

EXPORT OF PORCINE SEMEN TO ZIMBABWE - 7683EHC

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT NOTE

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV's) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7683EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7683EHC.

CERTIFICATE 7683EHC HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY AGREED WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN THE IMPORTING COUNTRY.

Exporters are therefore 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. They should obtain an import permit and check this certificate against the requirements of the import permit.

If the health requirements do not match, the exporter may choose to proceed with the export using certificate 7683EHC BUT STRICTLY AT EXPORTERS RISK.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 7683EHC may be used for the export of fresh/frozen porcine semen from the United Kingdom to Zimbabwe

Exporters and certifying official veterinarians must take particular note of the information on disclaimers at paragraph 10.

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, 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 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. The import permit number should be given in the health certificate at paragraph IV(d).

4. **SCHEDULES**

Parts I and II refer. Separate schedules may be used to identify the donor boars and porcine semen certified. Schedules must contain the same information as that required in Parts I and II. Parts I and II must be annotated "See attached schedule" as appropriate. Each page of the schedule(s) must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the OV.

The schedule(s) must be stapled inside the health certificate and the OV should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule(s) and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedule(s) and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule(s) or in Parts I and II must be deleted with diagonal lines.

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

The semen collection centre must be approved by the Department 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.

This certificate has been drafted in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Directive for pre-entry quarantine, pre-entry testing and routine testing of donor boars, together with collection, processing and packaging of porcine semen.

6. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE (FORM 618NDC)**

Paragraphs V.(b) and V.(c) refer. OVs may certify these paragraphs on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the AHVLA Centre for International Trade at 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 VLA 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 V.(o) refers: The semen must be secured within its packaging or 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 V.(o)(ii) of 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 V.(o)(iii)). Topping up should be done in the presence of an OV who must apply a new tamperproof seal upon completion.

The OV must endorse paragraph V.(o)(ii) of 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. **OMISSION OF PARAGRAPH V 'i'**

The omission of a paragraph V.(i) is deliberate to avoid any confusion between the letter 'i' used alphabetically and 'i' used as a Roman numeral in sub-paragraphs.

10. **DISCLAIMER**

Exporters and certifying official veterinarians must be aware that this export health certificate, 7683EHC, takes into account the important recommendations by the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) for trade in this commodity. Exporters and certifying official veterinarians must be aware that 7683EHC has not been officially agreed with Zimbabwe. Accordingly the exporter and the Official Veterinarian must note that use of 7683EHC for export of fresh/frozen porcine semen to Zimbabwe is used at the exporter's risk. Official veterinarians should ensure that the exporter is aware of this.

The exporter should therefore be aware that 7683EHC does not take the requirements of the importing country into account. 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 are available. If official advice is provided by authorities in the importing country or if an import permit is provided, the exporter must copy these to the AHVLA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle. If the advice or the permit do not match the assurances provided on 7683EHC, the exporter should contact the AHVLA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle via the link below:

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