



**Maedi Visna (MV)
Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE)
Accreditation Scheme**

**Rules and Conditions
October 2023**

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GLOSSARY

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

Animal means sheep or goat

Flock/herd means a flock of sheep or a herd of goats including females of breeding age

Health Status Report means a certificate issued in respect of an animal confirming that it is part of an MV/CAE 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

CAE means Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis

MVAS means Maedi Visna Accreditation Scheme

CAEAS means Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis Accreditation Scheme

MV/CAE Accredited means:

In relation to an **animal**, that it is monitored in accordance with the rules of the MVAS/CAEAS and issued with a Health Status Report pursuant to Rule 1.3 and has not subsequently tested positive for MV/CAE or lost its MV/CAE accredited status pursuant to Rule 8

In relation to a **flock/herd** that it consists only of MV/CAE accredited animals

Non-MV/CAE Accredited means in relation to an animal or flock/herd that it is not MV/CAE accredited

Periodic Test means a test carried out periodically on MV/CAE accredited flocks/herds and animals in accordance with Rules 3/4 in order to maintain MV/CAE accredited status

Periodic Testing means the carrying out of the periodic tests

Qualifying Tests means the two consecutive blood tests required to be carried out in order to join the MVAS/CAEAS

Rules means these rules and conditions relating to the MVAS and CAEAS

SRUC means SRUC Veterinary Services

Tested means blood tested for MV/CAE

Testing means blood testing for MV/CAE

You means an owner of animals or any agent or other person employed by that owner

INTRODUCTION

What is Maedi Visna/Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis?

Maedi Visna (MV) is a chronic infectious viral disease affecting the lungs, udder and nervous system of sheep which can be transmitted between individual sheep and 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(s)” refers to both sheep and goats.

Blood testing allows identification of infection. There is no vaccine, no cure and the disease is fatal.

Purpose of the scheme

The MVAS/CAEAS is a voluntary scheme which allows you to demonstrate that your animals have been tested and are accredited free of MV/CAE.

Key benefits for members

- It helps you to reduce the risk of your flock/herd contracting MV/CAE
- It allows you membership of an elite nationally recognised health scheme with the backing of SRUC
- 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/CAE
- It allows you to advertise to potential purchasers that your flock/herd is MV/CAE accredited
- It adds value to your flock/herd by enabling you to supply purchasers who demand MV/CAE accredited stock
- It acts as an early warning system should infection be inadvertently introduced

Who governs the scheme?

Organisation and Supervision: As part of its Premium Sheep and Goat Health Scheme, SRUC is appointed to organise and supervise the MVAS and CAEAS.

Inspections and certification of compliance with the Rules: Practising veterinary surgeons are appointed to carry out flock/herd inspections and check on compliance with the rules. SRUC can organise random flock/herd inspections at any time to check that scheme rules and conditions are being followed – these can be done by SRUC vets or can be subcontracted.

Monitoring of shows and sales: SRUC can inspect, or subcontract the inspection of MV/CAE accredited sections of shows and sales to ensure compliance with rules and conditions.

THE RULES

1 MEMBERSHIP AND CERTIFICATION

1.1 Eligibility to join

You can join MVAS/CAEAS in respect of a flock/herd or a holding provided that:

The flock/herd is situated in Great Britain

The flock/herd meets the MVAS/CAEAS requirements as detailed in these rules

You strictly adhere to the rules of the MVAS/CAEAS. Failure to do so will result in penalties as detailed in Rule 9.

1.2 Application process

In order to join MVAS/CAEAS you must complete the official application form. This is available on request from SRUC Veterinary Services at:

PSGHS Office
Greycrook, St. Boswells, Melrose TD6 0EQ
Tel: 01835 822456
Email: HealthSchemes@sruc.ac.uk

1.3 Certification

Only flocks/herds (or groups of animals within flocks/herds) that have a current and valid health status report, and which have not lost their MV/CAE accredited status as described in Rule 9 are deemed MV/CAE accredited in accordance with the rules.

SRUC is responsible for issuing health status reports. As keeper of the flock/herd you are responsible for ensuring that testing is carried out within such a time frame that enables SRUC, subject to the results of that testing, to issue each health status report prior to the expiry date of any existing health status report.

The health status report is issued by SRUC annually on confirmation of all MV/CAE testing being complete and negative.

Certification of freedom requires negative test results, and also that the declaration stating adherence to the rules of the scheme has been signed by both the keeper of the flock and the veterinary practitioner who carried out the sampling.

Valid and current health status reports are required to gain entry to MV/CAE accredited sections of shows/sales.

A valid and current health status report must be in place before an animal or flock/herd is allowed to come into contact with another MV/CAE accredited animal or flock/herd.

1.4 Reporting suspected infection

If you suspect that an animal is infected with MV/CAE, this must be reported to your veterinary surgeon for investigation. The veterinary surgeon may decide:

- That the animal is not infected with MV/CAE and that no further action is required
- That MV/CAE cannot be ruled out and that testing of each animal suspected of being infected must be undertaken and samples submitted to SRUC

If the testing carried out on the suspect animal confirms the presence of MV/CAE, the accredited status of the flock/herd of which it is a member will be suspended immediately unless the positive animal is in quarantine and has had no contact with the flock/herd.

If MV/CAE is confirmed in a flock/herd, breakdown procedures in Rule 9.2 must be followed in order to regain MV/ CAE accredited status.

1.5 Discretion of SRUC Veterinary Services

SRUCS's decisions are deemed to be final and SRUC shall have sole discretion to determine the following:

- Whether a flock's/herd's MV/CAE accredited status should be suspended or removed under the MVAS/CAEAS
- Interpretation of the rules
- Whether to inform other parties of any loss of status

SRUC 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 SRUC reserves the right to act as it sees fit in relation to any circumstance relating to the operation or governance of the MVAS/CAEAS which, in the sole discretion of SRUC, is not adequately provided for under these rules, and to amend these rules from time to time.

2 JOINING THE MV/CAE ACCREDITATION SCHEME

2.1 Qualifying established breeding flocks/herds

Breeding flocks/herds are defined as consisting of females of breeding age (over 12 months old) with associated lambs/kids and youngstock, plus rams/billies. Where it is not clear, the final decision as to whether a group of animals can be defined as a breeding flock/herd and join the scheme by this route will be made by the SRUC.

To become MV/CAE accredited, the breeding flock/herd must undergo the following qualifying tests:

2.1.1

At the 1st Qualifying Test, all animals in the flock/herd aged 12 months or older must be tested UNLESS:

- The flock/herd has been established for a minimum of 3 years
- At least 90% of female replacements are home bred
- Any purchased animals in the past 3 years have come from MV/CAE accredited flocks/herds
- There is no other animal on the holding(s) that is to remain non-MV/CAE accredited

2.1.2

If ALL the conditions specified in Rule 2.1.1 are met, then at the 1st Qualifying Test the number of animals to test should be calculated from the table in Appendix 1. All rams/billies must be tested as part of this number. SRUC has the discretion to require a greater proportion of the flock/herd to be tested.

2.1.3

The 2nd Qualifying Test is to be carried out 6 to 12 months after the 1st Qualifying Test. All animals over 12 months of age must be tested. They MUST NOT mix with MV/CAE accredited or non-accredited stock between the qualifying tests.

2.1.4

Adding animals during qualifying tests:

If you intend to add any non-MV/CAE accredited animals to the flock/herd or group after its 1st Qualifying Test has been passed you must ensure that either:

- These added animals are kept isolated as a separate group until they have passed both qualifying tests, 6 to 12 months apart as detailed in Rule 6.2
OR:
- The additional added animals must pass a 1st Qualifying Test, as detailed in Rule 6.2. They may then join the flock/herd or qualifying group, which must then undergo the 2nd Qualifying Test at least 6 months after these animals were added.

MV/CAE accredited animals may be added to a qualifying flock/herd or group without altering the timing of the 2nd Qualifying Test, however they will need to undergo the usual Added Accredited Animal test 6 to 12 months after joining (see Rule 6.1) in addition to the 2nd Qualifying Test (this may be part of the 2nd Qualifying Test if it falls within the correct timeframe.)

2.1.5

If both qualifying tests give only negative results, the flock/herd becomes MV/CAE accredited and the flock/herd thereafter undergoes periodic testing (see below). If positive animals are found, SRUC will provide guidance regarding further testing.

The flock will normally be able to undertake another 1st Qualifying Test a minimum of 6 months after any confirmed positives (and any lambs under 12 months of age reared by confirmed female positives) are removed from the flock.

2.2 Establishing a new MV/CAE accredited breeding flock/herd by acquiring MV/CAE accredited animals

2.2.1

You must meet the following criteria for the animals to maintain their MV/CAE accredited status:

- You are a member of or have applied to join the MVAS/CAEAS
- You have had the holding on which you intend to keep the animals inspected by a veterinary surgeon and have completed a Premises Check form
- You have ensured that the security of the animals or flock/herd has been maintained in accordance with Rules 5 and 6.

2.2.2

The first Periodic Test must be carried out 6 to 12 months after the date of the arrival of the first purchased animal onto your holding. All animals over 12 months of age must be tested unless more than 55 animals have been added from a single flock. In that case the number to test from that source should be calculated using the table in Appendix 1.

2.2.3

The second Periodic Test is carried out 12 months after the first test, and the third after a further 24 months. The requirements of periodic testing are further explained in Rule 3.

3 MAINTAINING ACCREDITATION – PERIODIC TESTING OF BREEDING FLOCKS

3.1

After becoming MV/CAE accredited the first periodic test must take place a maximum of 12 months later.

3.2

If the first periodic test is negative, the second periodic test must be carried out a maximum of two years after the first.

3.3

After the second periodic test the following applies:

Flocks/herds kept on a holding where non-MV/CAE accredited animals have been present or under the same day-to-day management at any point since the last periodic test must carry out periodic testing every second year.

Flocks/herds kept on a holding where only MV/CAE accredited animals have been present with no non-accredited animals under the same day-to-day management since the last periodic test must carry out periodic testing every three years.

3.4 Requirements of Periodic Testing

3.4.1

At each periodic test:

The minimum number of animals to be tested should be calculated from the table in Appendix 1. All males aged 18 months or older must be included in the test

Separately managed groups within a flock/herd should be sampled according to the numbers in the sample size table in Appendix 1. For example: if in a flock/herd of 500 sheep/goats, 200 are run on one farm and 300 on a separate farm, then the numbers sampled should be 105 and 115 respectively

All MV/CAE testing of added accredited animals (see Rule 6.1 below) must be carried out IN ADDITION to the number of animals as calculated above.

3.4.2

Non-MV/CAE accredited animal screen

If non-MV/CAE accredited animals are kept on the same holding(s) or are under the same day-to-day management as MV/CAE accredited animals at every RPBT a screen of 12 non-MV/CAE accredited animals must be performed.

The flock's/herd's veterinary surgeon should perform the selection of animals to be tested using the criteria outlined on the submission form, usually thinner cull ewes with no obvious cause for the poor condition.

If suitable animals are not available to test at the time of the RPBT, the non-accredited screen can be performed on a separate occasion however testing of the accredited flock/herd will revert to one-yearly until the test is completed

If any animal tests antibody positive in the non-accredited screen the flock/herd will be classified as high risk and the MV/CAE accredited flock will revert to one-yearly testing

If it can be demonstrated by testing that the MV/CAE infection risk from the non-MV/CAE accredited flock/herd has been effectively addressed, the MV/CAE accredited flock/herd can revert to two yearly testing. In most cases this will take more than simply a negative 12-animal screen at the next RPBT.

A negative screen of 12 non-MV/CAE accredited animals does not indicate freedom from MV/CAE infection in the non-accredited flock/herd and strict biosecurity should be maintained (see Rule 5).

4 ACCREDITATION OF GROUPS OTHER THAN BREEDING FLOCKS

4.1 Establishing an accredited group

- You must be a member of or have applied to join the MVAS/CAEAS
- If newly joining, or adding a holding to your accreditation, you must have the holding on which you intend to keep the animals inspected by a veterinary surgeon and have completed a Premises Check form
- The group must be established with MV/CAE Accredited animals or animals that have undergone the Qualifying Tests (Added Animals) procedure outlined in Rule 6.2
- You must ensure that the security of the animals is maintained in accordance with Rules 5 and 6.

4.2 Periodic testing of the group

The first Periodic Test must be carried out on all animals, 6 to 12 months after the date of establishing the group and once they reach at least 12 months of age.

4.3

Subsequent Periodic Tests must be carried out every 12 months and include all animals over 12 months of age.

4.4

If accredited animals (e.g. ewe lambs) are purchased to be sold on as accredited, this may be done in two ways:

- The animals may join an established accredited flock. In this case they are treated as added accredited animals (see Rule 6.2), and require an added accredited animal test 6 to 12 months after joining the flock, or before sale if this is earlier.
- OR
- The animals may be set up as a separate fully biosecure group, as in 4.1 above. The group retains accreditation, but lose it if they are not all tested by 13 months after establishing the group (the test is due in 6-12 months, plus the one month grace period routinely added to all health certificates). If sold before the group has been established for 13 months, they can be sold as accredited with no additional testing.

You must be a member of or have applied to join the MVAS/CAEAS, and if newly joining, or adding a holding to your accreditation, you must have the holding/location on which you intend to keep the animals inspected by a veterinary surgeon and have completed a Premises Check form.

4.5 AI/ET centres are required to test:

- All stock (e.g. teasers), over 12 months old, on an annual basis
- All added accredited stock 6 months after arrival, or before leaving if present for less than 6 months

5 BIOSECURITY

5.1 Farm boundaries

MV/CAE accredited animals must not be allowed to come into contact with non-MV/CAE accredited animals at any time.

Farm boundaries must be adequate to prevent animals from straying onto or off holding(s) and to prevent nose to nose contact between animals.

Other than as provided for at Rule 6.3.3 (segregation at temporary locations), there must be a minimum of a two metre gap between MV accredited and non-MV accredited and a three metre gap between CAE accredited and non-CAE accredited animals at all times.

5.2 Using and sharing non-MV/CAE accredited stock facilities

If MV/CAE accredited and non-MV/CAE accredited animals are kept on the same holding(s) they must be kept as far apart as possible. As a minimum sheep will be at least two metres apart and goats at least three metres apart, other than as provided for at Rule 6.3.3.

WARNING: Keeping MV/CAE accredited and non-MV/CAE accredited flocks/herds on the same premises increases the risks of spreading infection.

MV/CAE accredited animals and non-MV/CAE accredited animals should not be housed together in the same airspace, even if physically separated (except as provided for in Rule 6.3.3). MV/CAE accredited animals must not be introduced to any field that has been grazed by non-MV/CAE accredited animals within the preceding seven days.

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/CAE accredited and non-MV/CAE accredited animals.

Handling facilities and livestock trailers which are used by MV/CAE accredited and non-MV/CAE accredited animals must be cleaned and disinfected before use by MV/CAE accredited animals.

Colostrum from non-MV/CAE accredited animals must not be brought into an MV/CAE accredited flock or fed to MV/CAE accredited animals.

5.3 Controlled breeding

In general only embryos or semen from MV/CAE accredited animals should be used to impregnate, inseminate or fertilise a MV/CAE accredited animal. Embryo transfer recipient animals must be MV/CAE accredited to preserve the status of the embryo

In some cases, AI or ET procedures may be undertaken while donor or recipient animals are undergoing Qualification, or an agreed equivalent process. This may be agreed on a case-by-case basis, please contact the PSGHS if you wish to discuss.

5.3 Notice of security threats

You must notify SRUC of changes which could affect the security of a flock/herd or an animal.

You must notify SRUC if a non-MV/CAE accredited flock is introduced to a holding(s) that previously held only MV/CAE accredited animals. A flock/herd inspection may be required.

5.4 Identification

All animals exhibited or sold as MV/CAE accredited must be permanently and individually marked in accordance with the legislative requirements, so that:

- The flock/herd of origin can be identified
- Individual animals can be identified

6 ANIMAL MOVEMENT AND CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP

6.1 Adding MV/CAE accredited animals

All MV/CAE accredited animals added to an MV/CAE accredited flock/herd must be tested between 6 and 12 months after arrival.

They must have been on the holding for a minimum of 6 months before testing
Failure to comply with this rule will lead to the flock/herd reverting to one yearly testing

It is also strongly recommended that all added animals regardless of age are tested at the time of purchase before adding them to the accredited flock/herd, although they would also need to be tested again as above to prevent a breach of the rules.

Any bought-in accredited animal that has been added to a flock but is to be sold on before its 6-12 month individual test has been performed should be tested prior to sale and then subject to the 6-12 month test requirement once in the new flock.

If purchased accredited animals have been kept fully biosecure from the flock then see Rule 4.4 above.

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 status.

6.2 Added animals - non-MV/CAE accredited

6.2.1

If you acquire non-MV/CAE accredited animals, they must be kept in an isolated group strictly biosecure from the accredited flock, as outlined in section 5.

All animals in the group must pass two qualifying tests 6 to 12 months apart in order to become MV/CAE accredited.

ALL animals in the group must be a minimum of 12 months of age at the time of the 1st Qualifying Test (and therefore a minimum of 18 months of age at the 2nd Qualifying Test).

Non-MV/CAE accredited animals MUST NOT be added to a MV/CAE accredited flock/herd until they have passed both qualifying tests and written confirmation of these results is received. You must ensure that the security of the animals or flock/herd has been maintained in accordance with Rules Section 5 Biosecurity.

If a qualifying test produces any positive results, the positive animals must be removed and the group can take another 1st Qualifying Test a minimum of 6 months from this date, followed by a 2nd Qualifying Test 6 to 12 months later if negative.

6.2.2

Adding animals to the qualifying group after the 1st Qualifying Test (Added Animals) – see Rule 2.1.4 above

6.2.3

Animals leaving the qualifying group after the 1st Qualifying Test (Added Animals)

- Ideally no animals should leave the qualifying group between Qualifying Tests. This is the safest way to keep infection out of your flock.
- Sickness/deaths – if animals leave the group due to sickness or death there should be a clinical assessment by the flock/herd's veterinary surgeon. If MV/CAE is considered a possible diagnosis then the vet should investigate including samples and/or postmortem examination as appropriate through SRUC. A positive result will be treated like a positive result in a Qualifying Test (see above).
- If animals leave the group for another reason e.g. culling or moving back to a non-accredited flock/herd, it should be as soon after the 1st Qualifying Test as possible, or they should be tested for MV/CAE before leaving.
- If more than 10% of the qualifying group have been removed with no second test, SRUC may require the 2nd Qualifying Test to be delayed until 6 months after the last animal was removed.

It is not within the rules to split a qualifying group of added animals for them to undergo separate 2nd Qualifying Tests. Animals leaving the qualifying group before the 2nd Qualifying Test do not have any MV status.

6.2.3 Imported Animals

Imported animals accredited under a non-UK scheme must be kept isolated until authorisation is given by the PSGHS vet to add them to the MV/CAE accredited flock.

Accreditation certificates of imported animals and a signed import declaration should be sent to the PSGHS office for examination. Import declaration forms can be found at www.sheepandgoathealth.co.uk

The PSGHS will then issue clearance to add the animals to the flock/herd if appropriate.

All imported animals with recognised non-UK MV/CAE accreditation will require testing as per Rule 6.1.

Imported animals that are not accredited under a recognised non-UK accreditation scheme will require testing as per Rule 6.2.

6.2.4 Imported semen/embryos

Imported semen/embryos from animals accredited under a non-UK scheme must not be used/implanted in MV/CAE accredited animals until authorisation is given by the PSGHS vet.

Accreditation certificates from the animals of origin used to produce semen/embryos should be sent to the PSGHS office for examination. The PSGHS will then issue clearance if appropriate to use/implant the semen/embryos in MV/CAE accredited animals

In general, semen/embryos from animals that are not accredited under a recognised non-UK accreditation scheme should not be used/implanted in MV/CAE accredited animals. In some cases, procedures may be undertaken while donor animals are undergoing Qualification, or an agreed equivalent process. This may be agreed on a case-by-case basis, please contact the PSGHS if you wish to discuss.

6.3 Moving animals

Any animal which moves from one location to another will automatically lose its MV/CAE accredited status unless you ensure that all of the following conditions are met:

6.3.1 Transport

MV/CAE accredited animals attending shows, sales or leaving their holding for any other purpose must travel segregated from and not come into contact with any animals which are not MV/CAE accredited.

MV/CAE accredited and non-MV/CAE accredited animals must not be transported in the same vehicle unless it has solid partitions and separate ramps. If animals are transported in this way, the MV/CAE accredited animals may return to their flock/herd of origin or to another MV/CAE accredited flock/herd without any isolation, testing or loss of status

Vehicles previously used for transporting animals must be cleaned and disinfected before being used by MV/CAE accredited animals

6.3.2 Segregation

If you acquire non-MV/CAE accredited animals or are unsure of the animals' status, you must physically segregate the animals from MV/CAE accredited animals until they have been tested in accordance with Rule 6.2

6.3.3 Segregation at temporary locations

While at any temporary location such as a show or sale, MV/CAE accredited and non-MV/CAE accredited animals may share an airspace provided that they are separated by a two metre division for sheep/three metre division for goats or a solid barrier at least two metres high for sheep/three metres high for goats. This is only acceptable for short periods of up to 10 days

6.4 Returning animals to a holding

If you return a previously MV/CAE accredited animal to your MV/CAE accredited holding, the flock(s)/herd(s) situated on that holding(s) will lose their MV/CAE accredited status unless the following requirements are met:

- The animal must not have lost its MV/CAE accredited status through non-compliance with the rules.
- The animal must not have had any contact with non-MV/CAE accredited animals.

6.5 Merging accredited flocks/herds

Two separately accredited flocks or herds may be merged into one, under the following conditions:

- They are on the same holding or are directly transported to the same holding without passing through a show/sale or similar, with no breakdown in biosecurity
- The date of the next due Periodic Test is the earlier of the Periodic Test due dates of the two merging flocks.
- The subsequent testing interval is calculated using the shorter of the testing intervals of the merging flocks.
- If at the time of the next Periodic Test the flocks have been merged for less than 12 months, then the sample size for each component flock is calculated separately from Appendix 1 and added together to give the total test numbers required, ensuring adequate representation from both component flocks.

7 RECORD KEEPING

7.1 Specific records you must keep and disclose

You must keep records of the following information for seven years for your MV/CAE accredited animals:

- Identification, breed and sex
- Identity of dam
- Approximate date of birth (month and year)
- Date of death or disposal
- Reason for death or disposal
- Dates and results of all MV/CAE testing

7.2 Private sales

In the case of private sales, you must maintain movement records for each MV/CAE accredited animal within the flock/herd for a minimum period of three years.

Records must be made promptly available to SRUC Veterinary Services on request.

8 CONTACT WITH NON-MV/CAE ACCREDITED ANIMALS

8.1 Isolation and testing

If any MV/CAE accredited animal(s) come into contact with a non-MV/CAE accredited animal, then that animal shall lose its MV/CAE accredited status and you must carry out the following in order to protect and retain the flock's/herd's MV/CAE accredited status:

- The animal(s) should be isolated
- EITHER:

After 6 months, the isolated animal(s) must undergo testing. If the result is negative, they may re-join the MV/CAE accredited flock/herd. If any animal in the isolated group tests positive for MV/CAE it should be culled. The remainder of the group must stay in isolation until they have passed a 1st Qualifying Test 6 months later and a 2nd Qualifying Test 6 to 12 months after that.

OR

You may carry out testing of the non-MV/CAE accredited animal(s) with which your MV/CAE accredited animal(s) had contact (no requirement to wait 6 months). The MV/CAE accredited animals should be isolated until the result of the testing is known. If the non-MV/CAE accredited animal(s) test negative for MV/CAE then no further action is necessary

8.2 Loss of MV/CAE accredited status

If any MV/CAE accredited animal which has had contact with a non-MV/CAE accredited animal re-joins the MV/CAE accredited flock/herd without adherence to Rule 8.1, the flock/herd status will be suspended.

The flock/herd must not be described as MV/CAE accredited, and no animal may be sold as MV /CAE accredited until the animal(s) which lost status have tested negative for MV/CAE at least 6 months after the contact with the non-MV/CAE accredited animals, or all the non-accredited animals that were in contact with the accredited animal have tested negative

9 WITHDRAWAL FROM MVAS/CAEAS OR LOSS OF MV/CAE ACCREDITED STATUS

9.1 Loss of MV/CAE accredited status

9.1.1

Your flock/herd will immediately lose its MV/CAE accredited status if any of the following events occur:

- You fail to comply in all respects with MVAS/CAEAS Rules
- You fail to comply with any instructions whatsoever of SRUC Veterinary Services, any veterinary surgeon, or any other party who from time to time have responsibility for governing the MVAS/CAEAS
- If any animal within the flock/herd tests positive for MV/CAE (unless it is in isolation, e.g. as an added animal or one that has come into contact with a non-MV/CAE accredited animal)
- Your flock/herd fails an inspection where breaches of rules and conditions are found
- You inform SRUC Veterinary Services that you want your flock/herd to be withdrawn from the MVAS/CAEAS

9.1.2

SRUC Veterinary Services may suspend or remove your flock/herd from the MVAS/CAEAS if any of the following events occur:

- If you breach or fail to comply with any of these rules
- You incorrectly portray your flock/herd status
- If there is any suspicion that an animal has been exposed to MV/CAE
- If you fail to pay outstanding fees to SRUC Veterinary Services

9.1.3

The following rules shall apply where an animal has tested positive for MV/CAE:

If a flock/herd loses MV/CAE accredited status, a set of procedures for regaining MV/CAE accredited status will be issued to the flock/herd owner

If the MV/CAE positive animal has been added from another accredited flock/herd then the flock/herd of origin will be subjected to extra testing as determined by SRUC, carried out at the expense of the owner, unless sufficient testing has already been performed to demonstrate freedom from disease

When MV/CAE infection is detected in a flock/herd, details of animal moved to other MV/CAE accredited flocks/herds in the previous 12 months will be requested. SRUC will undertake a risk assessment and further testing will be requested in the destination flocks/herds if appropriate.

It is the responsibility of the owner of the breakdown flock/herd to provide details to SRUC of all animals moved out of the flock/herd and sold privately or at sales as requested

It is the responsibility of the owner of the breakdown flock/herd to provide the details of all animals purchased into the flock/herd for the time period specified by SRUC Veterinary Services

Information requested by SRUC Veterinary Services should be provided within two weeks

9.2 Regaining MV/CAE accredited status

9.2.1

If your flock/herd loses its MV/CAE accredited status because of a positive confirmation of MV/CAE, your flock can be re-admitted to the MVAS/CAEAS provided that you comply with the following:

All test positive animals must be removed from the flock/herd, direct to slaughter or culled on the farm.

All lambs/kids under 12 months of age which have been suckled by test positive animals or fed milk from test positive animals must be removed from the flock/herd, direct to slaughter.

The flock/herd must pass two qualifying tests. The 1st Qualifying Test must take place at least 6 months after the removal of the last test positive animal(s) and lambs/kids under 12 months of age they have suckled from the flock/herd. The 2nd Qualifying Test must take place 6 to 12 months later. Each test must include all animals in the flock/herd aged 12 months or over at the time of testing.

If you cannot identify all the lambs/kids which may have been suckled by a test positive animal, then the flock/herd will not be eligible for MV/CAE accredited status until all lambs/kids have passed further qualifying tests determined by SRUC Veterinary Services. The earliest that the first and second qualifying tests can be carried out is at 12 and 18 months of age respectively

9.2.2

When there is a RPBT failure the PSGHS vet will assess whether the flock/herd is eligible for partial re-accreditation of group(s). A farm visit by the PSGHS vet may be required.

Stock eligible for re-accreditation are classed as a group of animals that have been fully isolated from the group containing the reactor(s) and the progeny of reactors for a period of at least 12 months.

The number of tests required to regain partial accreditation will depend on the length of time the group(s) have been isolated from the group containing the reactor(s) and their progeny at the time of breakdown.

For flocks/herds where there are agreed groups that have reached accredited status and others that have not, annual tests will be applied to the accredited group(s). All animals 12 months of age or older should be tested

9.2.3

Where there is an RPBT failure with a single animal reactor, the re-accreditation time-scale for the flock/herd will be assessed by the PSGHS on an individual flock/herd basis with a number of biosecurity risk factors being considered.

If assessed as appropriate the flock/herd will be able to undertake a Faster Track Qualifying Test six months post-breakdown to regain accreditation, and the first Periodic Test will be six months later, providing the flockmaster:

- fulfils a set of strict criteria related to their biosecurity and management practice
- passes a farm inspection
- provides details of buyers of any stock sold and any shows attended in the first 6 months of accreditation

9.2.4

If you lose MV/CAE accredited status for any other reason, SRUC Veterinary Services will determine what, if any, qualifying testing is required for re-admission to the MVAS/CAEAS and what the frequency of testing will be thereafter.

Non-compliance with the rules may result in loss of MV/CAE accredited status under the MVAS/CAEAS and your Health Status Reports or other veterinary certificates issued for export purposes may be cancelled or withdrawn.

9.3 Liability

SRUC is not liable for any losses incurred by a member or any other person as a result of a flock/herd's or animal's loss of MV/CAE accredited status howsoever caused.

APPENDIX 1

FLOCK/HERD TEST NUMBERS

Total number of animals aged 18 months or older	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% (assuming perfect specificity)

Where only a proportion of the flock/herd is tested, all males aged 18 months or older must be sampled.

Added Accredited animals undergoing their mandatory 6 to 12 month test should be tested in addition to the calculated number. The sample size should be calculated based on all other animals over 18 months of age in the flock/herd.

APPENDIX 2

SUMMARY OF TESTS REQUIRED FOR ACCREDITATION OF BREEDING FLOCKS/HERDS

Establishing MV/CAE accredited flock/herd from non-MV/CAE accredited animals

Test	Time Frame
First qualifying test (1QT)	When flock established. All animals over 12 months of age tested
Second qualifying test (2QT)	Minimum of 6 months and maximum of 12 months after the 1QT. All animals over 12 months of age
1st Routine periodic blood test (RPBT)	12 months after 2QT. See Rule 2.5 for test number and test requirements
2nd Routine periodic blood test (RPBT)	2 years after 1st RPBT. See Rule 2.5 for test number and test requirements
3rd RPBT (if non-MV/CAE accredited animals HAVE NOT been present on the holding) and tests thereafter	3 yearly See Rule 2.5 for test number and test requirements
3rd RPBT (if non-MV/CAE accredited animals HAVE been present on the holding) and tests thereafter	2 yearly test. See Rule 2.5 for test number and test requirements

Establishing MV/CAE accredited flock/herd through acquisition of MV/CAE accredited animals

Test	Time Frame
1st Routine periodic blood test (RPBT)	6 to 12 months after flock established. All animals over 12 months of age tested
2nd Routine periodic blood test (RPBT)	12 months after 1st RPBT. See Rule 2.5 for test number and test requirements
3rd Routine periodic blood test (RPBT)	2 years after 2nd RPBT. See Rule 2.5 for test number and test requirements
4th RPBT (if non-MV/CAE accredited animals HAVE NOT been present on the holding) and tests thereafter	3 yearly See Rule 2.5 for test number and test requirements
4th RPBT (if non-MV/CAE accredited animals HAVE been present on the holding) and tests thereafter	2 yearly. See Rule 2.5 for test number and test requirements

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MV/CAE Accreditation Rules and Conditions
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MV/CAE Rules and Conditions - updated October 2023