

EXPORT OF OVINE/CAPRINE SEMEN TO THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE CERTIFYING VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with either export certificate 7784EHC or 7785EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificates 7784EHC or 7785EHC. 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.

Associated Documents: 7784EHC or 7785EHC, 7784-7785SUP, 7784-7785CKL, 7784-7785NFG and 618NDC.

1. **Scope of the certificates**

Health certificates 7784EHC (after 31 August) and 7785EHC (before 1 September) may be used for the export of ovine/caprine semen to the Channel Island of destination. The semen MUST be collected from sheep and goats in approved semen collection centres which meet the requirements of Council Directive 92/65/EEC. The requirements in Council Directive 91/68/EEC (as amended) concerning scrapie would have been met if the holding is registered in the SAC Scrapie Monitoring Scheme.

2. Health certificates 7784EHC and 7785EHC may be signed if all the answers in the checklist 7784-7785CKL are "yes". In the case of collection on an approved centre the support certificate 7784-7785SUP must be valid on the day the donors enter the centre. The Centre Veterinarian should ensure that all donors admitted on to the centre are accompanied by a valid support certificate 7784-7785SUP. In the case of collection on a holding, it must be valid on the day of collection.

3. **Signature and completion of certificate**

The completed certificate must be signed, dated and stamped in ink of any colour other than black by an Official Veterinarian (OV). The OV can also be the supervising Authorised Veterinary Surgeon (AVS) of the semen collection centre. If necessary, the OV must obtain support certification (for example by way of a 'pre-certificate' using a copy of the EHC) from the supervising Authorised Veterinary Surgeon (AVS) of the semen collection centre.

A copy of this certificate must be sent to APHA, Centre for International Trade (CIT), Carlisle within 7 days of signing.

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR 7784-7785EHC

4. **Approval of semen collection centre according to Directive 92/65/EEC**

Annex D Chapter 1 (as amended)

a) The semen collection centre must be approved by the Defra and placed under the supervision of a "centre veterinarian".

b) **Semen collection centres must:**

- i) have at least:
 - (a) lockable animal accommodation which is physically separated from the collection facilities, the processing and storing rooms;
 - (b) isolation facilities which have no direct communication with the normal animal accommodation;
 - (c) semen collection facilities including a separate room for the cleansing and disinfection or sterilisation of equipment;
 - (d) a semen processing room separated from the collection facilities which need not necessarily be on the same site;
 - (e) a semen storage room which need not necessarily be on the same site;
- ii) be constructed or isolated so that contact with outside livestock is prevented;
- iii) be constructed so that the entire centre except the office rooms can be readily cleansed and disinfected;

c) **Management**

Semen collection centres must:

- i) be supervised so that they contain only animals of the species whose semen is to be collected;

However, other domestic animals may be admitted, provided that they present no risk of infection to those species whose semen is to be collected and they fulfil the conditions laid down by the centre veterinarian.
- ii) be monitored to ensure that records are kept which show:
 - (a) the species, breed, date of birth and identification of each animal present in the centre;
 - (b) any movement of animals entering or leaving the centre;
 - (c) the health history and all diagnostic tests and the results thereof, treatments and vaccinations carried out on animals kept;
 - (d) the date of collecting and processing semen;
 - (e) the destination of the semen;
 - (f) the storage of the semen;

- iii) be inspected by an official veterinarian during the breeding season at least once a year in the case of animals with seasonal breeding and twice a year in the case of a nonseasonal reproduction in order to consider and verify all matters relating to the conditions of approval and supervision;
- iv) be so supervised that the entry of unauthorised persons is prevented. Furthermore, authorised visitors must be required to comply with the conditions laid down by the centre veterinarian;
- v) employ competent staff who have received adequate training on disinfection and hygiene techniques to prevent the spread of disease;
- vi) be monitored to ensure that:
 - (a) none of the animals kept in the centre is used for natural breeding at least 30 days prior to semen collection and during the collection period;
 - (b) the collection, processing and storage of the semen is carried out only in premises set aside for these purposes;
 - (c) all utensils coming into contact with the semen or the donor animal during collection or processing are either properly disinfected or sterilised prior to use or new, disposable and discarded after use;
 - (d) products of animal origin such as diluents, additives or extenders are used in the processing of the semen, which present no animal health risk or which have undergone prior treatment to preclude such risk;
 - (e) in the case of frozen or chilled semen cryogenic agents are used, which had not been used previously for other products of animal origin;
 - (f) any receptacle for the storage or transport of semen is either disinfected or sterilised as appropriate prior to use or new, disposable and discarded after use;

5. **Collection of semen**

The AVS must satisfy him/herself that the semen is **collected** under conditions meeting the requirements of Directive 92/65/EEC as amended. This means that:

- a) collection of semen is carried out by competent staff who have received adequate training in disinfection and hygiene techniques to prevent the spread of disease;
- b) semen is collected from the donors identified as animals which have passed the appropriate tests and their identity is recorded so that aliquots of semen can be attributed to the correct donors;

- c) semen is collected in clean sterile containers either new or disinfected.

6. **Processing of semen**

The AVS must satisfy him/herself that the semen is **processed** under conditions meeting the requirements of Directive 92/65/EEC as amended. This means that:

- a) semen is processed in sterile containers either new and disposable or cleansed and disinfected before use;
- b) products of animal origin such as diluents, additives and extenders must present no risk to animal health and have either been certified to be sterile or have undergone appropriate treatment;
- c) semen is placed into sterile containers: straws, vials or ampoules which are duly identified and each contain only products from one male donor. The identification must include at least the country of origin (UK), date of collection, species, breed, identity of the donor and name or number of the collection facility. If a cipher (code) is used, a decipher must be given, attached to the health certificate and copied to the CIT, Carlisle with a copy of the health certificate.
- d) when the semen is frozen, only sterile liquid nitrogen which has not previously been in use for the storage of animal products, may be used.

7. **Storage of semen**

The AVS must satisfy him/herself that the semen is **stored** under conditions meeting the requirements of Directive 92/65/EEC as amended. This means that:

- a) the storage flask must be clean and be located in a clean room or robust cupboard which can be secured by a lock;
- b) when the semen is exported, at least 30 days later, the Official Veterinarian must verify the identity of the individual containers of semen and supervise their transfer into a transport container;
- c) the transport container must be sealed by the Official Veterinarian using a tamperproof seal applied in such a way that the flask cannot be opened without breaking the seal. The number of the seal must be recorded, given in the final health certificate and copied to the CIT, Carlisle with copy certificate.

8. **Identification of semen**

Each individual dose of semen must be indelibly identified in such a way that the Member State of origin, date of collection, the species, the breed, the identity of the donor animal and the name and/or number of the approved centre which collected the semen may be established. In the case of collection on a holding, the number of

the approved centre is not applicable and should be substituted with the flock/herd mark of the holding.

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR 7784/7785SUP

9. **Scrapie Monitoring**

Council Regulation 999/2001 as amended lays down requirements with respect to Scrapie. Holdings or Semen Collection Centres which are not registered in the SAC Consulting (part of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)) Scrapie Monitoring Scheme should ensure that their nominated Veterinary Surgeon/Official Veterinarian has completed and returned to the CIT, Carlisle the Owner's Declaration and Veterinary Certificate. Each application will be considered on a case by case basis and once approved may enable the CIT, Carlisle to authorise the issue of the export health certification on an annual basis.

10. **Official Identification**

Identification must comply with the requirements of The Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement) (England) Order 2009 as amended and the equivalent legislation in Wales and Scotland.

Animals must be individually identified with one or more of the following markings:

- An 'origin' mark or an 'F' mark with an individual identification number.

(An 'origin' mark identifies the holding on which an animal was born. An 'F' mark identifies the holding to which an animal was imported from outside the EU. Both marks include the letters 'UK'.)

- An 'origin' mark or an 'F' mark plus an 'S' mark with an individual identification number;

(An 'S' mark does not include the letters 'UK' and is applied to an animal moving off a holding other than the holding on which it was born.)

- An 'S' mark with an individual identification number;
- A mark in accordance with The Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement) (England) Order 2009 with an individual identification number.

11. **Notifiable Disease Clearance (618NDC)**

Certificate 618NDC which provides authorisation for signing paragraphs II(4) and (6) of 7784/7785SUP and paragraph 3 of 7784/7785CKL should be obtained from the CIT, Carlisle.

12. **Testing Requirements**

IN ADDITION donor rams/bucks must undergo the following tests **WITHIN THE 30 DAYS BEFORE COLLECTION** with negative results:

- a) a complement fixation test to detect brucellosis (*B. melitensis*);

- b) a complement fixation test for *Brucella ovis*;
 - c) an immunoperoxidase test for border disease;
13. All tests must be carried out at an approved Veterinary Laboratories Agency laboratory.
14. If any of the above tests should prove positive, the animal must be isolated and the semen collected from it since the last negative test may not be the subject of intra-Union trade. Semen collected from all the other animals at the Centre since the date when the positive test was carried out shall be held in separate storage and may not be the subject of intra-Union trade until the health status of the Centre or holding has been re-established.

15. **DISCLAIMER**

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle (CITC) within seven days of issue. The OV/AVI should keep a copy for his/her own records. 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 APHA CITC via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#specialist-service-centres-ssc>