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EXPORT OF OVINE AND CAPRINE EMBRYOS TO CHILE

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 8024EHC These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8024EHC.

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 Chilean Veterinary Authority (SAG) has agreed with the EU Commission that this certificate may be used for the import of Ovine / Caprine ova / in vivo derived embryos from any Member State of the EU. This TRACES style certificate may therefore be used for the export of Ovine / Caprine ova / in vivo derived embryos to Chile.

As a minimum, the ova / in-vivo derived embryos must be collected by a team officially approved by Defra/CA (paragraph II.2.1 refers) and listed on the UK/EU website https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/580828/ovine-embryo-collection-teams.pdf. The tema must also be on the SAG website - http://www.sag.gob.cl/ambitos-de-accion/importaciones-0/115/registros. If it is not, CIT, Carlisle must be contacted to enquire about the process for getting the team listed on the SAG website. The health requirements for EU trade are in Directive 92/65/EEC. These can be found at: http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/traces/sheep-goats.htm

2. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)

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).

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 Plant and Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade at Carlisle within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DAERA, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Ballymiscaw, Belfast BT4 3SB.

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. If required, the import permit number should be entered in the health certificate at Part I, paragraph 1.2

4. Approval number of Embryo Collection Team

Paragraph 1.25 refers: The EU approval number of the embryo collection team and its team leader should be entered here.

5. Schedules

Paragraph 1.25 refers: A separate schedule may be used to identify the embryos certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in paragraph 1.25 and paragraph 1.25 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 1.25 must be deleted with diagonal lines.

6. Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)

Paragraphs II.1 and II.3.2 refer: In respect of the United Kingdom, OVs may certify paragraph II.1 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.

7. Additional Support Assurances required to enable certain paragraphs to be signed by the Official Veterinarian.

Paragraphs II.2 to II.6 and : OVs may certify these paragraphs and sub-paragraphs based on personal knowledge of the embryo collection team or supporting certification from the team veterinarian. If further guidance is required, CIT / DAERA should be contacted.

II.3.1

Brucellosis in sheep and goats is notifiable, so if the holding of origin is not under any official restrictions, it can be assumed the holding is free.

In the case of scrapie, SAG requires the donor animals to originate from holdings free of scrapie in accordance with the OIE Code, ie *a scrapie-free establishment. However, the OIE Code does not recommend any scrapie-related conditions for trade in in-vivo derived ovine embryos as these do not present a scrapie risk. Moreover, it provides the following option for in-vivo derived caprine embryos:*

The donor animals:

a) are permanently identified to enable trace back to their establishment of origin;
b) have been kept since birth in establishments in which no case of scrapie had been confirmed during their residency;
c) showed no clinical sign of scrapie at the time of embryo/oocyte collection;

So, the donors at the centre from which germinal product is intended for export to Chile do not have to originate from holdings which have a classical scrapie negligible risk status (ie have undergone active monitoring for at least 7 years) as listed in the Scottish Rural College (SRUC) Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (SMS) - http://www.sruc.ac.uk/info/120113/premium_sheep_and_goat_health_schemes/511/diseases_covered/5 . However, as EU requirements have to be complied with (for both ovine and caprine ova/embryos), the donors must originate from holdings which have a classical scrapie controlled risk status (ie have undergone active monitoring for at least 3 years) and listed in the SRUC SMS scheme. Another EU option is to ensure donors are ARR/ARR scrapie resistant genotypes. If the genotyping

option is being certified, the test must be carried out in an officially recognised laboratory. In essence, the requirements for EU trade (to a MS with negligible risk) should be followed and further guidance on both these aspects can be found at http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/documents/traces/sheep-goats/ovine-caprine-semen-NFG1.pdf.

II.3.3
Epizootic diseases which are notifiable in sheep and goat are the following: FMD, rinderpest, bluetongue, Rift Valley fever, sheep and goat pox, peste des petite ruminant, contagious agalactia, contagious epididymitis and brucellosis. None of these diseases have been confirmed in the previous 24 months of the date of this NFG. If any of these diseases are confirmed, the NFG will be amended requiring veterinarians involved in the chain of controls/certification to provide details of the holdings of origin of the donors so that checks can be run on whether the paragraph can be certified.

II.4 (semen used for AI)
The requirement for the semen to be collected in accordance with the OIE Code, or in the case of natural service, for the donor male to satisfy OIE recommendations is a lot more demanding, so semen used must be eligible for export to Chile (see 8023EHC) or in the case of the natural service, the donors to meet the requirements for collecting semen for export as in the above certificate.

8. Laboratory tests

There are no requirements to test the donor females except in the unlikely event of paragraph II.4.2 having to be certified. However, it is not possible to test for scrapie until after the donor animal has died. So, ovs/embryos cannot be certified until the results of the test are available. Arrangements must be made for the carcase or the head to be sent to Weybridge to be tested for scrapie.

The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out testing for export purposes 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). 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).

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

If testing for bluetongue is required, CIT should be contacted to discuss the options. Samples will have to be sent to the Pirbright Institute.

8. Sealing of the transport container

Paragraph 1.21 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 at paragraph 1.21 on the health certificate.

If it is necessary to top up the container, the additional liquid nitrogen used must meet the requirements of the certificate - see paragraph II.6.3. 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 1.21 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.**

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 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.