

EXPORT OF PORCINE SEMEN TO NORTHERN IRELAND

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE CERTIFYING OFFICER AND EXPORTER

1. **Scope**

Certificate 4358EHC and 4358SUP refer to the export of porcine semen to Northern Ireland. Exports of porcine semen to countries within the European Community are harmonised under conditions laid down in Council Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended) and the export health certificate for porcine semen 4358EHC (Draft 24/06/2008) is produced in the model format laid down in the Directive. Note that vaccination against Aujeszky's disease is prohibited in Great Britain and the import of semen from vaccinated boars is also prohibited. For this reason paragraph 13 b) ii. of certificate 4358EHC is pre-deleted and this option is not available.

2. **Council Directive 90/429/EEC**

The certifying OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN must be conversant with the provisions of Council Directive 90/429/EEC (and any subsequent amendments), which lays down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-Community trade in porcine semen.

3. **TGE testing**

Additional guarantees regarding testing for TGE are laid out in supplementary certificate 4358SUP.

A differential enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) can be used to test for transmissible gastro-enteritis. This ELISA can discriminate between TGE and porcine respiratory corona virus (PRCV) and if results are negative, the relevant paragraph can be certified.

Blood samples for testing must be sent to an officially approved laboratory.

Lack of clinical signs of TGE can be certified on the basis of the absence of appropriate clinical signs and lack of laboratory test results confirming evidence of TGE virus infection.

Once completed, the supplementary certificate should be attached to and accompany the health certificate 4358EHC to the premises of final destination.

4. **Semen collection**

The semen must have been collected and stored in accordance with Annexes A and C of the Council Directive 90/429 EEC and must be clearly marked with the identification of the donor animal, the date of collection and the name and registration number of the collection centre. The country of origin must be given. If a code is used on individual straws, the decipher must be given in the health certificate.

5. **Containers**

Each consignment must be transported in a container sealed with tamperproof seal in such a way that the container cannot be opened without breaking the seal.

6. **TRACES message**

An electronic TRACES message for the consignment, including a reference to the unique serial number of the certificate in Box I.2a of the message, must be generated before the consignment arrives at its destination.

If the consignment is cancelled, its date/time of departure has changed significantly, a different vehicle is used or all the semen is not exported, the exporter must notify the issuing AHDO so that the TRACES message can be cancelled or updated as appropriate.

7. **Return of copy of the export health certificate**

Copies of the completed and signed health certificate and supplementary certificate must be sent within seven days to the Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM) for his/her own record keeping purposes.

8. A copy of the health certificates should be retained by the Official Veterinarian for record purposes for a period of 12 months.

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 International Animal Health Division via the appropriate address in the link given below.

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

