

EXPORT OF IN-VIVO BOVINE EMBRYOS TO CANADA

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 6076EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6076EHC.

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 6076EHC may be used for the export of bovine embryos from the United Kingdom to Canada. There is also a supplementary certificate 6076SUP covering assurances for Schmallenberg virus.

Both certificates must be signed, dated and stamped. The certificates must first be signed by the Embryo Collection Team Veterinarian and then countersigned by the Official Veterinarian.

2. Labelling requirements

The attention of exporters is drawn to the labelling requirements in the Canadian import conditions, which are now more prescriptive than hitherto:

The labelling of the germplasm must be certified as follows:

1) Embryos presented for importation into Canada must be stored in a sealed container in ampoules, straws or other receptacles indelibly marked in accordance with the recommendations of the International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS) for labelling. The receptacles must be labelled with at least the following information: practitioner code, donor breed, donor registration number, donor management number or barn name or tattoo, sire registration number, straw number, number of embryos in receptacle (if greater than one), and freeze date (YYMMDD, eg 11JA01).

In a letter dated 29 July 2011, the Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada states that Canada cannot continue to accept shipments that do not meet their requirements, nor can they continue to troubleshoot all the problem cases upon arrival in Canada.

3. 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, Belfast.

The OV should keep a copy for his/her own records.

4. **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. The import permit number should be recorded on page 1 of the health certificate, underneath the health certificate number.

5. **Schedules**

Paragraph I refers: If there is more than one combination of donor dam and/or sire, it is advisable to use a separate certificate. However, it is also possible to use a separate schedule to identify the donor animals and the embryos. 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 Team Veterinarian and 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.

6. **Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)**

Paragraph V.a)i 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.

7. **OTF (officially tuberculosis free) status**

Paragraph V.a)ii refers: If option a) under this is to be certified, the herd must be officially free of tuberculosis. This means that the herds, and individual animals in the herds, must not be under any official tuberculosis related restrictions at the time of collection. This includes whole herd restrictions (TB2) served e.g. following the discovery of reactors, or individual animal restrictions (TB34) served e.g. following the discovery of inconclusive reactors, or any other TB-related restrictions served e.g because routine herd tests are overdue or because of zero tolerance. Official Veterinarians should contact their local APHA office or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland to confirm the herd status with respect to this disease.

8. **Residency and health status**

Paragraphs V.d), f) and g) refer: The pre-collection period of residency refers to the herd of origin of the donor dam as specified in paragraph II.b) of the certificate. The health status requirements refer to the herd of origin as specified in paragraph II.b) and to the embryo collection unit as specified in paragraph II.c) if the donors are moved to an embryo collection unit purely for the purpose of collection of the embryos to be exported to Canada. If the donors remain at the embryo collection unit for a longer period, eg for embryo collections for other destinations, the embryo collection unit must be regarded as the herd of origin in respect of residency and health status.

9. **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).

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.

10. Sealing of the transport container

Paragraph V.p) refers: The embryos 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.e) on the health certificate.

If it is necessary to top up the container, the 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.e) 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**.

11. 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.