

EXPORT OF BOVINE EMBRYOS TO TURKEY

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS (OVs) AND EXPORTERS

Associated Documents: 6513EHC, 618NDC and 372DMR.

GENERAL

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters. The notes for the guidance document (NFG) should have been issued to you together with export health certificate 6513EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6513EHC. 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 embryos can be exported provided they have been collected, processed and stored outside England (i.e. in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland only).

2. **CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)**

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 health certificate must be signed and stamped with OV/AVI stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

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.

3. **COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 89/556/EEC**

The certifying veterinarian must be conversant with the provisions of Council Directive 89/556/EEC, and any subsequent amendments, applicable to trade in embryos of domestic animals of the bovine species. Team veterinarians (AVSS) responsible for approved embryo collection teams must be fully conversant with the rules laid down in this directive.

4. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Official Veterinarians may certify the following paragraphs 13, 2 (a), (b) (i), (c) (i), 3 (a), (b), and 4 (a) of the EHC provided written authority (618NDC) to do so has been obtained from the local Animal Health Divisional Office (AHDO) on form 618NDC. To enable the AHDO to issue form 618NDC in good time, the AVS/exporter must submit the names and addresses of the holdings/herds/products of origin to the issuing AHDO well in advance for checking.

5. **RESIDENCY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Paragraph 13, 4 (c) refers. A written declaration should be received from the owner/exporter stating that the donor female was born in or has remained in an eligible area of the United Kingdom (Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland only) for at least 6 months immediately prior to embryo collection. Before paragraph 13, 4 (c) is signed, the cattle passport should be checked to provide corroborative evidence for this statement, provided the other requirements are met.

6. **OFFICIALLY BRUCELLOSIS AND TUBERCULOSIS FREE STATUS**

Paragraph 13, 4 (c) refers. Holdings with inconclusive reactors to the tuberculin (and brucella) tests are not considered to be officially free.

7. **LABORATORY TESTS**

The majority of pre-export tests are carried out at the Central Veterinary Laboratory (VLA Weybridge site, Addlestone, Surrey). Some tests are carried out at regional VLA laboratories (Veterinary Investigation Centres (VIC's)). For operational reasons the laboratories involved may change periodically. Accordingly LVI's 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 length of time a test is likely to take, LVI's should seek the advice of the relevant laboratory.

8. **SEALING OF THE TRANSPORT CONTAINER**

Please note that only embryos from one/the same female donor are to be placed in the same straw. Kindly also note that the embryos 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 entered at paragraph 11 on the health certificate. If it is necessary to top-up the container, this should be in the presence of an official veterinarian who should apply a tamperproof seal and endorse at paragraph 11, with the new seal number, giving his signature, name and dating and stamping the endorsement in the margin of the certificate in ink of a colour other than black.

9. **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>

SPECIMEN