

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR BOAR SEMEN EXPORTED FROM THE EU TO THE CUSTOMS UNION - 7626EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7626EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7626EHC.

Exporters are strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country in advance of each consignment.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 7626EHC may be used for the export of fresh or frozen porcine semen from the United Kingdom to the Customs Union (CU). The CU comprises the countries of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia.

2. IMPORT PERMIT

Prior to making arrangements to export porcine semen to a CU country, exporters are advised to contact the veterinary authorities of the importing country for up to date information on requirements for any import documentation.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

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, 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 ink of any 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 also keep a copy for his/her own records.

4. GENERAL INFORMATION (SECTIONS 1-3 REFER)

Country of transit (Section 1.7): refers to any *third country (i.e. non-EU country)* of transit, NOT to EU Member States through which the consignment will pass.

Country of origin (Section 1.9): refers to the EU Member State(s) where the consignment originates.

Point of crossing the border of the Customs Union (Section 1.13): The OV must ask the exporter for this information.

Administrative-territorial unit (Section 2.2): This is the name of the local office of the AHVLA or DARD responsible for the area in which the establishment of despatch is located.

5. **SCHEDULES**

Part 3 of the certificate refers. If necessary, separate schedules may be used to identify the donor boars/porcine semen certified if the information cannot be fitted into this section.

Schedules must contain the same information as that required in Part 3 and Part 3 of the certificate must be annotated 'See attached Schedule' as appropriate.

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 OV.

The statement at the end of part 3 which says: "*If the semen was collected more than 5 times (donor animals or collection dates), then the inventory is made which is signed by the State/official veterinarian of exporting country and constitutes an integral part of this certificate*" means that these procedures are required if a schedule is used.

Schedules 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 Part 3 must be deleted with diagonal lines.

6. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

6.1. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE FOR THE UK (FORM 618NDC)**

Paragraphs 4.1(a) and 4.4 refer. Where declarations of disease freedom are given for the UK, the OV may do this when authority to certify this has been obtained on form 618NDC from the AHVLA Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle or the issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland. In respect of Export health certificate 7626EHC, authority to provide country wide Notifiable disease clearance on form 618NDC is required for paragraph 4.1.(a) for ASF, FMD and SVD, and for paragraph 4.4 for CSF, Brucella suis, AD and SVD.

6.2. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE FOR THE PREMISES**

Paragraphs 4.1(a) and paragraph 4.1.(b) refer. Where declarations of Notifiable disease freedom are given for the premises, the OV may do this based on his/her personal knowledge of the disease status of the approved semen collection centre or on the basis of a written declaration provided by another Veterinary Surgeon. If necessary, this may be supported by information from the local office of the AHVLA/DARD. See also paragraph 9 of this NFG.

Where necessary, certifying OVs should also carry out appropriate checks of the AI centre records including use of medicines, vaccines and fertility records to verify freedom from the named diseases. These checks may also be supported by means of a written declaration from the operators of the semen collection centre attesting to freedom from the diseases mentioned in these paragraphs.

6.3. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE FOR THE UK (FORM 618NDC) AND REMOVAL OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR TESTING FOR SPECIFIC DISEASES IF THE UK IS OFFICIALLY FREE OF THE DISEASE IN ACCORDANCE WITH OIE TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH CODE:**

Paragraph 4.4 of the EHC refers. See also paragraph 6.1 of these NFG. The CU veterinary authorities have agreed that additional pre-export testing for the diseases named in this paragraph is not required provided that the exporting **country** (not a region/zone/administrative territory) (ie the UK) is officially free from each specific disease in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Health Manual.

All of the UK is officially free from classical swine fever, brucellosis of pigs caused by *Brucella suis*, Aujeszky's disease and swine vesicular disease. In the case of CSF, B.suis, ADS and SVD, the OV should follow the guidance provided in the certificate footnote and write in manuscript 'the UK is officially free from the mentioned disease, tests were not carried out'.

OVs should note that this statement refers to additional pre-export testing requirements and not to routine testing for CSF, brucellosis and Aujeszky's disease as required under Council Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended).

7. **NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE AND REMOVAL OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR TESTING FOR SPECIFIC DISEASES IF THE UK IS OFFICIALLY FREE OF THE DISEASE IN ACCORDANCE WITH OIE TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH CODE:**

Paragraph 4.4 refers with respect to testing for porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) and transmissible gastroenteritis (TGE). OVs should note that testing for PRRS and TGE is required because the UK is not free from PRRS (nor is PRRS Notifiable in the whole of the UK), and although an outbreak of TGE has not been confirmed in the UK since 2003, it is not possible to state that the UK is free from TGE in accordance the OIE Terrestrial Health Manual for the reason that TGE is not Notifiable in the whole of the UK.

8. **LABORATORY TESTING**

8.1. **TESTING OF DONOR BOARS FOR PORCINE REPRODUCTIVE AND RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (PRRS) AND TRANSMISSIBLE GASTROENTERITIS (TGE):**

Testing for PRRS and TGE is required for exports of porcine semen from all of the UK to the Customs Union.

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 VLA 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.

8.2. TIMING OF LABORATORY TESTING

TGE

With regard to trade in porcine semen, Article 15.5.4 of the 2013 OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code recommends the following conditions be met in the case of TGE and these conditions must be complied with:

- the donor animals show no clinical sign of TGE on the day of collection of the semen;
- the donor animals have been resident for at least 40 days on an artificial insemination centre, and all the pigs on this artificial insemination centre were free from clinical signs of TGE during the 12 months prior to collection;
- for fresh semen, the donor animals are subjected to a diagnostic test for TGE with negative results during the 30 days prior to the first collection;
- for frozen semen, the donor animals are subjected to a diagnostic test for TGE with negative results at least 14 days after the last collection;

Type of test

Blood samples taken from donor boars should be submitted for a differential enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (diff ELISA) for TGE. This test allows differentiation between the TGE virus and porcine respiratory coronavirus.

PRRS – for exports of porcine semen from all of the UK

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code does not recommend a testing regime for PRRS, however the same testing interval to that of TGE may be used:

- for fresh semen, the donor animals are subjected to a diagnostic test for PRRS with negative results during the 30 days prior to the first collection;
- for frozen semen, the donor animals are subjected to a diagnostic test for PRRS with negative results at least 14 days after the last collection;

Type of Test

Blood samples from donor boars should be submitted for an antibody (Ab) ELISA or immunoperoxidase monolayer assay (IPMA) for PRRS.

See also paragraph 9 below regarding premises freedom from PRRS.

9. FREEDOM OF THE SEMEN COLLECTION CENTRE FROM SPECIFIED DISEASES

Paragraph 4.1(a) refers with regard to Aujeszky's disease, Tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis* infection) and Brucellosis (*Brucella suis* infection). Paragraph 4.1(b) refers with regard to leptospirosis, Anthrax, PRRS and Teschen disease (porcine encephalomyelitis).

See also paragraph 6.2 regarding declarations of notifiable disease clearance for the premises.

The OV should be aware if the occurrence of a Notifiable disease has been officially recorded on the premises in the time scales specified in the EHC. OVs should take into account their personal knowledge of the disease status of the approved semen collection centre. If necessary, this may be supported by a written declaration from another veterinary surgeon or by discussion with the local office of the AHVLA/DARD.

Certifying OVs should also carry out appropriate checks of collection centre records including use of vaccines, medicines and fertility records to verify freedom from the named diseases. These checks may also be supported by means of a written declaration from the operator of the semen collection centre attesting to freedom from the diseases mentioned in these paragraphs.

Leptospirosis

The declaration in respect of leptospirosis is for absence of clinical signs of leptospirosis such as fever, anorexia and jaundice in boars in the centre in the last 3 months or, if these clinical signs have occurred, if an alternative diagnosis has been obtained.

Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS)

Lack of clinical occurrence of PRRS cannot be certified for a herd which contains pigs which have been vaccinated against PRRS, nor can this be certified for herds in which serological monitoring or other testing has indicated the presence of PRRS. Because of the many and often subtle clinical manifestations of PRRS, it is not straightforward to certify an absence of occurrence of this disease.

If clinical signs such as reduced appetite and pyrexia, inco-ordination, circling and falling to one side and sudden death have occurred in groups of boars and an alternative aetiology has not been established, then it should be suspected that PRRS is occurring on the centre (note that concurrent infections with other pathogens are also common in outbreaks of PRRS).

Because of the possibility of recent introduction of PRRS virus infection, the OV must check to ensure that testing for PRRS virus infection has been carried out sufficiently recently according to their professional judgement.

10. RESIDENCY STATEMENT

Paragraph 4.2 refers. The certifying OV should check appropriate movement records to verify that donor boars meet the residency requirement of this paragraph.

The OV may also wish operators of the semen collection centre to provide a signed statement as additional verification of residency.

11. ADDITION OF ANTIBIOTICS TO PROCESSED PORCINE SEMEN

Paragraph 4.5 refers. Council Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended) specifies that an effective combination of antibiotics, in particular against leptospires and mycoplasmas, must be added to the semen after final dilution or to the diluent. In case of frozen semen, antibiotics must be added before the semen is frozen.

This combination must produce an effect at least equivalent to the following dilutions:

not less than:

- 500 µg streptomycin per ml final dilution
- 500 IU penicillin per ml final dilution
- 150 µg lincomycin per ml final dilution
- 300 µg spectinomycin per ml final dilution.

OVs should enter the relevant antibiotics and dilutions used in the semen collection centre into this paragraph.

12. SELECTION, STORAGE AND TRANSPORT OF EXPORTED PORCINE SEMEN

Paragraph 4.6 refers. In this context the word 'selection' means collection. OVs may certify this paragraph on the basis that the semen collection centre is approved by Defra or DARD in accordance with Council Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended).

The certifying OV 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.

13. DISCLAIMER

This 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 AHVLA Specialist Service Centre at Carlisle via the link below:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/about-us/contact-us/specialist-service-centre/>