

EXPORT OF BOVINE SEMEN TO ALBANIA

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV's) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7618EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7618EHC.

CERTIFICATE 7618EHC HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY AGREED WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN THE IMPORTING COUNTRY.

Exporters are therefore strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment. They should obtain an import permit and check this certificate against the requirements of the import permit.

If the health requirements do not match, the exporter may choose to proceed with the export using certificate 7618EHC BUT STRICTLY AT EXPORTERS RISK.

1. Scope of the Certificate

Export health certificate 7618EHC may be used for the export of bovine semen from the United Kingdom to Albania.

Exporters and certifying official veterinarians must take particular note of the information on disclaimers at paragraph 11.

2. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)

This certificate may be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or a Local Veterinary Inspector (LVI) appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government or by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland (DARD), who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate export panel for export purposes.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DARD, Dundonald House, Belfast.

The OV should keep a copy for his/her own records.

3. Obtaining an import permit

The exporter/agent should be aware of the requirements of the importing country particularly with respect to the requirement for an import permit.

4. Schedules

Paragraph I.31 refers: A separate schedule may be used to identify the animals certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in paragraph I.31 and paragraph I.31 must be annotated "See attached schedule". Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the Official Veterinarian (OV).

The schedule must be stapled inside the health certificate and the OV should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedule and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule or in paragraph I.31 must be deleted with diagonal lines.

5. **Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)**

Paragraphs II.2 and II.3 refer: OVs may certify paragraphs II.2 and II.3 on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the AHVLA Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle or the issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland.

6. **Herd of origin**

Paragraph II.5 refers: OVs should assume that the herd of origin means the semen collection centre at which the donor bull is standing and that the six month period of disease freedom to be certified means the six months prior to the collection of the semen to be exported.

7. **Laboratory tests**

The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out pre-export testing is officially approved for this purpose by Defra or DARD.

In Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the AHVLA Laboratory, New Haw, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB, (Tel: 01932 341111). Some tests are carried out at AHVLA Lasswade, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0PZ, (Tel: 0131 445 6169). Certain specialist tests are carried out at regional AHVLA laboratories.

In Northern Ireland, the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the Veterinary Sciences Division (VSD) Laboratory, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3SD (tel: 028 9052 0011).

For operational reasons however, the laboratories involved may change periodically. Accordingly, the OV is advised to check with the AHVLA or VSD to determine to which laboratories samples should be sent for testing. Samples should always be sent to the laboratory concerned sufficiently in advance of the export date to enable the tests to be carried out and reported. If in doubt as to the procedures for collection, the requirement for transport medium if any, dispatch of samples and the length of time a test is likely to take, the OV should seek the advice of the relevant laboratory.

8. **Tests during pre-entry quarantine period**

Paragraph II.8 refers: Paragraph II.8 specifies that all the required tests be carried out after at least 21 days of the pre-entry quarantine period. With regard to the tests for Trichomoniasis and Campylobacteriosis, if the donor bull was reared in a single sex group and therefore tested only once, that test must have been carried out as specified, ie after at least 21 days in quarantine.

With regard to paragraph II.2 (h), OVs can assume that the biological examination refers to the standard semen quality tests, eg forward motility, carried out during routine semen collections. Because semen collections are not routinely carried out during the quarantine period, the wording of this clause can be interpreted as applying to the period any time after the completion of at least 21 days in quarantine.

9. **Sperm analysis**

Paragraph II.13 refers: OVs can certify this paragraph on the basis that the semen quality examinations are carried out in the laboratory of the semen collection centre, which is officially approved by the competent veterinary authorities of the UK.

10. **Sealing of the transport container**

Paragraph II.20 refers: The semen must be secured within a cryogenic container by a tamperproof seal applied in such a way that the container cannot be opened without breaking the seal. The number on the seal must be entered at paragraph I.23 on the health certificate.

If it is necessary to top up the container, topping up should be done in the presence of an Official Veterinarian (OV) who must apply a new tamperproof seal. The OV must endorse paragraph I.23 on the health

certificate with the new seal number, giving name and signature and dating and stamping the endorsement in the margin of the certificate in any ink colour **other than black**.

**11. Disclaimer**

Exporters and certifying official veterinarians must be aware that this export health certificate, 7618EHC, takes into account the important recommendations by the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) for trade in this commodity. Exporters and certifying official veterinarians must be aware that 7618EHC has not been officially agreed with Albania. Accordingly the exporter and the Official Veterinarian must note that use of 7618EHC for export of bovine semen to Albania is used at the exporter's risk. Official veterinarians should ensure that the exporter is aware of this.

The exporter should therefore be aware that 7618EHC does not take the requirements of the importing country into account. 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 are available. If official advice is provided by authorities in the importing country or if an import permit is provided, the exporter must copy these to the AHVLA Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle. If the advice or the permit do not match the assurances provided on 7618EHC, the exporter should contact the AHVLA Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle via the link below:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/imports-exports/international-trade/>