

EXECUTIVE NOTE

THE SHEEP SCAB (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT ORDER 2011

SSI 2011/77

Introduction

1. This instrument is made under Sections 1, 8(1), 15(4) and 83(2) of the Animal Health Act 1981. It amends the Sheep Scab (Scotland) Order 2010 and is not subject to Parliamentary procedure.
2. Sheep scab is a contagious disease of sheep and in many areas of GB is now considered to be endemic. The disease seriously affects the welfare of sheep and has significant economic impact through its effect on the condition of the ewes, the growth rate of lambs and damage to the wool.

Policy Objectives

3. The objective of this Amendment Order is to address a concern raised by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) about the requirement in the principal Order, (The Sheep Scab (Scotland) Order 2010) for retrospective veterinary certification. It also addresses a problem identified with the practical application of the provisions in the 2010 Order which if not addressed could have a negative impact on compliance with the controls. .
4. The requirement for a veterinary surgeon to confirm that in their opinion there are no affected sheep or affected carcasses on the premises within the previous sixteen days is removed from Articles 5(6) and 6(7). This reflects the advice received from the RCVS that a vet should only be asked to attest to what they can see and know and avoid any suggestion or opportunity for them to be asked to sign for historic or unseen matters.
5. In order to preserve anonymity and reduce any disincentive to notify suspicion of disease where notice of sheep scab is given by a person other than the owner or keeper of the affected sheep, Article 4(3) now places the responsibility to notify the owner keeper of the affected sheep with the Divisional Veterinary Manager, rather than with the person who made the notification.

Consultation

6. . This Amendment Order takes account of stakeholder comments aimed at strengthening the practical application and success of the statutory controls provided for in The Sheep Scab (Scotland) Order 2010.

Financial Implications

No Business Regulatory Impact Assessment has been prepared because the changes made have no financial implications.

**Animal Health and Welfare Division
Scottish Government
Rural Affairs and the Environment**