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EXPORT OF IN-VIVO DERIVED BOVINE EMBRYOS TO NEW ZEALAND

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 722EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 722EHC.

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**
   The New Zealand Authorities (MPI – Ministry for Primary Industries)) have agreed with the EU Commission that this certificate may be used for the import of in-vivo derived bovine embryos from any Member State of the EU. This TRACES style certificate may therefore be used for the export of bovine embryos to New Zealand.

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, 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) Specialist Service Centre – Exports - at Carlisle **within 24 hours 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, which should be obtained by the New Zealand importer from Animal Imports, Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), P.O. Box 2356, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.

4. **Council Decision 97/132/EC and Council Directive 89/556/EEC**
   Council Decision 97/132/EC details the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Community/Union and New Zealand on sanitary measures applicable to trade in live animals and animal products. Under this agreement, it was concluded that the EU requirements for trade in bovine embryos (Council Directive 89/556/EEC, as amended) were – by and large - equivalent to those applicable in New Zealand, although additional assurances are required for Q fever. Therefore, Part II, paragraph II.1 may be certified on the basis of compliance with EU requirements.

5. **BVDV – Requirement to hold animals in isolation for 6 months prior to embryo collection**

Part II, paragraph II.3 first option refers: If this option is selected, embryo collection cannot begin until 6 months have elapsed after the animals enter the embryo collection centre.

6. **BVDV – Requirement to submit samples for BVDV testing**

Part II, paragraph II.3 second option refers: If this option is selected, the required sample(s) from each donor female must be submitted to the testing laboratory separately from samples from other donor females. The phrase "pooled sample" refers to the material from one donor female and pooling of samples from two or donor females is not acceptable. The test of choice is the PCR, which has been validated and accredited for use on such samples; the sample submission form must make it clear that the PCR is required.

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, Penicuick, 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.

Laboratory test results must be attached to the export health certificate.

8. **Sealing of the transport container – Part I, box I.21 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 in this box.

9. **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://www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/imports-exports/international-trade/