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Glossary

The following words and phrases have the following meanings when used in these Rules and Conditions:

“**Animal**” means sheep or goat;

“**CAEAS**” means Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis Accreditation Scheme;

“**Export Certificate**” means a certificate confirming the MV Accredited status of an Animal.

“**Flock**” means a flock of sheep or a herd of goats;

“**Health Status Report**” means a certificate issued in respect of an Animal confirming that it is part of an MV Accredited Flock in accordance with the Rules;

“**Holding**” means any place in which animals are held, kept, bred, handled or shown to the public;

“**MV**” means Maedi Visna;

“**MV Accredited**” means:-

- in relation to an Animal, that it is monitored in accordance with the Rules of the MVAS and issued with a Health Status Report pursuant to Rule 1.3 and has not subsequently tested positive for MV or lost its MV Accredited status pursuant to Rule 5;
- in relation to a Flock that it consists only of MV Accredited Animals.

“**MVAS**” means Maedi Visna Accreditation Scheme;

“**MVAS Certificate**” means a certificate issued prior to the introduction of these Rules in respect of an Animal confirming that it is MV Accredited;

“**Non-MV Accredited**” means in relation to an Animal or Flock that it is not MV Accredited;

“**Periodic Test**” means a test carried out periodically on MV Accredited Flocks and Animals in accordance with Rule 3.7 in order to maintain MV Accredited status.

“**Periodic Testing**” means the carrying out of the Periodic Tests;

“**Qualifying Tests**” means the 2 consecutive blood tests required to be carried out in order to join the MVAS;

“**Rules**” means these rules and conditions relating to the MVAS;

“**SAC VS**” means SAC Consulting: Veterinary Services;

“**Tested**” means blood tested for MV;

“**Testing**” means blood testing for MV; and

“**you**” means an owner of Animals or any agent or other person employed by that owner.

INTRODUCTION

This section does not form part of the Rules and is provided for background purposes only.

Background

i What is 'Maedi Visna'?

Maedi Visna ("MV") also known as Ovine Progressive Pneumonia (OPP) is a chronic viral disease affecting the lungs and nervous system of sheep which can be transmitted between Flocks. The virus which causes Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE) in goats is very similar to MV virus and there is evidence that cross infection can occur between species. Therefore for the scheme purposes "Animal" refers to sheep and goats.

Test: At present blood testing allows identification of infection.

Cure: At present, there is no vaccine, no cure and the disease is fatal.

i Purpose of the scheme

- The Maedi Visna Accreditation Scheme ("MVAS") is a voluntary scheme which allows you to demonstrate that your Animals have been tested and are accredited free of MV.

The Benefits of membership of the MVAS are as follows:-

- it helps you to reduce the risk of your Flock contracting MV;
- it allows you membership of an elite nationally recognised health scheme with the backing of SAC VS;
- it enables you to attend shows and sales from which your Animals would otherwise be barred;
- it allows you to export to certain countries free from MV;
- it gives you the opportunity to advertise to potential purchasers that your Flock is MV Accredited; and
- it gives added value to your Flock by enabling you to supply purchasers who demand MV Accredited stock.

If you want to become or remain a part of the MVAS, you must abide by these Rules at all times.

i Who governs the scheme?

The MVAS is operated as follows:-

- **Organisation & Supervision:** As part of its Premium Sheep & Goat Health Schemes, SAC VS is appointed to organise and supervise the MVAS.
- **Inspections and certification of compliance with the Rules:** Practising veterinary surgeons are appointed to carry out Flock inspections and check on compliance with the Rules. SAC VS also organise random flock inspections.
- **Monitoring of shows and sales:** SAC VS operates (or sub-contracts the operation of) a bureau to monitor "MV Accredited" sections of shows and sales.

THE RULES

1 Membership and certification

1.1 Eligibility to join

You can join MVAS in respect of a Flock or a Holding provided that:-

- the Flock is situated in Great Britain;
- the Flock meets the MVAS requirements as detailed in these Rules; and
- you strictly adhere to the Rules of the MVAS. Failure to do so will result in penalties as detailed in Rule 6.

1.2 Application process

In order to join MVAS, you must complete the official application form. This is available on request from SAC VS at its PSGHS Office, PO Box 5557, Inverness, IV2 4YT (Tel 01463 226995) and online at www.sac.co.uk/sghs.

1.3 Certification

- Only Flocks consisting exclusively of Animals in respect of which current and valid Health Status Reports (or MVAS Certificates) exist, and which have not lost their MV Accredited status as described in Rule 6.1.1 of these Rules, are deemed MV Accredited in accordance with the Rules.
- SAC VS are responsible for issuing Health Status Reports.
- You are responsible for ensuring that Testing is carried out within such a time frame that enables SAC VS, subject to the results of that Testing, to issue each Health Status Report prior to the expiry date of any existing Health Status Report (or MVAS Certificate, as the case may be).
- The Health Status Report is issued by SAC VS annually on confirmation of all MV Testing being negative along with a submission form signed by the veterinary surgeon who carried out the MV Testing and an owner's declaration that the Flock has been kept in compliance with the Rules of the MVAS .
- Valid and current Health Status Reports (or MVAS Certificates) are required to gain entry to MV Accredited sections of shows and sales and before an Animal or Flock may be allowed to come into contact with another MV Accredited Animal or Flock.
- SAC VS will issue an Export Certificate for MV Accredited Animal(s) on request for export purposes.

1.4 Reporting suspected infection

- If you suspect that an Animal is infected with MV, this must be reported to your veterinary surgeon for investigation. The veterinary surgeon may decide:-
 - that the Animal is not infected with MV and that no further action is required.
 - that MV cannot be ruled out and that Testing of each Animal suspected of being infected must be undertaken and samples submitted to SAC VS.

- If the Testing carried out on the suspect Animal confirms the presence of MV, the MV Accredited status of the Flock of which it is a member will be suspended immediately unless the positive Animal is one which has been (and is still being) kept in isolation in accordance with Rule 5.1.1.
- If MV is confirmed in a Flock, breakdown procedures in Rule 6.2 must be followed in order to regain MV Accredited status.

1.5 Discretion of SAC VS

SAC VS's decisions are deemed to be final and SAC VS shall have sole discretion to determine the following:-

- Whether a Flock's MV Accredited status should be suspended or removed under the MVAS;
- Interpretation of the Rules; and
- Whether to inform a Veterinary Surgeon, members of the MVAS or any other organisation of any loss of status.

SAC VS reserves the right to carry out farm inspections and to require any Animal to be tested at any time.

These Rules are not exhaustive and SAC VS reserves the right to act as it sees fit in relation to any circumstances relating to the operation or governance of the MVAS which, in the sole discretion of SAC VS, are not adequately provided for under these Rules, and to amend these Rules from time to time.

Security

1.6 Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis Accreditation Scheme (CAEAS)

The rules of the CAEAS are identical to MVAS Rules except that:-

- they are applied to goat herds;
- a three metre gap is required between accredited and non-accredited Animals whilst on a Holding; and
- the Animals must be separated by a three metre high solid barrier at temporary locations.

1.7 Farm boundaries

- MV Accredited Animals must not be allowed to come into physical contact with Non-MV Accredited Animals at any time.
- Farm boundaries must be adequate to prevent Animals from straying onto or off the Holdings and to prevent nose to nose contact between Animals.
- Other than as provided for at Rule 2.1.3 (segregation at temporary locations), there must be a minimum of a two metre gap between MV Accredited and Non-MV Accredited Animals at all times.

1.8 Using and sharing Non-MV Accredited stock facilities

- If MV Accredited and Non-MV Accredited Animals are kept on the same Holding(s) they must be kept as far apart as possible. As a minimum they will be at least 2 metres apart other than as provided for at Rule 2.1.3 (segregation at temporary locations).

WARNING: Keeping MV Accredited and Non-MV Accredited Flocks on the same premises increases the risks of spreading infection

- MV Accredited Animals and Non-MV Accredited Animals should not be housed together in the same airspace, even if physically separated, except as provided for in Rule 2.1.3.
- MV Accredited Animals must not be kept on grazing pastures, previously occupied by Non-MV Accredited Animals, for 7 days from when the Non-MV Accredited Animals were removed.
- Equipment such as ear tattooing forceps, drenching guns, surgical equipment, hypodermic needles or any other equipment which may draw blood must not be shared between MV Accredited and Non-MV Accredited Animals.
- Handling facilities and livestock trailers which are used by MV Accredited and Non-MV Accredited Animals must be cleaned and disinfected before use by MV Accredited Animals.
- Colostrum from Non-MV Accredited Animals must not be brought into a MV Accredited Flock or fed to MV Accredited Animals.
- Only embryos or semen from MV Accredited Animals may be used to impregnate, inseminate or fertilise an MV Accredited Animal.

1.9 Notice of security threats

You must notify SAC VS of changes which could affect the security of a Flock or an Animal.

1.10 Identification

All Animals exhibited or sold as MV Accredited must be permanently and individually marked by a method so that:-

- The Flock of origin can be identified
- The individual Animal/s can be identified.

2 Animal movement and ownership change

2.1 Moving Animals

Any Animal which moves from one location to another will automatically lose its MV Accredited status unless you ensure that all of the following conditions are met:-

2.1.1 Transport:

- MV Accredited Animals attending shows, sales or leaving their Holding for any other purpose must travel segregated (except as provided below: Segregation at temporary locations) and not come into contact with any Animals which are not part of a MV Accredited Flock.
- MV Accredited and Non-MV Accredited Animals must not be transported in the same vehicles unless it is a lorry with solid partitions and separate loading/unloading ramps. If animals are transported in this way, the MV Accredited Animals may return to their Flock of origin or to another MV Accredited Flock without any isolation or Testing.
- Vehicles previously used for transporting Animals must be cleaned and disinfected between use for MV Accredited and Non-MV Accredited Flocks.

2.1.2 Segregation:

- If you acquire Non-MV Accredited Animals or are unsure of the Animals' status, you must physically segregate the Animals from MV Accredited Flocks until they have been tested in accordance with Rule 2.3.2.

If you are unsure of an Animal's status, you are strongly advised to seek advice from the PSGHS Office before acquiring the Animal, as non-compliance may result in loss of Flock / Holding status.

2.1.3 Segregation at temporary locations:

- While at any 'temporary location' such as a show or sale, for short periods (not exceeding 10 days), MV Accredited and Non-MV Accredited Animals may share an airspace provided that they are separated by a solid barrier at least 2 metres high.

2.2 Adding or returning Animals to a Holding

If you add (or return) an Animal to your MV Accredited Flock's Holding, the Flock(s) situated at that Holding will lose their MV Accredited Status unless all of the following requirements are met:

- Origin:** The Flock from which the Animal came must be MV Accredited.
- Still certified:** The Animal must not have lost its MV Accredited status through non-compliance with Rule 2.1 (Moving Animals) or otherwise.
- Testing:** The added Animal meets Testing requirements.

2.3 Change of ownership

2.3.1 Acquiring MV Accredited Animals.

If you acquire MV Accredited Animals, they will automatically maintain their MV Accredited status and may be added to an MV Accredited Flock where:-

- You are a member of or have applied to join the MVAS;
- You have had the Holding on which you intend to keep the Animals inspected by a veterinary surgeon; and
- You have ensured that the security of the Animals or Flock has been maintained in accordance with Rules 1.6 - 1.10.

2.3.2 Acquiring Non-MV Accredited Animals

- If you acquire Non-MV Accredited Animals, each Animal must pass Qualifying Tests, being not less than 6 months and not more than 12 months apart, to become part of the MVAS. The Animal(s) must be at least 12 months old at the time of the first of the Qualifying Tests.
- Non-MV Accredited Animals MUST NOT be added to an MV Accredited Flock until they have passed Qualifying Tests (and thereby become MV Accredited themselves).
- Until they have passed Qualifying Tests, Non-MV Accredited Animals which you intend to become MV Accredited must be kept in isolation.
- Flocks that are on testing every three years will revert to testing after two years for the next routine periodic blood test. If no further non-MV accredited animals are to be added, after passing qualifying tests, the flock can revert to every three year testing, providing the other conditions are met.

3 Testing Programme

3.1 Animals which must be tested

Any Animal which is to become part of an MV Accredited Flock must be Tested in accordance with these Rules.

3.2 Testing procedure

3.2.1 Acquiring MV Accredited Flocks

If you acquire an MV Accredited Flock in accordance with Rule 2.3.1, the following Periodic Testing must take place:-

- *First Periodic Test:* carried out 6 months after establishment of the Flock; at this test all Animals over 12 months of age must be Tested. As an exception, if more than 55 Animals have been added from a single source Flock, the number that must be Tested from that source shall be determined in accordance with the statistical table appended at Appendix 1.
- *Second Periodic test:* carried out 12 months after the first test. The requirements of Periodic Testing are explained in Rule 3.7.

3.2.2 Acquiring Non-MV Accredited Flocks

If you wish a Non-MV Accredited Flock to become accredited, the Flock must undergo Qualifying Tests in accordance with Rule 2.3.2 to become part of the MVAS.

3.2.3 Acquiring Non-MV Accredited Animals

If you acquire Non-MV Accredited Animals, the Animals must pass Qualifying Tests, not less than 6 months and not more than 12 months apart, to become part of the MVAS. The Animal(s) must be at least 12 months old at the time of the first of the Qualifying Tests.

3.3 Qualifying Tests

3.3.1 At the first of the Qualifying Tests, all Animals in the Flock 12 months of age or over must be Tested UNLESS:-

- the Flock has been established for a minimum of 3 years;
- at least 90% of female Flock replacements are home bred;
- any purchased Animals (either males or females) in the past 3 years have come from MV Accredited Flocks; and
- there are no other Animals on the Holding that are not to be included in the MV Accredited Flock.

3.3.2 If **ALL** the conditions specified in Rule 3.3.1 are met, then at the first of the Qualifying Tests, you need only test a proportion of the Animals aged 12 months or more provided that all rams in the Flock are Tested. The number to be tested shall be determined in accordance with the statistical table appended at Appendix 1. SAC VS has the discretion to require a greater proportion of the Flock to be Tested.

3.3.3 At the second of the Qualifying Tests all Animals over 12 months of age must be Tested.

3.4 Procedure for Adding Animals During Qualifying Tests

- 3.4.1 If you intend to add any Non-MV Accredited Animals to the Flock after the first of the Qualifying Tests you must ensure the following:-
- the added Animals are kept isolated from the Flock until they have passed both Qualifying Tests, at least 6 months apart; or
 - the added Animals have passed the first of the Qualifying Tests and the Flock will undergo the second of the Qualifying Tests 6 months after the added Animals have joined the Flock; and
 - in any event the added Animals are aged 12 months or more at the time of the first Qualifying Test.

3.5 Qualifying Test Results

If both Qualifying Tests give only negative results, the Flock becomes MV Accredited and the Flock must thereafter undergo Periodic Testing.

3.6 Periodic Testing

- 3.6.1 After becoming MV Accredited the first Periodic Test must take place a maximum of 12 months later.
- 3.6.2 If the first Periodic Test is negative, the second Periodic Test must be carried out a maximum of two years after the first.
- 3.6.3 After the second Periodic Test the following applies:
- 3.6.3.1 Flocks kept on a Holding on which Non-MV Accredited Animals are or have been present at a point since the last Periodic Testing was carried out on the Holding, must have Periodic Testing carried out every two years.
 - 3.6.3.2 Flocks kept on a Holding which has (or has had) only MV Accredited Animals present on the Holding since the last Periodic Testing was carried out on the Holding, are only required to have Periodic Testing carried out every 3 years. In addition any MV Accredited Animals added to the Flock from another MV Accredited Flock must be Tested within 12 months of arrival (except those which are under 12 months old, which should instead be Tested when they reach that age).

3.7 Requirements of Periodic Testing

- 3.7.1 At each Periodic Testing:-
- 3.7.1.1 The minimum number of Animals that must be Tested shall be the number specified for a Flock of the relevant size in the statistical table appended at Appendix 1, BUT any MV Accredited Animals over 18 months old which have been added to the flock from other sources and not yet tested since arrival must be excluded in determining the size of the Flock for this purpose.

- 3.7.1.2 IN ADDITION TO the minimum number of Animals to be Tested pursuant to Rule 3.7.1.1, all MV Accredited Animals over 12 months old added to the flock from other sources that have not been tested since arrival must be Tested UNLESS more than 55 of them have been added from a single source Flock, in which case the minimum number of Animals from that single source Flock that must be Tested shall be the number specified for a group of that size in the statistical table appended at Appendix 1.
- 3.7.1.3 All rams in the Flock over 18 months of age used in the current or most recent breeding season must be Tested.
- 3.7.2 If Non-MV Accredited Animals are added to a Holding on which MV-Accredited Animals are kept, the routine periodic Testing of those MV-Accredited Animals will revert from every 3 years to every 2 years.
- 3.7.3 If MV Accredited Animals are added to a Holding with only MV Accredited Animals which are subject to Periodic Testing every 3 years, the added Animals must be tested within 12 months of arrival (except those which are under 12 months old, which should instead be Tested when they reach that age). EXCEPTION: if more than 55 MV Accredited Animals have been added from a single source Flock, only that proportion of the Animals added from that source Flock as is specified in the table appended at Appendix 1 must be tested within 12 months of arrival.
- 3.7.4 REMEMBER - Non-MV Accredited Animals which you acquire must be kept isolated from MV Accredited Animals in accordance with Rules 1.6 - 1.9 (**Security**) and 2.3.2 (**Acquiring Non-MV Accredited Animals**) until the Non-MV Accredited Animals have passed the Qualifying Tests.
- 3.7.5 At each Qualifying Test and MV Accredited Test, Flock information will be collected with a signed declaration from the owner/manager and a veterinary surgeon. In addition all Flock owners will be required to complete and return an annual declaration giving details of Animals added to the Flock in the previous 12 months.

4 Record keeping

4.1 Specific records you must keep and disclose

- 4.1.1 You must keep records of the following information concerning your MV Accredited Flocks:-
- Identification, breed and sex;
 - Identity of dam which gave birth to each Animal;
 - Approximate date of birth (month and year);
 - Date of death or disposal;
 - Reason for death or disposal; and
 - Dates and results of all MV Testing.
- 4.1.2 In the case of private sales, you must also maintain for a minimum period of six years, records of the following(and promptly make a copy of these records available to the Veterinary Surgeon or SACVS on request)in relation to all MV accredited flocks
- movement records for each animal within the flock
- In the case of private purchases
- all health status reports and MVAS certificates in respect of each animal added to the flock

5 Contact with Non-MV Accredited Animals

- 5.1 Subject to Rule 5.1.3, if any MV Accredited Animal comes into contact with a Non-MV Accredited Animal, then that Animal shall lose its MV Accredited status and you must carry out the following in order to retain MV Accredited status in relation to the remainder of the Flock:

5.1.1 Isolation

- You must keep any MV Accredited Animal which has had contact with Non-MV Accredited Animal(s) isolated from other MV Accredited Animals for at least 6 months;
- After 6 months, the isolated Animal(s) must undergo Testing. If the result of the Testing is negative, they may rejoin the MV Accredited Flock;
- If any Animal in the isolated group tests positive for MV, it should be culled and the remainder of the isolated group must stay in isolation until they have passed a further test 6 months later;

5.1.2 Loss of MV status

- If any MV Accredited Animal which has had contact with a Non-MV Accredited Animal re-joins the MV Accredited Flock without having tested negative for MV after having been kept in isolation in accordance with Rule 5.1.1, the Flock must not be described as MV Accredited, and no Animal may be sold as MV Accredited

until the Animal(s) which have lost status have passed Testing, at least 6 months after the contact with Non-MV Accredited Animals;

- If any of the Animals who have lost MV Accredited status and rejoined the Flock without having been kept in isolation in accordance with Rule 5.1.1 subsequently test positive for MV, the whole Flock will lose its MV Accredited status;

5.1.3 Alternative Testing

- You may carry out Testing on the Non-MV Accredited Animals with which your MV Accredited Animal(s) had contact. If the Non-MV Accredited Animals test negative for MV, no further action is necessary.

6 Withdrawal from MVAS or Loss of MV Accredited Status

6.1 Loss of MV Accredited Status

6.1.1 Your Flock will immediately lose its MV Accredited status if any of the following events occur:-

- You fail to comply in all respects with any of Rules 2, 3.6 or 3.7;
- You fail to comply with any instructions whatsoever of SAC VS, any veterinary surgeon, or any other party who from time to time have responsibility for governing the MVAS;
- If any Animal within the Flock tests positive for MV (unless it is in isolation as either an added animal or one that had come into contact with a Non-MV Accredited Animal and is being kept in isolation in accordance with Rule 5.1.1); or
- You inform SAC that you wish your Flock to be withdrawn from the MVAS.

6.1.2 The following rules shall apply where an Animal has been identified as infected with MV:-

- If a Flock loses MV Accredited status, a set of procedures for regaining MV Accredited status will be issued to the Flock owner.
- If an Animal that has been identified as being infected with MV has been added from another Flock then the Flock of origin will have its MV Accredited status suspended and will be subjected to a check test carried out at the expense of the owner of that Flock.
- When MV infection is detected in a Flock, all Animals that have moved to other MV Accredited Flocks will be traced. These individual Animals must then be tested at the expense of the owner of the Flock to which the Animal has been transferred.

6.1.3 SAC VS may suspend or remove your Flock from the MVAS if any of the following events occur:-

- If you breach or fail to comply with any of these Rules;
- If there is any suspicion that an Animal has been exposed to MV; or
- If you fail to pay outstanding fees to SAC.

6.2 Regaining MV Accredited status

- 6.2.1 If your Flock loses its MV Accredited status because of a positive confirmation of MV, your Flock can be re-admitted to the MVAS provided that you comply with the following:-
- All infected Animals must be removed for slaughter;
 - All lambs which have been suckled by the infected Animals or fed milk from infected Animals must be removed for slaughter;
 - The Flock must have passed Qualifying Tests. The first of the Qualifying Tests must take place at least 180 days after the removal of the last infected Animals from the Flock. The second of the Qualifying Tests must take place at least 6 months and no longer than 12 months after the first of the Qualifying Tests. Each test must include all Animals in the Flock aged 12 months or over at the time of the Testing.
 - If you cannot identify all the lambs which may have been suckled by an infected Animal, then the Flock will not be eligible for MV Accredited status until all lambs have reached the age of 2 years and passed the Qualifying Tests.
- 6.2.2 If you lose MV Accredited status for any other reason, SAC VS will determine what, if any, Qualifying Testing is required for re-admission to the MVAS and what the frequency of Testing will be thereafter.

Non-compliance with the Rules may result in loss of MV Accredited status under the MVAS and your Health Status Reports or any MVAS Certificates or other veterinary certificates issued for export purposes may be cancelled or withdrawn.

6.3 Liability

- 6.3.1 SAC is not liable for any losses incurred by a member or any other person as a result of a Flock's loss of MV Accredited status by a Flock or Animal howsoever caused.

APPENDIX 1

MV - Flock Test Numbers

Total no. of ewes and rams over 18months	Sample size
1-55	All
56-60	55
61-65	60
66-70	65
71-80	70
81-90	75
91-100	80
101-120	85
121-140	90
141-160	95
161-180	100
181-200	105
201-250	110
251-300	115
301-350	120
351-400	125
401-500	130
501-700	135
701-900	140
901-1000	145
1000+	150

This table is based on a 95% confidence of detecting a seroprevalence of 2%.

Where only a proportion of the flock is required to be tested(as per the above table);

- **it must include all the rams over 18months of age used in the current or most recent breeding season**
- **all animals over 12 months of age that have been added to the flock from other sources, and not tested since arrival,must be tested in addition to the numbers in the table above.**

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