originate from a holding on which the following diseases have not been clinically diagnosed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the previous 6 months - Contagious Agalactia; • In the previous 12 months - Paratuberculosis and Caseous Lymphadenitis; • In the previous three years - Pulmonary Adenomatosis, Caprine Viral Arthritis / Encephalitis and (subject to certain exceptions) Maedi Visna. • Animals for breeding must also meet certain requirements in respect of Scrapie. The animals must originate from a holding which, amongst other things, has been monitored free of Scrapie for at least three years, on which all the animals are marked, and in so far as trade in sheep is concerned, a sample of cull ewes have been examined at post-mortem, with negative results, for the presence of Scrapie. Scrapie Branch can advise you on the acceptability of ARR/ARR genotyped sheep for trade irrespective of whether the flock is Scrapie approved or not. <p>Rams for breeding must, in addition to the requirements at paragraphs above: Come from a holding on which Contagious Epididymitis has not been diagnosed in the preceding 12 months Have been kept continuously on that holding for 60 days prior to dispatch, and; In the 30 days before dispatch have undergone a test for Contagious Epididymitis</p>
	3. CORRECT ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep must be identified in accordance with the requirements of the Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement) Order (NI) 2005.
	4. ANIMAL TRANSPORT CERTIFICATE, OR IF JOURNEY OVER 8 HOURS, JOURNEY PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility of haulier

SHEEP FROM EU MEMBER STATES FOR IMMEDIATE SLAUGHTER	1. IMPORT LICENCE IS <u>NOT</u> REQUIRED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All sheep imported from Member States and Norway must comply with EU animal health rules governing Intra-Community trade
	2. ORIGINAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE SIGNED BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN OF THE VETERINARY AUTHORITIES OF THE MEMBER STATE CONCERNED, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE MODELS LAID DOWN IN DIRECTIVE 91/68.	<p>The certificate must provide the following assurances:</p> <p>(a) <u>General Assurances;</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conform to the model set out in Annex F to Council Directive 91/68/EEC (as amended) and be drawn up on the day of loading; • Be in English (it can be, and usually is, also in the language of the Member State of export); • Consist of a single document in such a form that any two pages or more are part of an integrated whole and indivisible; • Be made out for a single Consignee; and • Be valid for a period of 10 days <p>(b) <u>Health Assurances;</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consignments must be inspected by an Official Veterinarian during the 48 hours preceding loading of the animals • They must show no clinical signs of disease • They must not come from a holding which is the subject of a prohibition on health grounds and must not have been in contact with animals from such a holding • Have been resident on the holding of origin for the past 21 days. (Not required from the ROI) • No brucellosis, rabies or anthrax in the past 42/30/15 days respectively on the holding.
	3. ANIMAL TRANSPORT CERTIFICATE, OR IF JOURNEY OVER 8 HOURS, JOURNEY PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility of haulier

General precautions to consider when importing Sheep into Northern Ireland

Sheep for importation into Northern Ireland must be covered by a valid specific import licence issued by Animal Welfare and Trade Branch of DARD (NI) following written application by the importer. The animals to be imported must be accompanied by an original health certificate and a related schedule giving details of individual ear numbers, breed, sex and age of animals. The health certificate specifically requires health guarantees for the following sheep diseases: Maedi-Visna, Scrapie and Caseous Lymphadenitis.

In addition flock owners should take additional precautions for the specific exotic and endemic sheep diseases listed in Tables 2 and 3. On arrival sheep should be treated for fluke and worms and enter an appropriate vaccination programme which may include e.g. clostridial diseases, pasteurellosis, enzootic abortion, toxoplasmosis, orf.

Table 2. The main exotic diseases of sheep and summary of relevant precautions.

Exotic diseases	Precautions
Foot-and-mouth disease	Sheep should not be sourced from countries where this disease is prevalent.
Brucellosis (<i>B. ovis</i> , <i>B. melitensis</i>)	Sheep should not be sourced from countries where this disease is prevalent.
Maedi-visna	Sheep should be sourced from Maedi-Visna accredited flocks or sampled prior to export.
Contagious agalactia	Sheep should not be sourced from countries where this disease is prevalent.
Caseous Lymphadenitis (CLA)	All replacement animals should be held in isolation and inspected by a veterinary surgeon prior to joining the main flock. Sheep should not be sourced from flocks known to have CLA or undertaking a vaccination programme for CLA.

Table 3. The main endemic diseases of sheep and summary of relevant precautions.

Endemic diseases	Precautions
Foot rot	Health and condition of all animals to be assessed prior to purchase. Animals with foot rot should not be purchased. All replacement animals to be foot bathed with zinc sulphate on days 2-4 after arrival and examined for foot rot before joining the main flock.
Sheep scab	Health and condition of all animals to be assessed prior to purchase. Animals with symptoms of sheep scab infestation should not be purchased. All animals should be treated with an injectable ivermectin with persistent activity immediately prior to or on arrival.
Enzootic abortion	All replacement breeding ewes should preferably be vaccinated against EAE prior to mating. Ewes should come from flocks with no prior history of enzootic abortion.
Scrapie	<p>Preference when purchasing ewes and rams should be given to animals that are scrapie genotyped and found to be genetically resistant to scrapie. Breeding sheep should be sourced from scrapie-monitored flocks.</p> <p>(From early 2006 the Northern Ireland Scrapie Plan (NISP) genotyping programme will implement an EU requirement to provide for the compulsory genotyping of breeding rams which are from flocks of High Genetic Merit (HGM). A voluntary Ewe Genotyping Scheme, on a cost-sharing basis is also to be developed in 2006 for HGM flocks. Genotyping of other sheep (i.e. from non-HGM flocks) will not be provided under the NISP).</p>
Johne's disease	Sheep should be sourced from flocks with no prior history of Johne's disease. Animal health and condition should be assessed prior to purchase. Animals with muscle wasting should not be purchased.
Jaagsiekte (sheep pulmonary adenomatosis)	Sheep should be sourced from flocks with no prior history of Jaagsiekte. Animal health and welfare should be assessed prior to purchase. Animals with respiratory disease should not be purchased.
Orf	Animals should be inspected prior to purchase and must be free from the clinical signs of orf.
Resistant parasitic worms	Sheep should be treated sequentially with both ivermectin and levamisole anthelmintics before having access to grazing.

IMPORTATION OF PIGS FROM GREAT BRITAIN – REQUIREMENTS

PIGS FROM GB	ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS	DETAIL OF REQUIREMENTS
FOR BREEDING	1. VALID SPECIFIC IMPORT LICENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issued from Trade Section Dundonald House
	2. VALID EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE SIGNED BY APPROVED DEFRA VET (LOCAL VETERINARY INSPECTOR, LVI) CONFIRMING:	<p>(a) <u>Consignment Details:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name and address of consignor and consignee Address of premises of origin and destination Breed / ear number / sex / age of each animal <p>(b) <u>Health Requirements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been no clinical or other evidence, within the past 3 years in the herd of origin or in any herd in which the pigs have been kept during the past 12 months, of Transmissible Gastro-Enteritis / Porcine Respiratory Corona Virus / Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea infection; The herd of origin is not subject to any official restriction for disease control purposes; There is no clinical, pathological or serological evidence that an outbreak of blue eared pig disease (Porcine Reproductive Respiratory Syndrome, PRRS), Transmissible Gastro-Enteritis or Porcine Respiratory Corona Virus infections have occurred on the premises of origin or any other premises where the pigs have resided during the 3 years prior to export; There has been no evidence of Aujeszky's Disease or Swine Influenza in the herd of origin during the 12 month period immediately preceding the date of export; No pigs have been moved onto the premises of origin during the 3 week period immediately preceding the date of export; The pigs to be exported to NI were born in or have resided in GB for at least 6 months immediately preceding the date of export; All the pigs to be exported/all those pigs from which pigs to be exported were

		<p>finally selected at the time of export were isolated in separate airspace(s) as remote from other livestock as possible for a period of not less than 30 days immediately preceding the date of export.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not sooner than the 21st day of pre-export isolation period referred to at paragraph (i) above and not more than 30 days prior to the date of export, all the isolated pigs were subjected to the serological tests detailed below. the tests must be carried out by the Central Veterinary Laboratory Weybridge or Lasswade with negative results in the case of every pig tested for PRRS; and either: a serum neutralisation test for Transmissible Gastro-Enteritis and Porcine Respiratory Corona Virus or an ELISA test which does not discriminate between Transmissible Gastro-Enteritis and Porcine Respiratory Corona Virus Animals must have been examined within 24 hours of export and found to be free from all signs of disease including ectoparasites and fit to travel
	3. CORRECT ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The animals to be imported must be clearly and permanently identified by means of an individual and unique identification tattoo and/or ear tag which permits tracing of their premises of origin. This must include an individual number (of not more than 4 characters) to distinguish from any other animal marked with same holding number.
	4.TRANSPORTATION/ANIMAL TRANSPORT CERTIFICATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsibility of haulier Transport vehicle to be cleansed and remove all visible organic material No contact with animals of a lesser status while in transit
FOR IMMEDIATE SLAUGHTER	1. VALID SPECIFIC IMPORT LICENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issued from Trade Section Dundonald House
	2. VALID EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE SIGNED BY APPROVED DEFRA VET (LOCAL VETERINARY	<p>(a) <u>Consignment details:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name and address of consignor and consignee

	INSPECTOR, LVI) CONFIRMING:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address of premises of origin and destination • Breed / ear number / sex / age of each animal <p>(b) <u>Health Requirements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals must have been examined within 24 hours of export and found to be free from all signs of disease including ectoparasites and fit to travel
	3. CORRECT ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The animals to be imported must be clearly and permanently identified by means of a tattoo and/or ear tag which permits tracing of their premises of origin and an indelible mark on their heads which identifies them as animals for slaughter
	4.TRANSPORTATION/ANIMAL TRANSPORT CERTIFICATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility of haulier • Transport vehicle to be cleansed and remove all visible organic material • No contact with animals of a lesser status while in transit

IMPORTATION OF PIGS FROM OTHER EU MEMBER STATES – REQUIREMENTS

PIGS FROM EU MEMBER STATES	ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS	DETAIL OF REQUIREMENTS
FOR BREEDING	1. IMPORT LICENCE IS <u>NOT</u> REQUIRED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All pigs imported from Member States and Norway must comply with EU animal health rules governing Intra-Community trade
	2. ORIGINAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE SIGNED BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN OF THE VETERINARY AUTHORITIES OF THE MEMBER STATE CONCERNED, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE MODELS LAID DOWN IN DIRECTIVE 64/432	<p>The certificate must provide the following assurances:</p> <p>(a) <u>General Assurances;</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conform to the model set out in Annex F to Council Directive 64/432EEC (as amended) and be drawn up on the day of loading; Be in English (it can be also in the language of the member state of export); Consist of a single document in such a form that any two pages or more are part of an integrated whole and indivisible; Be made out for a single Consignee; and Be valid for a period of 10 days <p>(b) <u>Health Assurances;</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pigs for breeding and production must come from Brucellosis-free stock and from an Officially Swine Fever-free or a Swine Fever free holding (if they come from the latter, they must be accompanied by a certificate testifying that they have not been vaccinated). No restrictions on Holding of Origin due to diseases affecting Porcine. Have not received certain substances e.g. Oestrogenic Holding free from FMD, swine vesicular disease, Swine Br, Classical swine fever and contagious swine paralysis for the last three months.
	3. ANIMAL TRANSPORT CERTIFICATE, OR IF JOURNEY OVER 8 HOURS, JOURNEY PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsibility of haulier

PIGS FROM EU MEMBER STATES FOR IMMEDIATE SLAUGHTER	1. IMPORT LICENCE IS <u>NOT</u> REQUIRED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pigs imported from Member States and Norway must comply with EU animal health rules governing Intra-Community trade
	2. ORIGINAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE SIGNED BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN OF THE VETERINARY AUTHORITIES OF THE MEMBER STATE CONCERNED, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE MODELS LAID DOWN IN DIRECTIVE 64/432	<p>The certificate must provide the following assurances:</p> <p>(a) <u>General Assurances;</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conform to the model set out in Annex F to Council Directive 64/432EEC (as amended) and be drawn up on the day of loading; • Be in English (it can be, and usually is, also in the language of the Member State of export); • Consist of a single document in such a form that any two pages or more are part of an integrated whole and indivisible; • Be made out for a single Consignee; and • Be valid for a period of 10 days <p>(b) <u>Health Assurances;</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consignments must be inspected by an Official Veterinarian during the 48 hours preceding loading of the animals • They must show no clinical signs of disease • They must not come from a holding which is the subject of a prohibition on health grounds and must not have been in contact with animals from such a holding
	3. ANIMAL TRANSPORT CERTIFICATE, OR IF JOURNEY OVER 8 HOURS, JOURNEY PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility of haulier

General precautions to consider when importing pigs into Northern Ireland

Pigs for importation into Northern Ireland must be covered by a valid specific import licence issued by Animal Welfare and Trade Branch of DARD (NI) following written application by the importer. The animals to be imported must be accompanied by an original health certificate and a related schedule giving details of individual ear numbers, breed, sex and age of animals. Table 4 lists the main diseases for which there is legislative control.

Table 4. The main exotic diseases of pigs and summary of relevant precautions.

Exotic diseases	Precautions
Foot-and-mouth disease	Pigs should not be sourced from countries/regions where this disease is prevalent.
Swine Fever (Classical or African)	Pigs should not be sourced from countries/regions where either of these diseases is prevalent.
Swine Vesicular Disease	Pigs should not be sourced from countries/regions where this disease is prevalent.
Brucellosis (<i>Brucella suis</i>)	Pigs should not be sourced from countries/regions where this disease is prevalent.
Transmissible gastroenteritis/ porcine respiratory coronavirus.	Pigs should not be sourced from farms where there has been clinical or serological evidence of infection with either TGE or PRCV.
Porcine epidemic diarrhoea	Pigs should not be sourced from farms where there has been clinical or serological evidence of infection.
Aujeszky's disease*	Pigs should not be sourced from farms where there has been clinical or serological evidence of infection.
Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome*	Pigs should not be sourced from farms where there has been clinical or serological evidence of infection.
Leptospirosis**	To avoid the introduction of strains of leptospirosis exotic to Northern Ireland, it is recommended that prospective imports are first tested in the country of origin and only the negative animals considered for import. Some of the animals which test negative may be carriers and should be treated twice with dihydrostreptomycin at an interval of 14 days, the second treatment being given within 5 days of the proposed export.
Ectoparasites*	Pigs should be free of clinical evidence of mange or lice.

* There are legislative controls on the import of animals with these diseases, though they are endemic.

** There are no legislative controls on leptospirosis, this is a recommendation.

In addition, herdowners planning to import pigs should have regard to the diseases listed in Table 5. These diseases are endemic and may or may not be present in the destination herd. Herdowners should consult with their veterinary surgeon to ensure that (i) they do not introduce disease new to the herd (ii) they do not introduce pigs free of any disease which is already present in the herd – or if this is unavoidable, measures should be taken to protect the imported animals (free of disease), such as vaccination.

Table 5. The main endemic diseases of pigs and summary of relevant precautions

Endemic diseases	Precautions
Porcine dermatitis and nephropathy syndrome/post-weaning multisystemic wasting syndrome (PDNS/PMWS)*	Pigs should not be sourced from farms where there has been clinical evidence of either syndrome.
Salmonella infection*	Pigs should not be sourced from farms where there has been clinical or serological evidence of infection.
Atrophic rhinitis*	Pigs should not be sourced from farms where there has been clinical or serological evidence of infection, vaccine available.
Swine dysentery*	Pigs should not be sourced from farms where there has been clinical or serological evidence of infection.
Actinobacillus pleuropneumonia*	Pigs should not be sourced from farms where there has been clinical or serological evidence of infection, vaccine available.
Proliferative intestinal adenomatosis*	Pigs should not be sourced from farms where there has been clinical or serological evidence of infection.
Swine flu	Difficult to achieve and maintain freedom from infection, home herd is likely to be infected – take care in introducing new animals which may not be immune.
Parvovirus	Difficult to achieve and maintain freedom from infection, home herd is likely to be infected – take care in introducing new animals which may not be immune. Vaccine available.
Leptospirosis	Home herd is likely to be infected, but take care to avoid the introduction of non-indigenous strains from certain EU member states and third countries (see Table 1).
Enzootic pneumonia	Difficult to achieve and maintain freedom from infection, home herd is likely to be infected – take care in introducing new animals which may not be immune. Vaccine available.

Glasser's disease
(*Haemophilus*
parasuis)

Difficult to achieve and maintain freedom from infection,
home herd is likely to be infected – take care in introducing
new animals which may not be immune. Vaccine available.

* A herd of high health status should aspire to be free of these diseases.

Importation of Poultry and Hatching Eggs

Introduction

Legal Compliance

The legal requirements for importation of poultry and hatching eggs are set out principally in the European Directive EC 90/539. The procedures to be followed are detailed in DARD NI Trader note 6 which is included in this pack.

However it should be remembered that these requirements should be viewed very much as the minimum acceptable standards. Many economically important diseases are not covered by this Directive and thus it is possible to legally import poultry which may be infected with such diseases which may not be apparent at the time of shipment. Remember that many important diseases of poultry such as salmonella, mycoplasma synovia or ILT can be present in flocks without obvious clinical signs. It is critical to take great care when importing stock and not to rely on standard health certification.

When importing poultry or hatching eggs one should follow the same “golden rules” used for all other livestock:

- 1) Get good advice. There are specialist poultry vets whose advice should be sought. They will be able to provide information as to the safest areas to import stock from and what additional guarantees and tests you should seek from the exporter. Table 1 provides a list of some of the most significant diseases of concern to importers. However it is not exhaustive and specialist advice should always be sought.
- 2) It is generally safer to import stock from higher up the production pyramid e.g. parent stock rather than commercial birds.
- 3) It is better to import stock as hatching eggs or day old chicks. These will not have had a chance to become exposed to diseases on farms (although some conditions can be passed from parent birds to eggs or chicks). Many economically important diseases such as Gumboro Disease and Avian Rhinotracheitis can be avoided by this route.
- 4) Ensure that all transport vehicles and containers are cleansed and disinfected before use. Ideally disposable packaging should be used for eggs or chicks. Make sure no contact with other livestock occurs in transit.
- 5) Imported stock should be kept separate from other birds for a period of time (4 weeks minimum) after importation, ideally on a completely separate site. Imported eggs should be hatched separately. Where this is not possible separate incubators and hatchers should be used and the birds taken off after all other stock has been taken off and dispatched.
- 6) Keep a close eye on newly imported stock and get any problem investigated.
- 7) It is prudent to run additional tests on imported birds at the end of the quarantine period. This is especially so if the birds are subsequently going to be mixed with other stock.

Table 6. Diseases of Concern for Domestic Poultry

Disease	Precautions
Avian Influenza	Poultry should not be sourced from areas where this disease occurs.
Newcastle Disease	Poultry should not be sourced from regions where this disease occurs.
Salmonella	Many salmonella strains can be vertically transmitted via the egg. Detailed testing records from source flocks will help confirm freedom. Serological tests exist for some salmonella stains, culture test will detect the majority of types.
Mycoplasma	Again these diseases will transmit vertically. Blood tests are available for most of the important strains (M. synoviae, M. gallisepticum, M. meleagridis) however special culture tests may be required for others e.g. M. iowae
Avian Leucosis	These diseases can pass from one generation to the next. Tests are available for certain strains but expert advice should be sought, especially if importing birds for breeding.
Infectious Laryngo-Tracheitis (ILT)	This disease can exist in latent form in apparently normal birds. Blood tests exist to test for infection but risks can be greatly reduced by importing only day old chicks or hatching eggs.

Importation of Farmed Deer into Northern Ireland

Farmed deer for importation into Northern Ireland must be covered by a valid specific import licence issued by Animal Welfare and Trade Branch of DARD (NI) following written application by the importer. The animals to be imported must be accompanied by an original health certificate and a related schedule giving details of individual species, ear numbers, sex and age of animals. The health certificate specifically requires health guarantees for the following diseases: tuberculosis and brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*).

In addition herdowners should take additional precautions for the specific exotic and endemic deer diseases listed in Tables 7 and 8. The susceptibility to different diseases is variable with the individual species of deer. On arrival deer should be treated for fluke and worms and enter an appropriate vaccination programme which may include e.g. clostridial diseases.

Table 7. The main exotic diseases of deer and summary of relevant precautions.

Exotic diseases	Precautions
Foot-and-mouth disease	Deer should not be sourced from countries where this disease is prevalent.
Chronic wasting disease (spongiform encephalopathy of cervidae)	Deer should not be sourced from countries where this disease is prevalent.
Rinderpest	Deer should not be sourced from countries where this disease is prevalent.

Table 8. The main endemic diseases of deer and summary of relevant precautions.

Endemic diseases	Precautions
Johne's disease	Deer should be sourced from herds with no prior history of Johne's disease. Health and condition of animals should be assessed prior to purchase. Animals with muscle wasting should not be purchased.
Herpesvirus infection	Infection is widespread but overt clinical signs are rare. Stress causes infected animals to excrete virus which can cause infection in deer not previously exposed. Avoid mixing deer from different sources at times of stress e.g. immediately following transport.
Resistant parasitic worms	Deer should be treated with anthelmintics before having access to grazing.

USEFUL POINTS OF CONTACT:

DARD Animal Welfare and Trade Branch

Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast BT4 3SB
Tel: 028 9052 4275

DARD Veterinary Service

Room 716 Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast BT4 3SB
Tel: 028 9052 4580

DARD Divisional Veterinary Offices:

Armagh

Mall West
Armagh
BT61 7JN
Tel: 028 3752 9900

Ballymena

Kilpatrick House
38-54 High Street
Ballymena
BT43 6DP
Tel: 028 2566 2862

Coleraine

Crown Buildings
Artillery Road
Coleraine
BT52 2AJ
Tel: 028 7034 1111

Dungannon

Crown Buildings
Thomas Street
Dungannon BT70 1HR
Tel: 028 8775 4777

Enniskillen

Inishkeen House
Killyhevlin
Enniskillen
BT47 4EJ
Tel: 028 6632 5004

Larne

Crown Buildings
Pound Street
Larne BT40 1SH
Tel: 028 2826 3222

Londonderry

Crown Buildings
Asylum Road
Londonderry
BT48 7EB
Tel: 028 7131 9592

Newry

Glenree House
Unit 2 Springhill Road
Carnbane Industrial Estate
Newry BT35 6EF
Tel: 028 3025 3200

Newtownards

9 Robert Street
Newtownards
BT23 4DN
Tel: 028 9182 5825

Omagh

Sperrin House
Sedan Avenue
Omagh
BT79 7AQ
Tel: 028 8225 1020

Portal Offices:

Portal Headquarters

Coastal House
Herdman Channel Road
Belfast Harbour Estate
Belfast BT3 9AL
Tel: 028 9075 2466

Larne Harbour

Redlands Road Estate
Larne
Co Antrim
BT20 1AX
028 2826 0021

Warrenpoint Harbour

Warrenpoint
Co Down
BT34 3JA
Tel: 028 4175 3503

Airports

Belfast City Airport

Sydenham By-Pass
Belfast BT3 9JH
Tel: 028 9093 5226

Belfast International Airport

Crumlin
BT29 4AB
Tel: 028 9445 2577

City of Derry Airport

Airfield Road
Eglinton
Co Londonderry
Tel: 028 7181 0784



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