

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE CERTIFYING VETERINARIANS1. **Scope of the certificate**

This certificate covers the export of frozen bovine semen to Canada.

2. **Certification by an Official Veterinarian**

Any Local Veterinary Inspector (LVI) appointed to the appropriate panel for export purposes by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, The Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department or the National Assembly for Wales may sign the export health certificate as an Official Veterinarian.

For Northern Ireland, any Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed to the appropriate export panel by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland may sign the certificate as an Official Veterinarian.

The Centre Veterinarian may sign the certificate as an Official Veterinarian 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.

LVIs 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 Official Veterinarian, arrangements must be made to ensure that the certificate is signed by either:

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

In either case, the certifying Official Veterinarian 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 Official Veterinarian shall also apply to the Centre Veterinarian completing the appropriate pre-export certificate.

The health certificate must be signed and stamped in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK.**

3. **Import permit**

It is the responsibility of the importer to obtain an import permit in advance from their local office of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The original of the import permit together with the export health certificate must be provided for inspection at the entry point to Canada.

4. **Council Directives**

In order to complete this certificate it is necessary to be familiar with the relevant EC Directives. These can be obtained from HMSO or established bookshops.

5. **Bluetongue**
Paragraph 13.3 refers: Part of the UK is bluetongue restricted, and the second option must be certified in cases where the semen is sourced from such an area.
Semen, if collected and/or dispatched from a bluetongue restricted zone, needs to meet one of the options for intra-Community trade. These options can be found at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/int-trde/traces/pdf/bt-germplasm-nfg.pdf>
6. **Routing**
The germplasm described on this certificate must be shipped by the most direct and appropriate route from the point of export to the address of destination in Canada. Transshipment through another country requires written authorisation from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The carrier must be instructed to ensure the integrity of the sealed semen transport/shipping container(s) throughout the journey.

Written approval for routing of the shipment of germplasm through another country must be attached to the permit and accompany the shipment. With the exception of changing planes, germplasm must not be offloaded at any port of call en route.
7. **Record keeping**
A copy of the completed certificate should be retained by the certifying veterinarian for record keeping purposes and a further copy returned to the DVM (if appropriate).
8. **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>