MV Monitored-Free Scheme

- Provides a source of low MV risk replacements especially for larger, commercial type flocks
- Allows flocks that cannot meet the minimum two metre biosecurity boundary of the MV Accreditation Scheme to test and gain a MV status
- Reduces the risk of a flock becoming MV infected (as bringing in untested sheep is the main route of entry for MV infection)
- Allows low cost monitoring of flocks and will detect early entry of MV infection long before the impacts of disease occur
- Infected flocks can join the scheme to benefit from reduced testing rates and to access advice from a vet with experience in the control and eradication of MV

The scheme provides a lower level of status than the MV Accreditation Scheme. **Sheep tested through the MV Monitored-Free Scheme cannot enter MV accredited sections at shows and sales**. MV Monitored-Free status is insufficient for exporting to countries that are free of MV.

The low cost scheme is aimed at flocks where owners wish to demonstrate to others that their flock is at a low risk of having an established MV infection. It is also useful as a monitoring tool so that infection can be detected early if an incursion does occur allowing prompt action to be taken and control measures to be put in place before losses occur.

The Scheme reduces the risk of a flock from becoming infected with MV as:

- It provides a source of replacements from commercial type flocks that have been screened for MV
- Sheep can only be added to a MV Monitored-Free flock if they are sourced from other MV Monitored-Free or MV Accredited flocks otherwise they must be kept separate and tested for MV before entering the flock

Testing of a proportion of the flock is carried out on an annual basis at a level that provides 95% confidence that the flock is either free of infection or does not have higher than a 5% level. Where flocks have a minimum two metre biosecure gap at all places between their flock and any neighbouring sheep/sheep they can opt to test every two years.

Flocks are given MV Monitored-Free status after one clear flock test and a health declaration is issued. Status is valid for either 12 or 24 months (latter applies if there is a minimum two metre biosecure gap at all points between any neighbouring sheep flocks & any goat herds).

Sheep being added to a MV Monitored-Free flock must be from a:

- MV Accredited flock or
- MV Monitored-Free flock

Otherwise they must be kept separate and have a negative test for MV before they are added to the flock

In order to maintain MV Monitored-Free status, testing of a proportion of the flock is required on an annual or two yearly basis (latter if two metre minimum biosecure gap in place). If a clear flock test

is obtained the flock will retain MV Monitored-Free status and the number of years that a flock has tested as clear will be shown on the certificate.

If there are separate groups within a flock, with no prolonged mixing between them, then each group must be sampled according to the level in the table before the flock can gain status.

Where possible a minimum two metre biosecure boundary between other sheep flocks and any goat herds is advisable to reduce the risk of infection from entering. To recognise this lower risk flocks with a minimum two metre biosecure gap at all points will be able to opt for two-yearly testing.

Sheep from a MV Monitored-Free flock will lose their status if mixed with non-Monitored-Free sheep/sheep. In order to regain MV Monitored-Free status of one clear screen test, the flock/group must be tested, according to the figures in the table, a minimum of six months after the sheep were mixed. Alternatively the non-Monitored-Free sheep/sheep that they were mixed with can be tested at the time of removal and if negative the flock/group will regain MV Monitored-Free status and retain the number of years that they have tested as negative.

MV Monitored-Free sheep must not be housed with sheep/sheep that have no MV/MV status.

If MV Monitored-Free sheep are attending shows contact with adjacent penned sheep should be minimised where possible e.g. through the use of tarpaulins/plastic sheeting. During judging mouthing should be done by the handler not the judge.

Colostrum can only be used that has obtained from does with MV Accredited or MV Monitored-Free status.

Semen and embryos can only be used from sheep that are:

- MV Accredited or
- MV Monitored-Free or
- Blood sampled and have a negative MV result up to two months prior to collection of semen or embryos or at any stage subsequent to collection and prior to use of the semen/embryos.

Equipment that is shared with sheep with no MV status must be cleaned and disinfected before use e.g. livestock trailers.

MV Monitored-Free sheep are considered to be non-accredited for the purposes of the MV Accreditation Scheme.

All sheep must be identifiable with a UK flock number and individual animal number so that blood test results can be matched to individual animals.

The flock's movement records must be available for inspection by the veterinary surgeon at the time of any blood testing for the scheme.

Axiom Veterinary Laboratories are not liable for any losses incurred as a consequence of a member's loss of status or failure to gain status.

<u>Testing requirements:</u>

At the Flock Test a proportion of the sheep over 18 months old is blood sampled according to the numbers in the table. Rams, up to a maximum of six, should be included in this sample. Additional rams can be tested over and above the required proportion, if desired.

If there are distinct management or breed groups within the flock, with no prolonged mixing between them, then each of these groups must be sampled according to the proportions in the table.

Sheep to be added to the flock must be MV Accredited, MV Monitored-Free or tested for MV before being added to the flock. If the sheep to be added are under 9 months old they must be kept as a separate group until they reach this age and can then be tested.

If there are suspicions that a sheep is infected with MV it must be tested to rule this out in order to retain flock status.

A positive MV test result at the Flock Test will result in the suspension of a flock's MV Monitored-Free status. If one sheep tests as positive it can be re-sampled after a minimum of two weeks. In the meantime the MV Monitored-Free status of the flock will be suspended. If it retests as negative the flock will gain MV Monitored-Free status. If two sheep test as positive, status will be suspended and additional sampling of the flock will be advised in order to further investigate the flock's status. If more than two sheep are found to be MV positive, particularly if there are high antibody levels present, then it is likely that the flock is infected. Advice will be available from a vet experienced in the control of MV as to how best to proceed.

Flock/group size (round up to nearest number)	**No. of sheep over 18 months old to blood sample*** (rams to be included, to a maximum of six of the sample. Additional sheep can be tested over and above, if desired)	**Lab test fee cost (@£5.50 per sample)**
1-20	**All**	**Up to £110**
25	**20**	**£110**
30	**24**	**£132**
50	**33**	**£181.50**
80	**44**	**£242**
100	**46**	**£253**
150	**51**	**£280.50**
200	**53**	**£291.50**
300	**56**	**£308**
500	**58**	**£319**
1000	**60**	**£330**
2000	**61**	**£335.50**

*Provides 95% confidence that flock infection level is below 5%

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