

Draft regulations on amendments to the Regulations concerning measures against contagious animal diseases and other regulations on animal health

Chapter I. General provisions

Section 2 *Range of application*

The regulation concerns measures against disease in mammals, including marine mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, bees and bumblebees. The regulation also concerns measures against the transmission of infectious agents from such animals to human beings.

The regulation concerns Norwegian land and sea territories, Norwegian aircraft and sea vessels and installations on the Norwegian continental shelf and Svalbard.

Chapter II. General preventative measures

Section 5 *Hygiene*

Hot water shall be available at holdings. It shall be possible to clean hands, boots, overalls and equipment.

Equipment, fixtures and other items that may spread disease shall be cleaned and, where required, disinfected, before being brought into the holding.

Individuals who have visited holdings abroad, where cloven-footed animals or poultry were present, may not visit holdings that have cloven-footed animals or poultry for a period of 48 hours.

Section 6 *Special hygiene requirements for commercial animal keeping establishments*

To combat the transmission of disease, commercial animal keeping establishments shall ensure the appropriate installation of the following:

- a) a location where individuals can pass through a decontamination area when accessing and leaving herds. In decontamination areas, individuals shall wash their hands and any accompanying equipment, change footwear and clothes or don overalls. Where necessary, both individuals and equipment shall be disinfected. Those required to use the decontamination area shall be stated in the biosecurity plan in accordance with Section 8.
- b) a door or gate that is only used for loading and unloading animals. The requirement does not apply to fur animals or herds in premises or facilities built before (date of entry into force) that have not undergone significant renovation since (date of entry into force).
- c) a door or other device that is only used for the delivery of bulk milk from milk-producing holdings.

The entrance to the animals' housing area shall be signposted to the effect that admission is only permitted at the discretion of the animal keeper.

Animal transporters who have to enter housing areas to collect animals shall wear clean and, where necessary, disinfected, footwear and overalls. If the staff's footwear and overalls are used, these must be washed and, where necessary, disinfected after use.

It shall be possible to clean the materials and fixtures in the animals' housing area, the decontamination area and the animal feed warehouse. These areas shall be kept tidy and clean, and shall be disinfected where necessary. The areas shall also, as far as possible, be secured against rodents and wild birds. Animal feed shall be hygienically stored.

Toilets shall not have drains to or be emptied into the manure cellar. This does not apply to toilets installed prior to (date of entry into force).

Section 7 *Knowledge of animal health*

Animal keepers in commercial animal keeping establishments shall have up-to-date knowledge about

- a) diseases in animals
- b) diseases that are transmissible between animals and human beings
- c) preventative measures against disease transmission and resistance development
- d) the connection between animal health, animal welfare and public health.

Animal keepers in commercial animal keeping establishments shall complete a course in animal health. New animal keepers shall complete the course within the first year of operation. The course shall be approved by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority.

The course requirement does not apply to animal keepers who are able to document a competency level in animal health equivalent to or higher than that of an agricultural college graduate.

Section 8 *Biosecurity*

Animal keepers in commercial animal keeping establishments shall have routines that provide good protection against infection.

The routines shall be described in a written biosecurity plan. This shall contain a floor plan detailing animal and human traffic patterns, be adapted to each individual holding and encompass all operational procedures. The biosecurity plan shall, inter alia, describe how

- a) animals are taken in and out of the holding, including to and from grazing
- b) good animal health is ensured during purchasing of livestock, including options to house the animals separately
- c) milk is delivered
- d) potential infection from contracted labour is prevented
- e) human traffic in and out of the holding takes place, specifying special requirements for veterinarians and others connected to, or who may have contact with, other holdings
- f) carcasses, manure and waste are processed and collected
- g) animal feed hygiene is ensured
- h) disinfectant is accessible

The animal keeper shall ensure that all individuals working at the holding are familiar with and observe the infection control plan. The plan shall be updated annually and made available to the Norwegian Food Safety Authority on request.

Section 11 *National collection centres*

National collection centres for animals from commercial animal keeping establishments shall be kept separate from other holdings. Animals due to be transported to slaughterhouses may be housed in collection centre but not at the same time as breeding/production animals.

The operations manager at the collection centre shall ensure that breeding/production animals from commercial animal keeping establishments are accompanied by a veterinary certificate. The veterinary certificate shall document that the animals show no signs of contagious disease and that they do not come from a herd that is subject to official restrictions due to infectious disease. The veterinary certificate is valid for a period of seven days from the date of issue.

Furthermore, the national Regulation no. 958 of 11 August 2015 concerning trade and temporary keeping of animals, is also applicable.

Section 12 *Transport of animals from commercial animal keeping establishments*

The transporter shall ensure that animals from commercial animal keeping establishments

- a) are not transported back to the establishment they came from nor to other holdings when the animals have been loaded onto the means of transport for transportation to a slaughterhouse or have been taken into a slaughter barn

- b) are housed or reloaded during transport at a location separate from other animals, such that infection cannot be transmitted.

Means of transport, stalls, boxes/cases, cages, containers and other items used during the transportation of animals from commercial animal keeping establishments

- a) shall be easy to clean
- b) shall be cleaned thoroughly and, where necessary, disinfected, before being used for a new set of animals.

The transporter shall keep a record of all commercial animal keeping establishments visited and which holdings' animals have used the same means of transport simultaneously. These records shall be kept daily, preserved for one year and made available to the Norwegian Food Safety Authority on request.

Section 13 *Establishment of animal health regions*

As part of the line of defence against the spread of disease, the Norwegian Food Safety Authority may issue regulations regarding the establishment of animal health regions with different health and disease statuses.

Chapter III. Vaccination

Section 14 *Use of vaccines*

Animals shall not be vaccinated against A or B class diseases. Where the Norwegian Food Safety Authority grants authorisation to use a vaccine, this does not apply to the vaccinations in Appendix I or mandatory vaccinations in accordance with Section 15. Neither is the prohibition applicable to efforts to develop and test vaccines for animals in enterprises that have authorisation to engage in such efforts.

Animals may be vaccinated against diseases other than those included in paragraph 1, where the Norwegian Food Safety Authority has granted authorisation to use the vaccine.

The requirement of authorisation does not apply to the vaccinations in Appendices I and II, if the Norwegian Medicines Agency has granted marketing authorisation.

Enterprises or individuals importing, selling, ordering or using vaccines shall document the necessary information on all importation, trade and use. Such information shall be made available to the Norwegian Food Safety Authority on request.

Chapter IV. Inspections, sampling, monitoring and isolation

Section 16 *Inspections and sampling*

The Norwegian Food Safety Authority and individuals commissioned by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority may conduct inspections, take samples from animals, animal feed, manure etc., and carry out other investigation within the holding where this is necessary in order to combat, monitor and map diseases, or to meet Norway's international obligations. This is also applicable to enterprises handling and processing animal products.

The Norwegian Food Safety Authority may permit samples to be examined for infectious matter other than the type for which the samples were taken.

The Norwegian Food Safety Authority may order animal keepers to euthanise animals in order to conduct special examinations. The animal holder may also be ordered to send the animal or samples from the animal for further examination at a diagnostic institute.

The animal holder shall make the necessary arrangements to facilitate the taking of samples from animals. The necessary equipment for catching and immobilising the animals shall be available and necessary assistance be provided.

The results of the Norwegian Food Safety Authority's investigations shall be made available to the animal keeper. The Norwegian Food Safety Authority may conduct investigations where the results cannot be linked to specific holdings.

Chapter V. Restrictions on the movement of animals

Section 19 *Waiting periods for cattle, pigs and camelids*

When cattle, pigs and camelids are moved from one holding to another, the animals shall be accompanied by a self-declaration confirming that all the following conditions are met:

- a) The animals in the herd of origin have shown no signs of contagious disease during the last 14 days prior to their being moved.
- b) The animals have been kept within the herd of origin for more than 30 days, with the exception of animals born into the herd.
- c) The herd of origin has not, within the last 14 days, taken in cloven-footed animals from other herds, common grazing lands or animal gatherings.

The self-declaration shall be no older than seven days, shall be preserved for one year and made available to the Norwegian Food Safety Authority on request.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 are not applicable to animal gatherings, national collection centres, movement to slaughterhouses, movement from rough grazing lands to the home herd or movement to diagnostic and research institutes.

Paragraph 1, letters b and c do not apply to camelids that are being moved for breeding purposes, where this takes place separately (epidemiologically) from other animals in the herd, and the animals being moved are accompanied by a veterinary certificate. The certificate shall be no older than seven days and shall confirm that the animals show no signs of infectious disease. The certificate shall be preserved for one year and made available to the Norwegian Food Safety Authority on request.

Paragraph 1, letter c does not apply to:

- a) sows within sow pool systems
- b) pigs from herds that in the last six months have taken in animals from only one other herd, and where the animals are transported directly from the sender to the recipient without coming into contact with animals from other herds.

Section 20 *Movement of animals from circuses and other special holdings*

Circus animals shall not have any contact with animals outside of the circus. Animals from zoos and visitor farms may only be moved to other zoos and visitor farms respectively.

Outside the exhibiting season, animals from circuses, zoos and visitor farms may be moved to other premises where they will have no contact with other animals. Notification of this shall be given to the Norwegian Food Safety Authority. Dogs and cats from circuses and visitor farms, and horses from visitor farms, may, however, have contact with other holdings. In the case of dogs and cats from circuses, this only applies outside of the exhibiting season.

Animals in diagnostic and research institutes may not be moved back to their herds of origin or to other holdings. This does not apply to

- a) horses
- b) pets
- c) animals housed in accordance with special biosecurity measures

Premises used to house animals in accordance with special infection control measures shall be approved by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority. Institutes shall have an biosecurity plan for housing animals. The biosecurity plan shall be made available to the Norwegian Food Safety Authority on request.

This section does not apply to the movement of animals to slaughterhouses.

Section 21 *Provisions on classification and movement in relation to the prevention of TSE in sheep and goats*

Sheep and goat herds shall be classified in accordance with Appendix V in order to monitor Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE).

Sheep and goats may not be moved to a higher category of sheep/goat herd than the herd the animal comes from. The herd/flock of origin must be at least TSE category 3.

Paragraphs 2 and 3 are not applicable where, pursuant to Section 17, authorisation is granted to isolate sheep and goats together with a monitored herd. In such cases, the entire herd will be classified in the lowest category.

Section 22 *Movement of sheep and goats*

Sheep and goats may not be moved between the sheep and goat regions stipulated in Appendix VI, neither can they be moved out of the counties of Rogaland and Nordland. The Norwegian Food Safety Authority may nonetheless permit movement to rough grazing lands. Authorisation may be granted for up to ten years.

The Norwegian Food Safety Authority may also permit the movement of breeding animals across regional boundaries in order to maintain preservation-worthy breeds and breeds with low populations in a region. Such breeding-related movement is, however, not permitted from the region of Hordaland, Sogn og Fjordane, and the counties of Rogaland and Nordland.

Female sheep and goats may not be moved between small ruminant herds. The Norwegian Food Safety Authority may however permit such movement upon application by the recipient.

Section 23 *Documentation for the movement of sheep and goats*

When sheep and goats are moved to another/new sheep/goat herd, the animal keeper shall forward with the animals a self-declaration confirming that the herd of origin is at least TSE category 3. The self-declaration shall also confirm that the presence of classical scrapie, Johne's disease, CAE, Maedi-visna virus or foot rot is not suspected within the herd of origin. In the case of goats, the self-declaration shall additionally confirm that Caseous Lymphadenitis is not suspected within the herd of origin.

When goats are moved to another/new sheep/goat herd, the animal keeper shall forward with the animals a certificate from a veterinarian who has examined the animals in the herd of origin. The certificate shall confirm that the animals being moved have no signs of contagious animal diseases. The certificate shall also confirm that the requirements in Appendix VII have been met.

Paragraph 2 also applies to sheep that are being moved across county boundaries to another/new sheep/goat herd. This does not apply to the movement of sheep between the counties of Oslo and Akershus.

Self-declarations, pursuant to paragraph 1 and veterinary certificates, pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3, shall be no more than seven days old on the date the animals are moved. The documents shall be preserved with the herd of destination for five years and made available to the Norwegian Food Safety Authority on request.

Section 24 *Exemptions for sheep and goats*

Section 21 paragraph 2, Sections 22 and 23 do not apply to the movement of animals

- a) to slaughterhouses
- b) to veterinary clinics
- c) from circus site to circus site
- d) to diagnostic and research institutes with approved premises pursuant to Section 20.

Sections 22 and 23 are not applicable to the movement of animals to breeding stations.

Section 22 paragraph 3 and Section 23 do not apply to

- a) the movement of sheep and goats to animal gatherings in the same county
- b) lambs and kids reared for slaughter before they are eight months old and kept apart from other sheep and goat herds after having been moved.

Section 25 *Exemptions for registered collaborating units involving sheep and goats*

Section 22 paragraph 3 and Section 23 do not apply to the movement of sheep and goats within a registered collaborating unit. Livestock may only be moved out of a collaborating unit where all the cooperating herds satisfy the requirements in Section 23.

Paragraph 1 applies only where

- a) the collaborating unit comprises no more than four animal keepers
- b) the cooperation agreement exists in written form
- c) the following have been registered with the Norwegian Food Safety Authority before the animals are moved:
 1. the cooperation agreement
 2. the identity of all cooperating holdings
 3. a self-declaration confirming that requirements equivalent to the requirements in Section 23, paragraph 1 have been met
- d) the herds are not participating in more than one collaborating unit
- e) the collaborating units do not cross county boundaries. This stipulation does not apply to the boundary between Oslo and Akershus.

The registration in paragraph 2, letter c, is valid for two years at a time.

Section 26 *Documentation for the movement of poultry and hatching eggs*

An animal keeper who buys, sells, receives or gives away poultry or hatching eggs shall keep records showing

- a) the names and addresses of senders and recipients
- b) when and how many animals or hatching eggs were moved

The information shall be preserved for at least two years and made available to the Norwegian Food Safety Authority on request.

The appendices to the regulations shall read as follows:

APPENDIX I. EXEMPTIONS TO THE PROHIBITION ON VACCINATION AGAINST A AND B CLASS DISEASES IN Section 14, PARAGRAPH 1, AND THE CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION REQUIREMENT IN Section 14, PARAGRAPH 2

- a) Dogs may be vaccinated against rabies, leptospirosis and distemper.
- b) Cats and ferrets may be vaccinated against rabies.
- c) Mink may be vaccinated against virus enteritis.
- d) Fur animals may be vaccinated against distemper and ringworm.
- e) Cattle may be vaccinated against ringworm.
- f) Pigs may be vaccinated against necrotising enteritis.
- g) Pigeons may be vaccinated against paramyxovirus infection.

APPENDIX II EXEMPTIONS TO THE CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION REQUIREMENT IN SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH 2

- a) **Horses** may be vaccinated against
 1. horse influenza
 2. Equine rhinopneumonitis (abortion virus)
 3. Cl. Botulinum, tetanus and other Clostridium infections.
- b) **Cattle may be vaccinated against**
 1. rotavirus infection

2. infectious diarrhoea (corona virus infection)
 3. parainfluenza virus
 4. bovine RS virus (BRSV)
 5. pasteurilla infection
 6. clostridium infections
 7. E. coli infection.
- c) **Sheep** may be vaccinated against
1. pasteurilla
 2. clostridium infections.
- d) **Pigs** may be vaccinated against
1. Porcine circovirus diseases
 2. parvovirus infection
 3. pasteurilla infection
 4. mycoplasma
 5. haemophilus parasuis (Glässers disease)
 6. erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae (red disease)
 7. E. coli infection
 8. atrophic rhinitis
 9. Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae
 10. Proliferative enteropathy (Lawsonia intracellularis infection).
- e) **Cats** may be vaccinated against
1. chlamydial infections
 2. parvovirus infection
 3. calicivirus, rhinotracheitis (herpes virus)
 4. Feline leukemia virus (FeLV)
 5. infectious peritonitis virus (corona virus)
- f) **Dogs** may be vaccinated against
1. parvovirus infection
 2. parainfluenza virus (kennel cough)
 3. liver-brain inflammation (Hepatitis Contagiosa Canis).
- g) **Poultry** may be vaccinated against
1. avian infectious anaemia (CIA virus, Blue wing disease)
 2. contagious paralysis (Marek's disease)
 3. infectious bursitis (Gumboro)
 4. contagious inflammation of the brain and spinal cord (Avian Encephalomyelitis/AE)
 5. coccidiosis
 6. Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae (red disease bacteria in turkeys).
- h) **Mink** may be vaccinated against
1. clostridium infections (botulism type C)
 2. hemorrhagic pneumonia (Pseudomonas aeruginosa).

APPENDIX V. TSE CATEGORIES FOR SHEEP AND GOATS PURSUANT TO SECTION 21

Every sheep and goat herd is classified in one of the following TSE categories based on the national surveillance and monitoring programme for transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE), including the notification requirement in Section 18, cf. Section 17:

TSE category 1

The herd has not been monitored for TSE, or it has been monitored for a period no longer than two years with no proven cases of TSE, with the exception of scrapie Nor98.

TSE category 2

The herd has been monitored for TSE for longer than two years with no proven cases of TSE, with the exception of scrapie Nor98.

TSE category 3

The herd has been monitored for TSE for longer than three years with no proven cases of TSE, with the exception of scrapie Nor98.

TSE category 4

The herd satisfies the requirements necessary to achieve “controlled risk” status in relation to classical scrapie in the national TSE regulations, Section 2, cf. Regulation (EC) no. 999/2001 Annex VIII, Chapter A, part A. The animal keeper must apply to the Norwegian Food Safety Authority to be classified in this category.

TSE category 5

The herd satisfies the requirements necessary to achieve “negligible risk” status in relation to classical scrapie in the national TSE regulations, Section 2, cf. Regulation (EC) no. 999/2001 Annex VIII, Chapter A, part A. The animal keeper must apply to the Norwegian Food Safety Authority to be classified in this category.

Other conditions

Newly established herds are classified in the same TSE category as the herd of origin, but may not initially be classified any higher than TSE category 3. If animals are collected from multiple herds, the newly established herd will be classified in the same TSE category as the lowest classified herd of origin.

APPENDIX VI. REGIONS PERMITTING THE MOVEMENT OF SHEEP AND GOATS PURSUANT TO SECTION 22

1. Finnmark, Troms, Nordland, North Trøndelag, South Trøndelag and Møre and Romsdal
2. Sogn og Fjordane and Hordaland
3. Rogaland, Vest-Agder and Aust-Agder
4. Telemark, Vestfold, Buskerud, Oppland, Hedmark, Oslo, Akershus and Østfold