

No:

SEMEN OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS OF THE BOVINE SPECIES COLLECTED, PROCESSED AND STORED
BEFORE 31 DECEMBER 2004 FOR IMPORTATION FROM MEMBER STATES OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TO
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY - 6853EHC

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) AND EXPORTER

Associated Documents: 6853EHC, 6853CON, 618NDC and 372DMR

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with both parts of export certificate 6853EHC, that is 6853EHC and 6853CON. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6853EHC, and 6853CON. We strongly suggest that exporters obtain full details of the importing country's requirements from the veterinary authorities in the country concerned, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. **Scope of the certificate**

Whilst Turkey has recently lifted the ban imposed on Great Britain following the 2007 FMD outbreak, a bluetongue (BT) ban still remains in force, on England only.

Bovine semen can be exported provided it has been collected and stored outside England (i.e. in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland only).

The certificate 6853EHC covers the export of fresh or frozen bovine semen, **collected before 31 December 2004**, to Turkey. The semen must have been collected and stored at an EC approved Semen Collection Centre. In the case of semen collected on or after 31 December 2004, certificate 6183EHC must be used.

2. **Certification by an Official Veterinarian**

This certificate may be signed by a Local Veterinary Inspector appointed by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, The Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs or the National Assembly for Wales on the appropriate panel, a Whole Time Veterinary officer, or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland (DARDNI), who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate panel for export purposes; on the basis of a support certificate from the Authorised Veterinary Surgeon, (Centre Veterinarian) responsible for the store from which the semen is to be exported.

The certificate consists of 6853EHC and 6853CON. The OV must ensure the 6853CON is stapled to the main part of the document, (6853EHC) and the stapled (top left) corner should be turned down and stamped with the OV/AVI stamp in a colour other than black. The pages of the certificate (6853EHC and 6853CON) must be "fanned" to overlap each page by approximately 2cm at the foot, and the overlying edges stamped several times with the OV/AVI stamp **in a colour other than black** to authenticate each page.

3. **Council Directive 88/407/EEC**

The certifying Official Veterinarian must be conversant with the provisions of the Council Directive 88/407/EEC, which lays down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-community trade in and imports of semen of domestic animals of the bovine species, bearing in mind that the animal health requirements applicable on or before 31 December 2004 are reflected in 6853EHC.

4. **Declaration of Country Freedom /618NDC clearance**

The Official Veterinarian may certify paragraphs 10.5 (iii), 10.6 (second option), and 10.7 (second option), in respect of the United Kingdom on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the local Animal Health Divisional Office (AHDO) on form 618NDC, which will be sent to you 10 days before shipment.

5. **Herd of Origin health status**

Paragraph 10.1.(b) refers. This paragraph can be certified based on compliance with Annex B, Chapter I points (b) and (c) of Council Directive 88/407/EC (as amended) as follows:

- prior to their stay in the isolation accommodation, the bulls belonged to a herd which is officially tuberculosis free and officially brucellosis free in accordance with Directive 64/432/EEC. The animals may not previously have been kept in one or more herds of a lower status.

- the bulls came from a herd free of enzootic bovine leucosis as defined in Directive 64/432/EEC, or have been produced by dams which have been subjected, with negative results, to an agar gel immunodiffusion test, carried out in accordance with Annex G of Directive 64/432/EEC, after removal of the animals from their dam. In the case of animals derived by embryo transfer, "dam" means the recipient of the embryo. If this requirement cannot be fulfilled, the semen may not be the subject of trade until the donor has reached the age of two years and has been tested in accordance with Chapter II, 1 (iii) of 64/432/EEC with a negative result.

6. **Residency**

It is not necessary for the donors to have been resident at the Semen Collection Centre for 12 months prior to collection of semen for export to Turkey, but if they have been resident for more than 12 months and have not had the annual tests, the semen is not eligible for export.

7. **Laboratory tests**

Samples for all testing must be sent to the laboratories of the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA). The majority of pre-export tests are carried out at the Veterinary Laboratory Agency (VLA New Haw, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB - Tel. 01932 357335) whilst some tests are carried out at the regional VLA laboratories (Veterinary Investigation Centres (VICs)). For operational reasons the laboratories involved may change periodically. For example tests for Campylobacter and Trichonomas are now only provided at Veterinary Investigation Centre, Itchen Abbas, Winchester, SO21 IBX (Tel. 01962 779966). Accordingly, the AVS should check with the VLA to establish to which laboratories samples should be sent for testing. Samples should always be received in advance of the export date. 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 AVS should seek advice of the relevant laboratory.

8. **Sealing of the transport containers**

Note that 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 of the seal should be given at section 6 on the health certificate. If it is necessary to top-up the container, this should be done in the presence of an official veterinarian who should apply a new tamperproof seal and endorse section 6 with the new seal number, giving his signature and name and dating and stamping the endorsement in the margin of the certificate in ink of a colour not black.

9. **Return of copy of the export health certificate**

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the local Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM) or Divisional Veterinary Officer in NI (DVO-NI) within seven days of issue.
The OV/AVI should keep a copy for his/her own records.

10. **Disclaimer**

The DEFRA disclaimer (Form 372DMR) will be issued to the exporter with this certificate for his/her information. 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 International Animal Health Division via the appropriate address in the link given below.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/int-trde/general/contacts.htm>