

**EXPORT OF IN-VIVO BOVINE EMBRYOS TO URUGUAY**

**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 7071EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7071EHC.

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 7071EHC may be used for the export of bovine semen from the United Kingdom to Uruguay.

**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 Rural Directorate, the Welsh 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 and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) 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. 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.

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

Paragraph V.a)i. refers: OVs may certify paragraph V.a)i. on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the AHVLA Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle or the issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland.

6. **OTF (TUBERCULOSIS FREE) STATUS**

Paragraph V a) ii) refers: The herd must be officially free of tuberculosis. This means that the herds, and individual animals in the herds, must not be under any official tuberculosis related restrictions at the time of collection. This includes, whole herd restrictions (TB2) served e.g. following the discovery of reactors, or individual animal restrictions (TB34) served e.g. following the discovery of inconclusive reactors, or any other TB-related restrictions served e.g because routine herd tests are overdue or because of zero tolerance. Official Veterinarians should contact their local AHVLA office to confirm the herd status with respect to this disease.

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. **Storage of embryos prior to export**

Paragraph V.(1) refers: Article 4.7.14 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code lists six diseases that affect cattle as Category 1 diseases, as follows:

Bluetongue  
Bovine spongiform encephalopathy  
*Brucella abortus*  
Enzootic bovine leukosis  
Foot and mouth disease  
Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis

Restrictions because of the above diseases are not relevant.

Restrictions due to following diseases of cattle which are notifiable and listed in categories 2-4 are relevant:

Rinderpest  
Bovine tuberculosis  
Vesicular stomatitis.

The OV must verify (by contacting Carlisle SCC) that the herd of origin has remained free of these diseases for at least 30 days after the embryos were collected. This is required particularly for bovine tuberculosis where it

is possible that the OTF status may be lost between the time of collection (paragraph 6 above refers) and before the 30 days are up. Bluetongue is not listed in Categories 2 to 4.

9. Sealing of the transport container

Paragraph V.n) 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 I.b)iv. on the health certificate.

If it is necessary to top up the container, 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 I.b)iv. 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.**

10. 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 Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/contact-us/tradeexports.html>

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