

EXPORT OF CAPRINE AND OVINE SEMEN TO THE ISLAND OF ST HELENA

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 ----EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7652EHC.

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 7652EHC may be used for the export of caprine and ovine semen from the United Kingdom to the Island of St Helena.

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, 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 III.5.

4. Schedules

Paragraph I.1 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.1 and paragraph I.1 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.1 must be deleted with diagonal lines.

5. Scrapie

Paragraph IV.10 refers: Documentary evidence of membership of the SAC Scrapie Monitoring Scheme or of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype of the donor(s) must be presented to the certifying Official Veterinarian prior to signature. The genotyping must be either carried out at a government laboratory (VLA), or the Scottish Agriculture College (SAC) or Cellmark (where the certificate is issued by Innovis AND it clearly states in the top right hand corner that a veterinarian took the sample and mentions the address) OR the individual sheep for intra-

community trade must have a genotyping certificate issued under the National Scrapie Plan (NSP) or the Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme (CSFS) by a laboratory which is/was authorised by the government to carry out genotyping under the plan/scheme. Any such genotyping certificates issued under the scheme/plan before it/they closed remain valid, but the OV must ensure that the identification of the animal as recorded on the genotyping certificate correlates with the official ear tag on the animal as recorded on the EHC; if only the electronic identification number is recorded on the genotyping certificate, then the OV must scan and check the electronic identification of the sheep to confirm correlation between the certificate, the sheep and the official ear tag number on the EHC. Unless genotyping was carried out officially under the NSP or CSFS, all blood samples for genotyping must be taken by a veterinary surgeon.

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

Paragraphs IV.1, IV.6 and IV.11 (a) refer: OVs may certify paragraphs IV.1, IV.6 and IV.11(a) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the AHVLA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle or the issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland.

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. **Sealing of the transport container**

Paragraph IV.16 iii) 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 III.3 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 IV.16 ii). 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 III.3 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**.

9. **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, Carlisle, via the link below:

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