DAHD

Sheep and goat meat imports get a revised health certificate

A DAHD memorandum of April 6, 2026 sets the revised veterinary health certificate for importing sheep and goat meat and meat products into India.

THE DEPARTMENT OF Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, issued an Office Memorandum dated April 6, 2026, File No. L-110110/17/2025-Trade (E-34304), on the "Veterinary Health Certificate for Import of Ovine / Caprine Meat and Ovine / Caprine Meat Products into India". It refers to addendum notification G/SPS/N/IND/337/Add.1, dated February 18, 2026, which notified the "Veterinary Health Certificate for Import of Ovine Meat and Ovine Meat Products into India" to the WTO SPS Committee. It says those requirements were further reviewed and revised considering comments received from WTO member countries. The enclosed certificate "will serve as official veterinary health certificate requirements" for import of ovine and caprine meat and meat products into India. The memorandum has the approval of the Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and is signed by Dr. Gagan Garg, Joint Commissioner (Trade).

KEY FACTS

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On timing, the memorandum says the certificate "will be completely in force after transition / migration period of six months from the date of notification to the WTO SPS Committee". It gives no date, and it does not say whether the six months run from the February 18, 2026 addendum or from a later notification of the revised certificate. The certificate is signed by an "Official Veterinarian", who certifies the sanitary statements and gives a name, designation, address and email, date, official stamp and signature. Its general part also asks for the competent authority's ministry and department, an "SIP/DGFT License no. with Date and Validity", and the approval number of the abattoir, cutting or processing establishment. Copies went to the Animal Quarantine and Certification Service officers at Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad, to pass on to stakeholders including importers, and to FSSAI, CBIC, the Department of Commerce's SPS Division and NIC, DAHD.

The table below gives every sanitary statement as printed. The country of origin must be under negligible Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) risk under Chapter 11.4 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), and free from Rift Valley Fever as per WOAH listing. The country or zone must be free from Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) without vaccination, or free from FMD with vaccination with the head, including the pharynx, tongue and associated lymph nodes, excluded from the shipment. The country must be free from scrapie, or else scrapie must be compulsorily notifiable there, the sheep and goat tissues listed in statement iii must not be part of the meat or used in feed, and affected sheep and goats must be killed and completely destroyed. The product must come from an establishment, herd or flock free, during the last six months, of the diseases of the source species, including Nairobi Sheep Disease, Tuberculosis, Peste des petits ruminants, Caprine and Ovine brucellosis and Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia. It must also come from establishments with no anthrax case in the twenty days before slaughter.

The source animals must come from approved establishments with a documented traceability system, and be slaughtered at abattoirs approved by the National Competent Authority under Chapter 6.3 of the Code and accredited for export, with no bovine and porcine tissue or protein added at any stage. The consignment must not contain beef or beef products in any form. Residues, product standards, hygiene and packaging must meet the Indian food safety regulations it cites. On arrival, the Animal Quarantine and Certification Services examine the consignment and documents, and samples are tested for FMD at ICAR-NIFMD, Bhubaneswar, or another designated laboratory, unless the country of origin is free from FMD. The product must never enter the animal food chain, leftovers are incinerated, and labels must also be in the local or regional language.

The memorandum does not list what was changed. DAHD's memorandum of January 23, 2026, under the same file number, had finalized a certificate for ovine meat only, to come into force 60 days after notification to the WTO SPS Committee. That certificate required freedom from scrapie, FMD (with or without vaccination), vesicular stomatitis and Rift Valley fever, freedom from a longer list of diseases over the last two years, and post-import tests at ICAR-NIHSAD. The April certificate's certifying sentence and statement viii still read "ovine meat/ovine meat product" and "lamb meat", as printed. India then notified the revised certificate to the WTO in addendum G/SPS/N/IND/337/Add.2, dated April 28, 2026. It says the revised measure was adopted and published on April 6, 2026 and will enter into force after a transition or migration period of six months from the date that addendum was circulated. DAHD's document list, read on October 28, 2026, shows the same file posted again on June 18, 2026 and no later document on these imports.

Issued by	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Document	Office Memorandum, File No. L-110110/17/2025-Trade (E- 34304)
Dated	April 6, 2026
Subject	"Veterinary Health Certificate for Import of Ovine / Caprine Meat and Ovine / Caprine Meat Products into India"
Refers to	Addendum notification G/SPS/N/IND/337/Add.1, February 18, 2026, to the WTO SPS Committee
Later WTO notification	G/SPS/N/IND/337/Add.2, dated April 28, 2026: the revised measure, adopted and published on April 6, 2026
Applies to	Imports of ovine / caprine meat and ovine / caprine meat products into India
Takes effect	"completely in force after transition / migration period of six months from the date of notification to the WTO SPS Committee"; no date

	stated. WTO addendum G/SPS/N/IND/337/Add.2 of April 28, 2026: six months from the date it was circulated
Certified by	An Official Veterinarian: name, designation, address and email, date, official stamp and signature
Checks on arrival	Animal Quarantine and Certification Services examine the consignment and documents; FMD testing at ICAR-NIFMD, Bhubaneswar, or another designated laboratory, not required if the country of origin is free from FMD
Approval	Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Signed by	Dr. Gagan Garg, Joint Commissioner (Trade)
Posted on DAHD's document list	April 23, 2026 (document id 25068); the identical file again on June 18, 2026 (document id 30176)
Earlier certificate	DAHD Office Memorandum of January 23, 2026, same file number: ovine meat only, in force 60 days after notification to the WTO SPS Committee

Sanitary Information: what the Official Veterinarian certifies, as printed

Statement	Text
i.	the country of origin of raw material and final product is under negligible Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of Terrestrial Animal Health Code by the World Organisation for Animal Health and is free from Rift Valley Fever as per listing in World Organisation for Animal Health.
ii.	the country of origin or zone of raw material and final product is free from Foot and Mouth Disease (without vaccination); or the country of origin or zone of raw material and final product is free from Foot and Mouth Disease (with vaccination) and from which the head, including the pharynx, tongue and associated lymph nodes, has been excluded from the shipment.
iii.	the country of origin of raw material and final product is free from scrapie; or a. scrapie is compulsorily notifiable in the country of origin; b. the Skulls including brains, ganglia and eyes, vertebral column including ganglia and spinal cord, tonsils, thymus, spleen, intestine, adrenal gland, pancreas, or liver, and protein products derived there from, from sheep and goats shall not be part of meat and shall not used in feed also; c. the affected sheep and goats are killed and completely destroyed.
iv.	the product originates from disease free establishment, herd or flock and animals related to the diseases of source animal species including Nairobi Sheep Disease, Tuberculosis, Peste des petits ruminants, Caprine and Ovine brucellosis and Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia during the last six months.
v.	the product come from establishments that are not placed under movement restrictions for the control of anthrax and where there has been no case of anthrax during the twenty days prior to slaughter.

vi.	the source animals originate from an approved establishment/s and the documented animal traceability system is in place.
vii.	the product originates from the animal which did not show any clinical sign and symptoms of any infectious/contagious diseases related to source animal species and had undergone ante- and post-mortem inspections with favourable results, which have been slaughtered for human consumption at an abattoir approved by the National Competent Authority of the country of origin in accordance with Chapter 6.3 of Terrestrial Animal Health Code by the World Organisation for Animal Health.
viii.	the product comes from source animals slaughtered in abattoirs / processing plants accredited for export by the National Competent Authority, where no bovine and porcine tissue or protein has been added to the lamb meat during process of production of fresh meat or added to the meat products at any stage during processing and production.
ix.	the product came from the animals which have not been kept in the infected zone and establishment for the diseases related to source animal species and have not been derived from the source animal species slaughtered/culled as part of an eradication/control program for any disease related to source animal species.
x.	the consignment(s) destined to India do not contain beef and beef products in any form. The source animals have never been fed with feeds produced by containing materials of internal organs, blood meal and tissues originated from cows and their progenies (except milk and milk products).
xi.	the country of origin has system in place to demonstrate that the residues of pesticides, drugs, mycotoxins and chemicals in the meat and meat products are in compliance with the limits prescribed by the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011 of India.
xii.	the product complies with the standards of sheep /goat meat products including the microbiological requirements and food additives as specified under the Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 of India.
xiii.	the entire consignment of meat or meat products is prepared, packed and transported prior to export under good hygienic practice and an effective food safety control system, implemented within the context of HACCP systems where appropriate and in accordance with the requirements specified in Schedule 4, as applicable, of the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011 (India) and such other guidelines as specified from time to time under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
xiv.	the regular inspection / monitoring of checks in according with Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, rules and regulations made there under and as per the criteria specified by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.
xv.	the product is packed in new, fresh, clean packing material and adequate precautions were taken after collection, processing and during transit to avoid contact and contamination of product with any potential source of infection related to source animal. The packaging material used shall be in accordance with the FSS (Packaging) regulation, 2018 (India).
xvi.	conditions for transport / storage: Frozen / Chilled / Ambient / _____.
xvii.	temperature required during storage and transportation:_____.

The office memorandum (PDF, 726 KB)

Source: DAHD's own copy.

Checked against the official copy on October 28, 2026.

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