

No:.....

EXPORT OF BOVINE SEMEN TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

Certificate 6504EHC is based on a model certificate agreed between the EU and the Russian Federation which reflects the requirements laid down in the legislation of the Russian Federation. As a result, the wording and the format cannot be amended. However, the following guidance has been prepared on the basis of information from the EU Council and European Commission. Provided the guidance notes below are followed or relied upon, these certificates may be signed.

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV's) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 6504EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6504EHC.

Exporters are 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.

1. Scope of the Certificate

Export health certificate 6504EHC may be used for the export of bovine semen from the United Kingdom to the Russian Federation.

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 Rural Directorate, the Welsh Assembly Government Department for Rural Affairs or by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland, 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 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.

General information (Sections 1-3 refer)

4. Certificate No: (Section 1.7): This MUST consist of the prefix 'GB' (ISO Country Code for the UK), followed by a unique number in CENTAUR format, i.e. year/AHDO number/sequential number. The prefix 'GB' is pre-printed on the certificate. The unique number MUST be printed on the certificate; if this number is entered in manuscript, the certificate will be INVALIDATED.
5. Country of origin (Section 1.8): This is the country in which the semen was collected, which must be an EU Member State.

6. **Country of transit (Section 1.11)**: This refers to the *third country* of transit, NOT to EU MSs through which the consignment will pass.
7. **Point of crossing the border of the Russian Federation (Section 1.12)**: The OV must ask the exporter for this information.

8. **Schedules**

Section 3 refers: A separate schedule may be used to identify the animals/semen certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in section 3 and section 3 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 section 3 must be deleted with diagonal lines.

Veterinary certification (Section 4 refers)

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

Paragraph 4.3 refers: OVs may certify paragraph 4.3 - 1st indent only - on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the local Animal Health Divisional Office (or equivalent in Northern Ireland).

With regard to FMD - Section 4.3; 1st indent
On advice from the EU Commission, please insert the phrase "except Burgas Region in Bulgaria for FMD" to the above section so that it reads "during the last 12 months on the territory of the EU Member State except Burgas Region in Bulgaria for FMD".

10. **Laboratory tests and completion of Section 4.9**

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 Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) Laboratory, New Haw, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB, (Tel: 01932 341111). Some tests are carried out at VLA Lasswade, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0PZ, (Tel: 0131 445 6169). Certain specialist tests are carried out at regional VLA 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 VLA 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.

The date of sampling mentioned must be within 12 months prior to the date of first collection of semen intended for export. In the case of bulls which have not yet completed their first 12 months residency on the centre, the date of sampling for the pre-entry tests may be used and mentioned. For paratuberculosis, bespoke sampling and testing (e.g. using the ELISA or CFT) may be required. In the case of bulls which are seropositive for BVD, an aliquot of semen must be tested for

virus isolation test; the date of sampling of the semen must be within 12 months prior to the date of first collection of semen intended for export.

11. Sealing of the transport container

Section 1.5 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 section 1.5 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 section 1.5 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**.

12. Disclaimer

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 Animal Health Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle via the link below:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/about-us/contact-us/centrops.htm>