

**EUROPEAN COLLEGE OF  
SMALL RUMINANT  
HEALTH MANAGEMENT  
(ECSRHM)**

**RE-CERTIFICATION PROVISIONS**

**February 2018**

## **BACKGROUND**

According to article 4, paragraph 8 of the Constitution, Diplomates of the European College of Small Ruminant Health Management are required to undertake re-certification at intervals of five (5) years after registration. During this process, all Founding Diplomates and Diplomates are required to show evidence of their professional activities and that they are continuing:

- a) To participate actively and to contribute in the affairs of the College;
- b) To undertake professional development, by attending scientific meetings and continuing education programs;
- c) To be actively involved in the dissemination of knowledge related to small ruminant health management, by contributing to continuing education programs and by training veterinarians;
- d) To publish peer-reviewed scientific articles in internationally refereed journals (within the impact factor system) on topics of scientific research or clinical practice in the speciality.

Diplomates must also satisfy the requirements laid down in article 4, paragraphs 4 and 6 of the Constitution.

The evidence will be evaluated by the members of the Credentials Committee of the College. Negative evaluation during the re-certification procedure may lead to revoking diplomate status.

If a Diplomate does not meet the required number of points, they can be given one year extra in which to achieve at least the number of missing points. If they succeed, they will then be re-evaluated four years from the end of the extra year.

Diplomates, whose diplomate status has been revoked, are awarded a Non-practising Diplomate status, unless for reasons of temporary suspension (e.g., pregnancy). Such individuals must use the designation of Non-practising Diplomate. Non-practising Diplomates may neither act as supervisors for training programs, nor vote at the general meetings of the College. Non-practising Diplomates seeking to revert to full Diplomate status need to satisfy the requirements of the Credentials Committee concerning criteria for Diplomate status.

According to the recommendations of the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) re-certification of Diplomates is undertaken on a points' basis. Points will be awarded by the ECSRHM in all the above areas. Diplomates should accumulate at least 100 points during each 5-year period, in order to achieve re-certification. There is

flexibility in the manner by which Diplomates may accumulate these points; however, the ECSRHM requires that all Diplomates must achieve some points in all the areas mentioned above.

## AREAS OF ACTIVITIES

### 1. Active participation and contribution in the affairs of the College

Diplomates are expected to attend regularly the annual general meetings of the College and to pay promptly the annual subscriptions. Their further involvement and contribution in the affairs of the College is also encouraged. Points are awarded as detailed herebelow. Each Diplomat can accumulate up to a maximum of 40 points in this area.

	Points
<i>Presence in annual general meetings</i>	
1.i. Presence in annual general meetings held during the 5-year period; for each presence	1
<i>Participation in committees of the College</i>	
1.ii. Participation in standard committees provided by the Bylaws of the College; for each full term	20
<i>Submission of questions (including the proposed answers) for the certifying examination of the College, accepted by the Examination Committee and added into the examination database</i>	
1.iii. Multiple choice questions with only one correct answer; for each question	1
1.iv. Essay type questions, which would include problem solving and data assessment type questions; for each question	5
<b>Maximum points that can be accumulated in this area</b>	<b>40</b>

### 2. Professional development

All Diplomates are expected to undertake professional development, by attending scientific meetings and continuing education programs. Points are awarded as detailed herebelow. Each Diplomat can accumulate up to a maximum of 40 points in this area.

	Number of points
<i>Attendance of conferences specifically related to the speciality</i>	
2.i. Attendance of the International Sheep Veterinary Congress or the International Goat Conference held during the 5-year period; for each attendance	5
2.ii. Attendance of an ECSRH M conference; for each attendance	6
2.iii. Attendance of conferences specifically related to the speciality; for each attendance	3
<i>Attendance of conferences with components related to the speciality</i>	
2.iv. Attendance of conferences with >10 hours of lectures related to the speciality; for each attendance	3
<i>Attendance of continuing education programs</i>	
2.v. Attendance of a ECSRH M CPD; for each attendance	4
2.vi. Attendance of continuing education programs (e.g. webinars); for each attendance	2
<b>Maximum points that can be accumulated in this area</b>	<b>40</b>

### 3. Dissemination of knowledge

All Diplomates are expected to be actively involved in the dissemination of knowledge related to small ruminant health management, by contributing to continuing education programs throughout Europe and by training veterinarians and supervising residents of the College. Points are awarded as detailed herebelow. Each Diplomate can accumulate up to a maximum of 40 points in this area.

	Number of points
<i>Contribution to continuing education programs</i>	
3.i. Training activity in the speciality in ECSRH M-approved programs; for each hour of training provided	6
3.ii. Training activity in the speciality in non ECSRH M-approved programs but solely related to small ruminants species; for each hour of training provided	4
<i>Supervision and training of veterinarians</i>	
3.iii. Supervision of veterinarians in ECSRH M-approved programs; for each resident per year	15

3.iv. Supervision of veterinarians in non ECSRHM-approved programs, but solely related to small ruminants species; for each trainee per year	2
3.v. Possibility to host ECSRHM residents, advertised on website; for each week of supervision	1
<b>Maximum points that can be accumulated in this area</b>	<b>40</b>

#### 4. Publications and presentations

Diplomates should continue to publish peer-reviewed articles in internationally refereed journals (within the impact factor system) on topics of scientific research or clinical practice in the speciality, as well as in continuing education journals (non refereed) for veterinarians or lay journals for farmers. They can also make presentations to scientific meetings, which are published in the meeting proceedings. Points are awarded as detailed herebelow. Each Diplomat can accumulate up to a maximum of 40 points in this area.

	Number of points
<i>Scientific publications</i>	
4.i. Full length articles in internationally refereed journals (impact factor of $\geq 0.7$ ); for each publication	10 (1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> or last author)
	5 (others)
4.ii. Full length articles in internationally refereed journals (impact factor $< 0.7$ ) and short communications (impact factor $\geq 0.7$ ); for each publication	5 (1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> or last author)
	2 (others)
<i>Lay publications</i>	
4.iii. Lay publications in non-refereed journals, such as national veterinary journals; for each publication	2
<i>Review publications</i>	
4.iv. Review paper in a peer-reviewed journal (impact factor $\geq 0.7$ ) or book chapter; for each publication	8
4.v. Review paper in a peer-reviewed journal (impact factor $\geq 0.7$ ); for each publication	4
<i>Editing activities</i>	
4.vi. Editing activities such as books, chapters or journals; for each edit	10

<i>Scientific presentations</i>	
4.vii. Keynote lectures at the International Sheep Veterinary Congress or the International Goat Conference held during the 5-year period; for each lecture published in proceedings	5
4.viii. Presentations at the International Sheep Veterinary Congress or the International Goat Conference held during the 5-year period; for each abstract published in proceedings	4
4.ix. Presentations at the International Sheep Veterinary Congress or the International Goat Conference; for each presentation	3 (oral)
	2 (poster)
4.x. Presentations in other international conferences; for each presentation	2 (oral)
	1 (poster)
4.xi. Keynotes and presentations in national conferences; for each presentation	1
<i>Review activities</i>	
4.xii. Review activities in peer reviewed journals; for each review	1
<b>Maximum points that can be accumulated in this area</b>	<b>40</b>

## 5. Clinical activities

For diplomates that work predominantly in private veterinary practice it may be difficult to obtain enough points, as scientific work is often not supported. In case a diplomate does not gain the minimum points through the four main sections, there is an opportunity to submit evidence of high quality clinical work.

	Number of points
<i>Clinical activities</i>	
5.i. Extended abstracts of clinical activities; for each abstract	1
<b>Maximum points that can be accumulated in this area</b>	<b>10</b>

## 6. Recapitulation

Diplomates should accumulate points in at least four areas of activity of the College Diplomates. Each Diplomate must score a minimum of 100 points totally, in order to achieve re-certification.

<b>1. Active participation and contribution in the affairs of the College</b>	
Presence in annual general meetings	
Participation in committees of the College	
Submission of questions (including the proposed answers) for the certifying examination of the College, accepted by the Examination Committee and added into the examination database	
Maximum points that can be accumulated in this area	40
<b>2. Professional development</b>	
Attendance of conferences specifically related to the speciality	
Attendance of conferences with components related to the speciality	
Attendance of continuing education programs	
Maximum points that can be accumulated in this area	40
<b>3. Dissemination of knowledge</b>	
Contribution to continuing education programs	
Supervision and training of veterinarians	
Maximum points that can be accumulated in this area	40
<b>4. Publications and presentations</b>	
Scientific publications	
Lay publications	
Review publications	
Editing activities	
Scientific presentations	
Maximum points that can be accumulated in this area	40
<b>5. Clinical activities</b>	
Clinical abstracts	
Maximum points that can be accumulated in this area	10
<b>Minimum points to be achieved for re-certification</b>	<b>100</b>



## **PROCEDURE FOR RECERTIFICATION**

The Secretary of the College will draw a template for the application for recertification, according to the standards above for approval by the Board of the College. The final approved template will be available to all Diplomates.

Each Diplomate of the College, who completes four (4) years of initial registration or four (4) years of re-certification must apply for re-certification by the 31st July of that year, by sending the completed template to the Secretary of the College. No supporting documents will be required during the application for re-certification. However, these should be available for inspection, if they would be required. Evidence to confirm compliance with requirements of article 4, paragraph 4 of the Constitution must also be provided.

The Secretary forwards all applications to the Credentials Committee of the College by the 31st August of the same year. Diplomates of the College, who are members of the Credentials Committee, must abstain from the procedure when their application is being considered.

The Credentials Committee evaluates all applications according to the standards set hereabove. Furthermore, the Committee will require from the Secretary to confirm attendance to annual general meetings and from the Treasurer to confirm payment of annual fees, in accordance with and for fulfilment of article 4, paragraph 6 of the Constitution.

Lack of fulfilment of terms set in article 4, paragraphs 4 and 6 of the Constitution, will lead directly to revoke of Diplomate status. If after evaluation of a re-certification application, the standard of 100 points is not achieved, then the Credentials Committee at its discretion may return the application for re-certification to the Diplomate asking for additional information. All applications should be evaluated within three months after receipt from the Secretary.

The Credentials Committee reports the results of the evaluation to the Secretary. The results are confirmed by the Board within two weeks.

Diplomates are notified by the Secretary within one month. Diplomates, from whom additional information is requested, must reply to the Secretary of the College within one month.

The procedure detailed above is repeated for such cases, but the final evaluation should be completed within one month. If after re-evaluation of the application, the standard of 100 points is not achieved, then re-certification is not granted. The results are confirmed by the Board and the delegates are notified by the Secretary, as above.

## **APPEAL OF ADVERSE DECISION**

A Diplomat applying for re-certification, who wishes to appeal the decision on revoking his/her Diplomat status must do so within 90 days of the postmarked date of his/her notification. The request for appeal must be made in writing to the Secretary of the College and shall include a statement of the grounds for reconsideration and any documentation in support of the appeal.

The Secretary shall notify the President of the College and the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee. The President shall appoint a committee of three Diplomates who are not members of the Credentials Committee, to serve as an Appeals Committee. The complete dossier of the appealing person will be provided for the Appeals Committee to review. This will include a statement of the Credentials Committee indicating the reason(s) for rejecting the applicant. The Appeals Committee shall forward a decision to the President of the College within 90 days of appointment of the Committee.

After completion of the appropriate appeal procedure according to the steps described above, if either of the affected party or the ECSRHM is not satisfied with the final decision of the Appeals Committee, mediation may be requested to the EBVS. The affected party and the President of the ECSRHM shall give their opinion to the EBVS or its designated Committee, who will inform them of their decision afterwards. That decision is final and all parties involved must comply with that.

## **AMENDMENTS TO DETAILS OF THE PROCEDURE**

Proposed amendments to details of the procedure for re-certification must be signed by at least three (3) Diplomates of the College in good standing and should be submitted to the President of the College at least three (3) months prior to an annual general meeting. Any proposed amendment to the procedure should be distributed to the Diplomates accompanied with a recommendation from the Board, at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual general meeting. The proposal should be brought to a vote of the Diplomates at the subsequent annual general meeting. An affirmative vote of at least one-half (1/2) of the Diplomates voting at the meeting is required for adoption of the amendments.

The procedure for re-certification must not contain provision(s) against European or national legislation or against the Constitution and the Bylaws.