



Ref: CTO 2017 020 [G]

Sheep Embryos: Maedi-Visna Virus

### CTO direction as to equivalent measures in relation to sheep 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 sheep embryos from UK in relation to the import health standards [OVCAGERM.GEN]:

#### Part 2.6 – Maedi-visna (MV)

- (a) Donors were subjected to a serological test for MV in accordance with the *OIE Manual*, with negative results during the 21 day period prior to embryo collection; and
- (b) All embryos were washed in trypsin, according to the recommendations of IETS.

This equivalence was previously granted for Canada in CTOd 2017 006.

The following paper indicates that MV is not transmitted through transfer of in vivo derived, either intact or micromanipulated sheep embryos, provided washing and trypsin treatment is applied immediately after collection.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/200048903\\_Exploitation\\_of\\_embryos\\_collected\\_from\\_Maedi-Visna\\_seropositive\\_ewes\\_during\\_eradication\\_programs](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/200048903_Exploitation_of_embryos_collected_from_Maedi-Visna_seropositive_ewes_during_eradication_programs).

I consider the proposed equivalence, different to the IHS measures, effectively manages the risk.

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

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