

EXPORT OF BOVINE SEMEN TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA 1193EHC
NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 1193EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 1193EHC.

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

Export health certificate 1193EHC may be used for the export of bovine semen from the United Kingdom (UK) to the People's Republic of China (China). 1193EHC cannot be used for the export of bovine embryos from the UK to China.

2. COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROTOCOL AGREED BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UK

2.1. Awareness of the protocol and its requirements:

1193EHC is based on a protocol agreed on 8 November 2016 between the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of the People's Republic of China and the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) of the United Kingdom. The protocol details the quarantine and health requirements for bovine genetic materials (hereinafter referred to as bovine semen) to be exported from the United Kingdom to the People's Republic of China.

The protocol is complex and has been subject to extensive negotiation between the UK and the Chinese Authorities.

1193EHC for the exportation of bovine semen from the UK to China has been agreed with Chinese Officials to reflect the requirements of the protocol. The Official Veterinarian must therefore have sight of a copy of the protocol and be aware of its requirements which are laid down in 1193EHC.

2.2. Compliance by the centre operator with the conditions of the protocol.

Paragraph IV.1) refers: This paragraph can be certified on the basis that the operator of both the semen collection centre and the semen storage centre has a copy of the protocol and that compliance with the protocol is reviewed at least every six months. A signed record of this review must be kept, preferably in a single file, so that this can be checked by the Official Veterinarian and also if necessary by a Chinese official if the circumstances demand it.

The exporter and the Official Veterinarian can obtain a copy of the protocol from the Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in Belfast.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

In Great Britain, this certificate may be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or by an authorised Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed to the appropriate panel for export purposes by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government, or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

In Northern Ireland, this certificate may be signed by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed as an OV to the appropriate export panel for export purposes by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

Exporters/OVs should contact APHA Carlisle or DAERA for information on the software that is needed to enable typing of details of the export health certificate.

The protocol specifies that handwritten or altered versions of the EHC are invalid. This means that unauthorised deletions or amendments are not permitted and that the ONLY permitted handwritten entry is the signature of the Official Veterinarian. Any authorised deletions that cannot be entered electronically must be deleted with horizontal lines made using a ruler and a fine black pen. Diagonal deletions must NOT be used. Each line to be deleted must be ruled out providing an effect similar to that of typewritten deletions.

Foreign text: The Official Veterinarian should note that the foreign text in 1193EHC is an official translation of the English text and the OV is accordingly authorised to complete 1193EHC, even if he/she is unable to read and understand the meaning of the foreign text.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with their OV stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**. Red is the preferred colour. It is important that the stamp is clearly legible.

The Official Veterinarian and the Exporter should note that they have the final responsibility to ensure that the details on the completed certificate are correct. Due to the complexity of the certificate, it is recommended that such checks should be carried out sufficiently well in advance of the date of export to ensure that the information is correct.

The Official Veterinarian and the exporter should note that the Chinese authorities will expect that the details in paragraphs II and III of 1193EHC concerning the origin and destination of the semen to be exported are correct and consistent on ALL documents, including, for example, bills of sale and bank transfers.

One original version and two copies of the certificate are to be provided to accompany each shipment of semen. The copies must be marked as 'Copy 1' and 'Copy 2' and must be printed on 'Crown Gold' paper as provided by APHA/DAERA. Photocopies are not acceptable.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to APHA Carlisle within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland, to DAERA, Dundonald House, Belfast. See also paragraph 6 regarding schedules and returning unused or spoiled copies of schedules.

The OV should keep a photocopy of the completed export health certificate for his/her own records.

4. OBTAINING AN IMPORT PERMIT

Paragraph III.5) refers: Exporters and their respective importers in China are advised to contact the Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) for advice regarding import permit(s) that may be required for the export of bovine semen from the UK to China. The import permit number should be given in the health certificate at paragraph III.5).

Exporters should be aware that the protocol specifies that each import permit can only be used for the export of one consignment of bovine semen to China.

5. IDENTIFICATION OF SEMEN

Paragraph I refers: Official Veterinarians must be satisfied that the straws of semen are identified in accordance with the details provided in paragraph I. This may be done by reading the identification marks personally or by having the identification marks read by someone working under the direction of the certifying veterinarian.

If the export includes large numbers of semen straws, to avoid compromising the temperature of the straws, the OV may decide to check a representative number of straws. It is for the OV to decide how many straws he/she must check considering their awareness and understanding of the operation of the semen storage centre.

6. SCHEDULES

Paragraph I refers: A separate schedule may be used to identify the animals certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in paragraph I and paragraph I must be annotated "See attached schedule". Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the Official Veterinarian (OV).

The schedule must be stapled inside the health certificate and the OV should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule and certificate.

The top stapled corner of the schedule and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule or in paragraph I must be deleted with diagonal lines.

7. APPROVAL OF THE SEMEN COLLECTION AND SEMEN STORAGE CENTRES BY CHINA

Articles 3 and 4 of the protocol refer: Only bovine semen collection and storage centres that have been specifically approved/registered by the Chinese authorities (AQSIQ) and

listed on the Chinese website and assigned a 'Registration Number' can be used for the export of bovine semen from the UK to China. As accessing the list on the Chinese website is difficult because of language barriers, exporters and OV's should contact CIT, Carlisle in the first instance to obtain the Chinese 'Registration Number' of the centre. This will need to be recorded at paragraphs II (2) and (4).

If centres have not been approved by China, China will send animal quarantine officer(s) to the centres to carry out the required inspections. The operators of the centres must be aware that they will bear any costs involved for the Chinese inspectors, including all travel (including from and to China), interpretation, accommodation and catering.

The Chinese inspectors may ask to meet with DEFRA/APHA/DAERA officials and they may also wish to visit the laboratories involved with health testing of the donor bulls. Arrangements for these meetings and visits should be made at an early stage with the offices and laboratories involved.

The centre operators must note that the Chinese inspectors will check that the centres are already complying with both the protocol and will want to see documented evidence of this. It is therefore essential that the necessary records are accumulated before an inspection visit is arranged.

8. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE (form 618NDC)

Paragraph IV.2 refers: OVs may certify this paragraph on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

9. COMPLIANCE WITH OIE RECOMMENDATIONS AND UK REGULATIONS

Paragraphs IV.3), 7, 9) and 14) refer: The semen must be collected, processed, handled and stored in accordance with the following Chapters of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code:

Chapter 4.5. General hygiene in semen collection and processing centres.

Chapter 4.6. Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen.

The semen collection and storage centres must be approved by DEFRA or DAERA in accordance with UK Regulations that implement EU Council Directive 88/407/EEC (as amended), which lays down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-Community trade in, and imports of, semen of domestic animals of the bovine species.

Compliance with the OIE code chapters can be certified on the basis that the requirements of EU Council Directive 88/407/EEC (as amended) are equivalent to the OIE code chapter. The Official Veterinarian must therefore check that the centres are approved by APHA or DAERA under the EU Directive. This can be done on the basis of documentation provided by the centre operator or by checking the EU website or the UK website.

10. DISEASE SURVEILLANCE.

Paragraphs IV.4) and 5) refer: Certification of these paragraphs can be based on the absence of clinical signs of the diseases listed and the semen collection centre operator should positively record this every six months when the protocol is reviewed (see paragraph 2 above). Certification of these paragraphs does not require active surveillance for the diseases listed except for those diseases for which all bovine animals resident at the centre must be tested according to UK regulations – see paragraph IV.9) of 1193EHC.

In the case of any of these diseases occurring, the centre operator must promptly report it to DEFRA or DAERA. If the centre is inspected by AQSIQ quarantine officials, they will examine records of surveillance for the presence of these diseases.

Official Veterinarians should take into account their personal knowledge of the disease status of the semen collection centre, if necessary with the support of an operator's declaration confirming freedom from clinical signs of the diseases mentioned in paragraphs IV.4) and 5) of 1193EHC (see Annex A). The certifying OV should also carry out appropriate checks of the centre records, including medicines records and slaughterhouse records, to verify freedom from the named diseases. If necessary, this may be supported by discussion with a Veterinary Officer at APHA Carlisle or the local DAERA Animal Health Office.

11. MEASURES TO PROTECT AGAINST VECTOR ATTACK

Paragraph IV.8 refers: It is accepted by the Chinese authorities that 100% protection of the animals resident at the semen collection centre against vector attack is not practicable. Nevertheless, centre operators must have procedures in place that provide some degree of protection. These procedures should be discussed and agreed with the Official Veterinarian before collection of the semen to be exported is started. They should be reviewed at least every six months and a signed record of this review must be kept (see paragraph 2.2 of these NFG above). Examples of such measures include regular (but responsible) use of insecticides with residual effect, maintaining an environment that prevents breeding of the vectors and use of vector traps must be part of the measures.

12. RESIDENCY, AGE AND LACK OF USE FOR NATURAL SERVICE

Paragraphs IV.10) a), b) and c) refer: Residency at an approved semen collection centre for at least 12 months preceding semen collection for export of semen to China can be certified on the basis of checks on the movement records at the centre. In this context, "approved" means a centre approved by the competent veterinary authorities of the UK in accordance with UK regulations (see paragraph IV.3) of 1193EHC) but not necessarily approved by the Chinese authorities for export to China.

Lack of use for natural service can be certified on the basis of a declaration from the breeding company (see Annex A).

The age, date of birth and country of origin of the donor bull can be verified by reference to its passport.

13. ABSENCE OF GENETIC DEFECTS

Paragraph IV.10) f) refers: Absence of the genetic defects specified in this paragraph of 1193EHC in the donor bull can be certified on the basis of declarations from the centre operator that the bulls has tested negative for the defects and that they have no records of such defects been identified at the semen collection centre above of the diseases listed in paragraph IV.4) of the certificate from communications from customers (see Annex A).

The OV should check that the centre operator has and maintains records to support these declarations.

14. LABORATORY TESTS

The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out pre-export testing is officially approved for this purpose by Defra or DAERA.

In Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the APHA Laboratory, New Haw, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB, (Tel: 01932 341111). Some tests are carried out at APHA Lasswade, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0PZ, (Tel: 0131 445 6169). Certain specialist tests are carried out at regional APHA 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).

In the case of bluetongue, samples must be sent to the Pirbright Institute (PI) for testing. Guidance on submission of samples, including the submission forms to use, can be found at: http://www.pirbright.ac.uk/files/quick_media/General_SAMPLE_SUBMISSION_FORM.pdf

For operational reasons however, the laboratories involved may change periodically. Accordingly, the OV is advised to check with the APHA or VSD or PI 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.

The centre operator must ensure that the laboratories involved are aware that the testing is being carried out to support the export of bovine semen to China and that the laboratory reports must:

- a) State 'negative' for each negative test result required.
- b) Provide the dates i) sampled and ii) the date of the final report.
- c) The final report must state 'final' and no supplementary reports must be issued after that.

The names and addresses of laboratories involved in the testing procedures must be recorded at paragraph IV.13).

The OV should note that as Article 3 of the protocol states that the completed EHC and copies shall accompany the shipment of bovine semen with attachment of testing reports related, this should be interpreted as meaning that copies of laboratory reports should be sent with the completed EHC.

While results of routine testing can be used to support certification for export, this can only be done if the timing of such testing fits with the requirements of the EHC and if government approved laboratories have been used.

15. TREATMENT FOR LEPTOSPIRAL INFECTION

Paragraph IV.11 (i) refers: As an alternative to testing donor bull(s) for leptospirosis, EHC offers the alternative of antibiotic treatment against leptospiral infection. The two treatments specified must be carried out within thirty days prior to the first collection of semen included in the export consignment and must be carried out under the supervision of the Official Veterinarian. The OV must ensure that the dose administered is correct according to the weight of the donor bull. The dates of treatment must be recorded at paragraph IV.11 (i).

16. ROUTINE TESTS ON RESIDENT ANIMALS

Paragraph IV.12) refers: The current certificate refers to routine testing for diseases mentioned at paragraph 12), but this is a typo and should be read as paragraph 11). Routine testing for leptospirosis and Schmallenberg virus is not required by UK legislation, so any animals which are positive for these do not have to be removed from the centre. However, semen collected from any animals since their last negative test will not be eligible for export to China and must not be certified.

17. SEALING OF THE TRANSPORT CONTAINER

Paragraph IV.14).g) 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 at paragraph III.4) on the health certificate.

If it is necessary to top up the container, topping up should be done in the presence of an Official Veterinarian (OV) who must apply a new tamperproof seal. The OV must endorse paragraph III.4) on 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.

18. 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 APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle, via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>

or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.

SPECIMEN

DECLARATIONS BY THE CENTRE OPERATOR OR BREEDING COMPANY

I the undersigned hereby declare that in respect of the intended export
on [date] of semen from the following donor bulls

Identity of donor bull(s) (name, date of birth, registration number)	Breed

and standing at the following semen collection centre:

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1. The donor bulls have not been used for natural service while at the centre.
2. The donor bulls have been tested with negative results for the genetic defects listed in paragraph IV.10)f) of the certificate 1193EHC, and we have no records of such defects in progeny of the donor bulls from communications from customers.
3. In the last 3 years, clinical signs have not been identified at the semen collection centre above of the diseases listed in paragraph IV.4) of the certificate 1193EHC, and in the last 12 months, clinical signs have not been identified at the semen collection centre above of the diseases listed in paragraph IV.5) of the certificate, in accordance with Article 6 of the protocol agreed between AQSIQ and Defra on the quarantine and health requirements for bovine genetic materials to be exported from the UK to China

Signed.....

Name.....

Address.....

Date