

**EXPORT OF OVINE/CAPRINE SEMEN TO GUYANA**

**NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF 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 6944EHC. These notes for guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but must be read in conjunction with certificate 6944EHC.

Exporters are strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the appropriate veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. **SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 6944EHC may be used for the export of ovine and caprine semen from the United Kingdom to Guyana.

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

This certificate may be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or a Local Veterinary Inspector 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 the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland, who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate export panel for export purposes.

OV's 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 Animal Health Central Operations for Export at Carlisle within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DARD, Dundonald House, Belfast.

3. **SEALING OF THE TRANSPORT CONTAINER**

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 paragraph III (c) 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 Paragraph III (c) 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.

4. **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

Paragraphs IV. (1) and (3) refer. The requirements (except that in the case of scrapie, other options - see below - are possible) are similar to the requirements for intra-Community trade, and further guidance on this can be found [http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/int-trde/traces/pdf/ovine\\_caprine\\_semen\\_nfg.pdf](http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/int-trde/traces/pdf/ovine_caprine_semen_nfg.pdf)

5. **SCRAPIE**

Paragraphs IV. 4.1) and 4.2) refer. If necessary, details of the holdings of residence of the donors during the 5 years prior to collection of semen, and the identities of the donors' parents, must

be submitted to the local Animal Health Office so that it can arrange for the Scrapie Database to be checked to confirm position.

Paragraph IV. 4.3) refers. Under option 4.3.1), the donors must comply with requirements at Annex VIII of Council Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, as amended, which included an option for sheep to be genotype ARR/ARR. Further details can be found by following the link above. Under option 4.3.2 (only available for sheep), the donor animals do not need to comply with the requirements of Annex VIII, but they need to be one of the genotypes mentioned.

6. **LABORATORY TESTS**

Samples must be sent for testing 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). Some tests are carried out at the regional VLA laboratories. For operational reasons however, the laboratories involved may change periodically. Accordingly OV'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 procedures for collection, the requirement for transport medium if any, dispatch of samples and the length of time a test is likely to take, OV's should seek the advice of the relevant laboratory.

7. **BLUETONGUE**

Paragraph IV (6) refers. Under EU Regulations, there is a number of options under which semen can be traded if the donor animals are in a restricted area/zone. Details of these options can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/int-trde/traces/pdf/bt-germplasm-nfg.pdf>

8. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Paragraph IV (7) can be signed on behalf of the Department by an Official Veterinarian provided written authority to do so on form 618NDC has been obtained from the issuing office, within 10 days of shipment.

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 Global Animal Health Division via the link below:

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