

EXPORT OF PORCINE SEMEN TO BRAZIL - 1941EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARY SURGEONS AND EXPORTERS

1. **SCOPE**

Current Brazilian import requirements for post-collection testing have limited exports of porcine semen from the UK to cover export of frozen semen only.

2. **IMPORT PERMIT**

Exporters are advised to contact the Brazilian authorities for advice regarding any import permits that may be required for the export of porcine semen from the UK into Brazil.

3. **CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN**

Any Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed to the appropriate panel for export purposes by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Executive Environment, the Rural Affairs Department or the National Assembly for Wales and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland may sign the export health certificate as an OV.

The Centre Veterinarian may sign the certificate as an OV provided they have been appointed to the appropriate export panel. In order to be eligible for appointment to the export panel, the Centre Veterinarian must not be directly employed by, or derive their sole or principal income from, the company for which they are carrying out export health certification, nor have any major financial interest in connection with the company.

OVs should affix the 'Official Veterinarian' stamp to the certificate in the normal manner.

If the Centre Veterinarian is not eligible for appointment to sign the certificate as an OV, arrangements must be made to ensure that the certificate is signed by either:

- (a) an OV appointed to the appropriate panel; **or**
- (b) a Veterinary Officer of the State Veterinary Service.

In either case, the certifying OV must be provided with appropriate support documentation (pre-export certificate signed by the Centre Veterinarian) to enable signature of the final export certificate.

For the purposes of these notes for guidance, reference to the OV shall also apply to the Centre Veterinarian completing the appropriate pre-export certificate.

4. **OFFICIAL DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Paragraph V(a) and, in the case of porcine semen exported from premises in Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), paragraph V(f)(i) refer. The certifying OV may certify country freedom for the diseases listed at these paragraphs provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the local Animal Health Divisional Office on form 618NDC.

5. **COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 90/429/EEC (as amended)**

Paragraphs V(b) and V(j) - V(l) refer. The Semen Collection Centre must be approved by DEFRA or DARDNI in accordance with Council Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended). The certifying OV must be fully 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 the imports of semen of domestic animals of the porcine species.

6. **PERIOD OF RESIDENCY IN THE SEMEN COLLECTION CENTRE**

Paragraph V(c) refers. The certifying OV should check the appropriate movement records and may wish to obtain a written declaration by the owner of the animals confirming that the conditions of this paragraph have been met.

7. **ADMISSION OF DONOR BOARS TO THE SEMEN COLLECTION CENTRE - FREEDOM OF PREMISES OF ORIGIN FROM BRUCELLOSIS, TUBERCULOSIS AND PORCINE REPRODUCTIVE AND RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (PRRS)**

Brucellosis

Paragraph V(d) (i) refers. With regard to brucellosis, this paragraph may be signed on the basis that, in accordance with the requirements of Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended), all donor boars in the semen collection centre have originated from herds or holdings which are free of brucellosis in accordance with the OIE International Animal Health Code.

Tuberculosis

With regard to tuberculosis, the requirements of paragraph V(d) (i) are met where the donor boars have originated from premises on which no cattle have been resident.

If cattle are resident on the holding where the donor boars originated, the holding must meet the requirements for herd freedom from bovine tuberculosis as laid down in the OIE International Animal Health Code.

To qualify as free from bovine tuberculosis, a holding where any cattle are resident must be located in a country certified as free from bovine tuberculosis by the Central Competent Authority. All premises in the United Kingdom meet this requirement. In addition, cattle in the herd must comply with the following conditions:

- show no clinical sign of bovine tuberculosis;
- show a negative result to official tuberculin tests to ensure the continuing absence of bovine tuberculosis;
- cattle introduced into the herd must originate from a herd officially free from bovine tuberculosis. This condition may be waived for animals which have been isolated and which, prior to entry into the herd, were subjected to at least two tuberculin tests carried out at a 6-month interval with negative results;
- if bovine tuberculosis has been confirmed on the holding, animals over 6 weeks of age must have shown a negative result to at least two tuberculin tests carried out at an interval of 6 months, the first test being performed at 6 months following the slaughter of the last affected animal.

PRRS

Paragraph V(d) (ii) refers. The certifying OV must carry out appropriate checks to ensure that the premises of origin of the donor boars is/are free of PRRS. If the disease status of the premises of origin is not known to the OV, a declaration attesting to PRRS freedom of the premises of origin must be obtained from the veterinarian supervising the premises.

8. FREEDOM OF SEMEN COLLECTION CENTRE FROM OTHER DISEASES

Paragraph V(e) refers. OVs should take into account their personal knowledge of the disease status of the semen collection centre where the donor boars were resident for the time periods as specified in the certificate.

Certifying Veterinarians should also carry out appropriate checks of centre health records to verify freedom from the named diseases.

9. TESTING AT GOVERNMENT LABORATORIES

In Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) Laboratory, Weybridge (Tel: 01932 375 335). Some tests are carried out at VLA Lasswade Unit (Tel: 0131 445 6169). Certain specialist tests are performed at Regional VLA laboratories.

In Northern Ireland, the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the Veterinary Sciences Division, Stormont, Belfast (Tel: 028 9052 0011)

For operational reasons the laboratories involved may change periodically. If in doubt, VLA or VSD should be contacted to establish to which laboratory samples should be sent for testing and to obtain advice on procedures for collection and dispatch of samples for testing. Samples should be submitted in good time to allow reports to be received in advance of the export date.

10. TESTING OF DONOR BOARS ON ENTRY TO THE SEMEN COLLECTION CENTRE

Operators and OVs should note the requirement for testing of donor boars on entry to the semen collection centre. First and second series test results in pre-entry isolation premises are **not** regarded by the Brazilian authorities as equivalent to post-entry tests. Donor boars should be tested for brucellosis and Aujeszky's disease within 10 days of entering the semen collection centre in accordance with paragraphs V(g) (i) and V(g) (ii).

Attention should also be given to timing of tests, which are required every six months during the residency of the donor boars.

11. POST-COLLECTION TESTING AND STORAGE

Paragraphs V(g) (iii) and V(l) refer. OVs should note the requirement for post-import testing of donor boars and for secure storage of the frozen semen under the control of the Centre Veterinarian for 30 days before export.

12. COMPLETION OF THE CERTIFICATE AND RETURN OF COPY TO CARLISLE AH

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 Animal Health, Specialist Service Centre - Exports, Carlisle within seven days 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.