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EXPORT OF PORCINE SEMEN TO HONG KONG

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

PLEASE NOTE: Notes for guidance (NFGs) are not intended to operate as standalone documents, but must be read in conjunction with the appropriate export health certificate 7015EHC.

Exporters are advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the appropriate veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. IMPORT PERMIT

Currently there is no requirement for a permit for the importation of porcine semen from the United Kingdom into Hong Kong.

Exporters are however advised to contact the veterinary authorities of Hong Kong prior to export for the latest advice regarding any import documentation that may be required.

2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

Any Local Veterinary Inspector (LVI) appointed to the appropriate panel for export purposes by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, The Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department, the National Assembly for Wales or the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland may sign the export health certificate as an Official Veterinarian.

The 'Official Veterinarian' stamp should be affixed to the certificate in the normal manner.

3. COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 90/429/EEC (as amended)

The semen collection centre must be approved by Defra in accordance with Council Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended). The certifying Official Veterinarian must be fully conversant with the provisions of Council Directive 90/429/EEC and any subsequent amendments, laying down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-Community trade in and imports of semen of domestic animals of the porcine species.

4. RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Paragraph V(d) refers. The certifying Official Veterinarian should check appropriate movement records and may wish to obtain a written declaration by the owner of the animals confirming that the conditions of this paragraph have been met.

5. OFFICIAL DISEASE CLEARANCE

Paragraphs V(e) and V(f) refer. The certifying Official Veterinarian may certify country freedom for the diseases listed in these paragraphs provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC issued by Animal Health.

6. **TUBERCULIN TESTING OF DONOR BOARS FOR EXPORT PURPOSES**

Paragraph V(g) (ii) refers. In addition to the testing regime for certain diseases as laid down in Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended), the Hong Kong authorities also require that donor boars producing semen for export to Hong Kong are subjected to testing for tuberculosis. The comparative intradermal test using avian and bovine PPD tuberculin should be carried out. The test must be read after 72 hours.

Exporters and Official Veterinarians should note that tuberculin testing should not be repeated within 45 days of a previous tuberculin test. Before a pre-export test is carried out, the Official Veterinarian should make due enquiries to ascertain that the animals to be tested have not had a previous test within that period.

Tuberculin Testing Method

The preferable site is the loose skin at the base of each ear. Each site should be cleaned, the loose skin at the base of the ear raised into a fold and the skin thickness measurement recorded. Standard strength PPD, as issued for cattle, must be used and a dose of 0.1 ml injected intra-dermally into each raised fold taking care not to inject subcutaneously

A useful aid for subsequently reading the test is, after cleaning, to draw a circle on the skin at each selected site with a black felt-tip pen and the injections are made within the encircled areas.

Any increase in skin thickness of more than 2mm at the site of injection or any oedema, necrosis or swelling of associated lymph nodes, should be regarded as a positive reaction. If any animal has a reaction at the bovine site greater than at the avian site, the local Animal Health office must be informed.

7. **OMISSION OF PARAGRAPH 'i'**

The omission of a paragraph V (i) is deliberate, to avoid confusion between 'i' in use as a Roman numeral and 'i' in purely alphabetical employment.

8. **COMPLETION OF THE CERTIFICATE AND RETURN OF COPY TO THE ANIMAL HEALTH OFFICE**

The Official Veterinarian must sign and stamp the health certificate in an ink of any colour other than black. A copy of this certificate must be sent to the local Animal Health office within 7 days of signing.

9. **DISCLAIMER**

The DEFRA disclaimer (Form 372DMR) will be issued to the exporter with this certificate for his/her information. The certificate is provided on the basis of information available at the time and may not necessarily comply fully with the requirements of the importing country. It is the exporter's responsibility to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country. If these do not match, the exporter should contact the International Animal Health Division via the appropriate address in the link given below.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/int-trde/general/contacts.htm>