

EXPORT OF PORCINE SEMEN TO UKRAINE - 6091EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

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**IMPORTANT NOTE**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 6091EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6091EHC.

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.

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**1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 6091EHC may be used for the export of fresh and frozen porcine semen from the United Kingdom to Ukraine.

**2. 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 Rural Directorate, the Welsh Assembly Government Department for Rural Affairs 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 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 keep a copy for his/her own records.

**3. 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. Prior to making arrangements to export porcine semen, exporters are advised to contact the veterinary authorities of Ukraine for the latest advice regarding any import documentation that may be required.

**4. SCHEDULES**

Paragraph I refers: A separate schedule may be used to identify the porcine semen 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. **CONTAINER SEAL NUMBER**

Paragraph I(c) and Footnote 1 on page 4 of EHC6091 ('The semen is transported in special containers with liquid nitrogen') refer (note this does not refer to the footnote on page 3 of EHC 6091 nor to the final footnote on page 4 of EHC6091:

(a) In the case of export of frozen semen, the OV should enter the number of the tamperproof seal applied to the flask at paragraph I(c) and leave Footnote 1 unchanged.

(b) In the case of export of fresh semen the certificate should be completed as follows:

(i) If the containers/boxes of fresh semen have not been sealed with a tamperproof seal, the OV should write 'Not Applicable' at paragraph I(c) and delete Footnote 1.

(ii) If the containers/boxes of fresh semen have been sealed with a tamperproof seal, the OV should enter the number of the seal at paragraph I(c) and delete Footnote 1.

6. **COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 90/429/EEC (as amended)**

Paragraphs IV(a) and IV(c) refer. The semen collection centre must be approved by Defra or DARD in accordance with Council Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended). The certifying Official Veterinarian 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.

7. **OFFICIAL DISEASE CLEARANCES**

**Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland)**

Paragraphs IV(b)(i), IV(b)(ii), IV(b)(iii), IV(b)(iv) and (with respect to tuberculosis and brucellosis) paragraph IV(b)(v) refer: In the case of porcine semen originating from Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), the certifying Official Veterinarian may certify freedom for the diseases listed in these paragraphs on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC issued by Animal Health.

In respect of tuberculosis, paragraph IV(b)(v) refers to *Mycobacterium bovis* infection. The confirmed existence of *M. bovis* infection is based on confirmed culture of *M. bovis*.

In respect of brucellosis, paragraph IV(b)(v) refers to infection with *Brucella suis*. The confirmed existence of *B. suis* infection is based on confirmed culture of *B. suis*.

**Northern Ireland**

Paragraphs IV(b)(i), IV(b)(ii), IV(b)(iii), IV(b)(iv) and (with respect to tuberculosis, brucellosis and porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) (which is also Notifiable in Northern Ireland)) paragraph IV(b)(v) refer: In the case of porcine semen originating from Northern Ireland, the certifying Official Veterinarian may certify freedom for the diseases listed in these paragraphs on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from DARD.

In respect of tuberculosis paragraph IV(b)(v) refers to *Mycobacterium bovis* infection. The confirmed existence of *M. bovis* infection is based on confirmed culture of *M. bovis*.

In respect of brucellosis, paragraph IV(b)(v) refers to infection with *Brucella suis*. The confirmed existence of *B. suis* infection is based on confirmed culture of *B. suis*.

In respect of 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, incoordination, 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).

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Official Veterinarians in Northern Ireland should note the inclusion of Aujeszky's disease in paragraph IV(b)(iv) of the certificate in accordance with Ukraine import conditions. It is therefore necessary for supplementary authorisation by DARD of freedom from Aujeszky's disease in the administrative territory in which the approved centre is located. Official Veterinarians are advised to contact the local DARD office for further advice when certifying this paragraph.

#### **8. FREEDOM OF THE COLLECTION CENTRE FROM OTHER DISEASES**

Paragraph IV(b)(v) refers. Official Veterinarians should take into account their personal knowledge of the disease status of the approved collection centre. If necessary, this may be supported by discussion with the local office of Animal Health/DARD.

Certifying Official Veterinarians should also carry out appropriate checks of collection centre records including use of medicines and fertility records to verify freedom from the named diseases. If desired, these checks may also be supported by means of a written declaration from the operator of the collection centre attesting to freedom from the diseases mentioned in this paragraph.

For centres in Great Britain, see information on PRRS at paragraph 7 above.

The declaration in respect of leptospirosis is for absence of clinical signs of leptospirosis such as fever, anorexia and jaundice in groups of boars in the last 12 months or, if these clinical signs have occurred, if an alternative diagnosis has been obtained. A declaration for lack of clinical occurrence of leptospirosis cannot be certified for a pig herd which contains pigs which are vaccinated against leptospirosis<sup>1</sup>.

#### **9. VACCINATION OF PIGS AGAINST CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER**

Paragraph IV(d) refers. Vaccination of pigs against classical swine fever (CSF) and importation of pigs that have been vaccinated against CSF is not permitted in the United Kingdom.

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<sup>1</sup> Such a vaccine is not currently available in the UK

**10. ORIGIN, RESIDENCY AND EXCLUSION FROM NATURAL SERVICE**

Paragraph IV(d) refers. The certifying Official Veterinarian should check appropriate movement records to verify that the donor boars meet the residency requirement of this paragraph. It should be noted that the six month residency period includes the statutory pre-entry quarantine period as required under Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended). Under the conditions of Directive 90/429 as amended, boars at approved AI centres must not be allowed to serve naturally.

The Official Veterinarian may also wish the operator of the collection centre to provide a signed statement as additional verification of residency.

**11. 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 Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) 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 VLA 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 VLA 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.

**12. TIMING OF TESTING OF DONOR BOARS**

Paragraphs IV(e), IV(f) and IV(g) refer. Official Veterinarians should note the requirement for the tests / treatments described in these paragraphs to be carried out within 30 days of the first collection of semen for export to Ukraine.

Paragraph IV(e) refers. Although the timing of the tests for brucellosis and classical swine fever is prescribed in the Ukraine import conditions, the testing methods are not. It may, therefore, be possible to synchronise pre-export testing with the compulsory annual testing regime required under Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended). Details of the testing method used and the other required information should be entered into the table in this paragraph. Periodicity is the normal frequency that these tests are carried out on individual boars in the AI centre.

### **13. TUBERCULIN TESTING OF DONOR BOARS FOR EXPORT PURPOSES**

Paragraph IV(f) refers. In addition to the testing regime for certain diseases as laid down in Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended), Ukraine import conditions also require that donor boars producing semen for export to Ukraine are subjected to testing for tuberculosis. The comparative intradermal test using avian and bovine PPD tuberculin must be used and test read after 72 hours.

Exporters and Official Veterinarians should note that tuberculin testing should not be repeated within 45 days of a previous tuberculin test. Before a pre-export test is carried out, the Official Veterinarian should make due enquiries to ascertain that the animals to be tested have not had a previous test within that period.

#### **Tuberculin Testing Method**

The preferable site is the loose skin at the base of each ear. Each site should be cleaned, the loose skin at the base of the ear raised into a fold and the skin thickness measurement recorded. Standard strength PPD, as issued for cattle, must be used and a dose of 0.1 ml injected intra-dermally into each raised fold taking care not to inject subcutaneously

A useful aid for subsequently reading the test is, after cleaning, to draw a circle on the skin at each selected site with a black felt-tip pen and the injections are made within the encircled areas.

Any increase in skin thickness of more than 2mm at the site of injection or any oedema, necrosis or swelling of associated lymph nodes, should be regarded as a positive reaction. If any animal has a reaction at the bovine site greater than at the avian site, the local office of Animal Health or DARD must be informed.

### **14. 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 Animal Health Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle via the link below:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/about-us/contact-us/centrops.htm>