SALE DECLARATION FOR SHEEP

PLEASE HAND THIS FORM IN WITH YOUR MOVEMENT LICENCE.

Date of Movement _____

Trading Name _____

Address _____

_____ **Postcode** _____

Telephone No. _____ **Holding No.** _____

Quantity	Ewes / Lambs / Hoggs	Breed

Farm Assured

Sticker here or enter details.

FABBL No.

_____

EXP. DATE

_____

Not Assured

Veterinary Attestation Number (VAN) *Provided by your vet after a vet attestation visit or an annual health and welfare review (known as a pathway visit).*

Insert VAN No.

_____

Declaration

I declare that all the details above are correct at the time of signing.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

ACTION REQUIRED NOW

To sell your livestock to best advantage please prepare straight away.

Providing evidence for exporting

From 13 December 2023, farmers will need to provide evidence of annual health visits if one or both of the following enter the food chain and may be exported to the EU:

- livestock
- animal products derived from livestock

The food chain information (FCI) documents for the livestock will need to include either a:

- vet attestation number (VAN) from a vet attestation visit or an annual health and welfare review (known as a pathway visit)
- qualifying farm assurance scheme membership number

Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

New requirement for farmers to provide evidence of annual vet visits

To Livestock Producers,

From the 13 December 2023 all livestock farmers who produce livestock or livestock products that end up in the food chain and which may be exported to the European Union will require proof of an annual vet visit. The vet visit will review the farm and all its livestock species for signs of notifiable diseases and biosecurity risks. Our livestock industry has high volumes of EU trade of both fresh meat and other livestock produce (like 5th quarter), so we are working to support industry in meeting these criteria. Defra is supporting the veterinary profession in the smooth implementation of this measure.

Defra have worked with industry and can confirm that farms in certain farm assurance schemes don't need to do anything new. Being part of these schemes gives assurance of at least an annual vet visit. The current qualifying farm assurance schemes are:

- Red Tractor
- Quality Meat Scotland (QMS)
- Farm Assured Welsh Livestock Beef and Lamb Scheme (FAWL) / Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers Ltd (WLBP)
- Lion Quality
- Poultry Health Scheme

If you are not part of the above farm assurance schemes, please read the below for what you need to do.

What does this mean for me?

Vet Attestation visits should be combined with other routine vet visits wherever possible, so long as all livestock species on the farm are considered and the vet can assess the bio-security risk in relation to notifiable disease. They will provide you with a visit receipt, showing that they have been there. You should both keep a copy of that receipt.

The vet will also give you a 'Vet Attestation Number' - known as a 'VAN' - that is valid for a year from date of visit. If your vet has been out to your farm within the past year and feels content their visit also covered the scope described above, you can ask them to create a VAN for your reference and share that with you. You will need to write this VAN on your Food Chain Information (FCI) document when you sell livestock destined for slaughter through a livestock market or to an abattoir.

If your farm has received or is due to receive a Defra funded visit under the Defra Animal Health and Welfare Review Pathway scheme, part of the visit will include the vet giving you a VAN number, which you will need to record on the FCI document.

We are updating the paper forms and creating some new IT options for the VAN to be recorded. For pig keepers we are building functionality into eAML2 so that you can add this VAN digitally. We will share further communications on these details in the months ahead.

- If you're not part of an assurance scheme listed above or have had or are about to have a visit under the Defra Animal Health and Welfare Pathway Scheme, speak to your vet to either: a) request a VAN backdated from your farm visit in the last year that you can write on your FCI document, or b) arrange a visit for your vet to provide this service and VAN so your livestock and products derived from your livestock can be exported after 13 December 2023.
- Contact your local livestock market or abattoir – they can advise you.

Our Q&A with more information is being circulated to all industry organisations and veterinary profession bodies.

October 2023

Veterinary Attestations - FAQs for livestock markets and producers

9th October 2023

Effective from 13th December 2023

1. What's changing?

Changes in EU legislation, as from 13th December 2023, will require all producers selling livestock for slaughter to have had an annual on-fa veterinary visit to allow their animals, and/or part of any animal, to be exported out of the UK.

Up until now, a farmer declaration has satisfied the requirements, however from 13th December 2023, producers will require a Veterinary Attestation. This will certify that an annual on-farm visit has taken place to verify the absence of notifiable diseases and provide general adv farm biosecurity, meeting EU requirements.

The Vet will provide the producer with a unique Veterinary Attestation Number, known as a "VAN" (see question 2) within their certificate

Templates of the Veterinary Attestation Certificate can be found here.

2. What is the "VAN" number?

The Veterinary Attestation Number, known as "VAN", is a unique reference number provided by Vets to producers within their Veterinary Attestation certificate to certify that an annual on-farm visit has taken place. A VAN number is valid for 12 months. This information will be provided to livestock markets, and onwards to buyers, for livestock sold for slaughter.

The VAN number is made up of 20 digits as follows, including the Vets RCVS number, the CPH number the VAN corresponds to, and expir

For example:

1234567-12/345/6789-0624

[MRCVS number]-[CPH number]-[Valid to the end of June 2024].

3. What will the process be for producers when selling through livestock markets?

a. The vendor will provide the auctioneers with their VAN prior to, or on arrival at the market.

For **sheep**, this will be included on the official sheep movement form.

An updated official sheep movement form is being circulated in due course. In the meantime, vendors may include the VAN number the FCI declaration of the current official sheep movement form.

For **cattle**, this should be provided to the market on the market entry form.

For **pigs**, the digital eAML2 form has been updated to accommodate the VAN number.

N.B If vendors are members of a qualifying assurance scheme (see question 4), a VAN number is not required.

b. The auctioneers will upload the vendors VAN number into their market system. Any livestock that are not accompanied by a VAN nun of evidence of membership of a qualifying assurance scheme will be announced at point of sale.
c. Following sale, the relevant VAN/Farm Assurance number for each lot will be provided to the purchaser on their sales invoice which ca be provided to the abattoir Vet, if/when requested.

4. Does membership of an assurance scheme, or other, automatically qualify?

Yes. Farms that are part of qualifying assurance schemes do not need to complete the veterinary declaration. Membership of these farm ass schemes is accepted as evidence that the premises of origin meet the requirement for regular health visits from a vet. The qualifying scheme

- Red Tractor
- Farm Assured Welsh Livestock Beef and Lamb Scheme (FAWL) (Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers Ltd (WLBP))
- Quality Meat Scotland (QMS)

In addition, membership of the Animal Health & Welfare Pathway (AHWP) (England only) will qualify. Members of the AHWP will be pro with a VAN by their Vet.

5. Is a VAN number required for all livestock?

No. A VAN is only required for livestock sold for slaughter, from the consigning holding.

6. Does a VAN number cover more than one holding?

The VAN number issued by the vet on the Veterinary Attestation certificate will include the producers main holding number (see question However, the VAN number provided to the producer covers all holdings that the producer has business connections to.

If livestock are consigned to the market off a temporary holding, or other, the main farm holding number should be used within the VAN n provided to the market.

7. Is there a minimum residency period for the last holding?

The requirement for a VAN number is applicable only to the last holding of residence, regardless of the length of time livestock have spent last holding.

8. What happens if a vendor does not have a VAN or assurance scheme membership after 13th December 2023?

Any farmers unable to provide a Veterinary Attestation or membership of a qualifying assurance scheme will be identified as such and ann at point of sale.

Without evidence that a farm receives regular veterinary visits, the Official Veterinarian at the slaughterhouse may not be able to sign a Su Health Attestation (SHA) facilitating products derived from your animals to be exported to the EU.

9. Will there be a digital solution?

Yes, in time. DEFRA and EID Cymru are working on creating a digital solution within the Livestock Information Service for all species.

9. What do producers need to do to prepare for the changes?

Prior to 13th December 2023, livestock producers should arrange a veterinary visit on farm for competition of the Veterinary Attestation Certificate. This visit can coincide with any other routine on-farm veterinary visit, or Animal Health & Welfare Pathway Review (England

In some cases, veterinarians may be able to provide a retrospective Veterinary Attestation Certificate if a recent on-farm visit has taken pla complies with the requirements of the Veterinary Attestation.

Alternatively, producers must provide evidence of a qualifying assurance scheme (see question 4).

11. How has the LAA represented the interests of LAA members and British farmers on this matter?

The LAA has attended regular meetings with DEFRA and Welsh Government representing the interests of LAA member livestock markets British farmers. Whilst all of industry fought hard to oppose Veterinary Attestations, UK Government and RCVS have chosen to make this requirement to satisfy EU legislation.

The LAA has demonstrated the operations of, and integral role of, livestock markets within the supply chain and been successful in moving government away from proposed burdensome paper-based solutions, ensuring a solution for non-assured farmers, and pushed governmen decisions ahead of a fast-approaching implementation deadline.

The LAA will continue to represent LAA members and British farmers on this matter.

If you have further questions, please contact your local market/auctioneer.

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