

EXPORT OF BOVINE SEMEN TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE CERTIFYING VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV's) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 511EHC and its continuation 511CON. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 511EHC.

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 511EHC may be used for the export of bovine semen from the United Kingdom to the Republic of South Africa.

Please note that the export health certificate 511EHC is in two parts, 511EHC PART A and 511CON PART B. Both parts must be signed, dated and stamped on the day of shipment.

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) Centre for International Trade 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. The import permit number should be given in the health certificate at paragraph IV.e) and at paragraph VI.e).

4. **Schedules**

Paragraph I 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 and paragraph I 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 must be deleted with diagonal lines.

5. **Foot and mouth disease non-vaccination**

Paragraph V b) refers. Vaccination against foot and mouth disease and the importation of vaccinated animals is not permitted in the United Kingdom. Paragraph V b) can therefore be signed on this basis.

6. **Residency of donors**

Paragraph V c) refers. It is a requirement of the Republic of South Africa that the donor animals must be continuously resident at the Semen Collection Centre for at least 30 days prior to collection of the semen for export to the Republic of South Africa. The period of residence for this purpose does not start until the donor bull has completed pre-entry isolation and has entered the main stud. The period spent in pre-entry isolation does NOT count towards the required residency period for this purpose.

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. **Testing options**

Paragraphs V g), h), j), k), l), m) and n) of 511EHC refer: For the purposes of this certificate, donor bulls are regarded as either short-term residents or long-term residents.

Donor bulls are classed as short-term residents if their period of residence is less than 3 months, which for this purpose does include the period spent in pre-entry isolation. For short-term residents, the specified health tests must be carried out within three months preceding the date of collection of each batch of the semen to be exported.

In the case of bulls resident at the Semen Collection Centre for a period longer than three months, ie long-term residents, negative results for the disease conditions referred to will be acceptable provided that the tests were performed at the Semen Collection Centre during the period of residency and not more than 12 months prior to the collection of the semen to be exported.

9. **Dispensation for testing Trichomonas foetus and Campylobacter foetus for semen collected after 15/11/2000**

Paragraphs V g) i. and h) i. refer. The Veterinary Authorities of the Republic of South Africa have granted dispensation from triple testing to require only double testing for bovine semen collected after 15 November 2000. Semen collected before that date requires a single test only for Trichomonas foetus and Campylobacter foetus.

10. **No paragraph V i)**

Note that the paragraph notation in the certificate reads V h) to V j) with paragraph V i) omitted. This is intentional as roman numeral i. is used to number indented paragraphs. Use of both i) and i. can lead to confusion where advice is related to specific paragraphs given in these Notes for Guidance.

11. **Testing for Johne's disease**

Paragraphs VII a) (ii) and (iii) refer. There are two options for testing for Johne's disease:

Either during the period of residency of the bull, a pooled faecal sample from the entire herd at the Centre is sent to an AHVLA laboratory for culture. If all resident bulls, including the donor bull, have individual faecal samples collected on the same day and sent for culture, this can be regarded as a more rigorous test than testing a pooled sample and this clause may be signed on that basis;

Or serological testing, repeated after 3 months, is carried out within the period between 12 months preceding the date of the first collection and 12 months after the date of the last collection of semen for export to South Africa.

12. Assurances of freedom from diseases on the herd of origin

Paragraph VII a) (i) refers.: Unless the AVS has personal knowledge, these assurances should be obtained in writing from the Veterinary Surgeon for the herd of origin and retained by the AVS as documentary support for his certification.

13. Testing for Schmallenberg virus

Paragraph VII b) refers: The virus neutralisation test is currently the only serological test approved by the Directorate of Animal Health, Republic of South Africa, to detect antibodies of Schmallenberg virus.

14. Sealing of the transport container

Paragraph VII c) 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 VII c) on the health certificate.

If it is necessary to top up the container, the additional liquid nitrogen used must meet the requirements of the certificate (see paragraph VII c)). 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 VII c) 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**.

15. Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)

Paragraph VII d) refers: OVs may certify this paragraph on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the AHVLA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland.

16. FMD freedom in accordance with OIE

Paragraph VII e) refers: The UK lost its FMD freedom (without vaccination) most recently during the following periods: (1) 21/02/2001 to 21/01/2002 (2) 03/08/2007 to 19/02/2008.

17. 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 Centre for International Trade at Carlisle, via the link below:

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

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