

**HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR PORCINE SEMEN EXPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES FROM
EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES - 1319EHC**

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF 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 1319EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 1319EHC, which is available via the European Union Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES).

Exporters are strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 1319EHC may be used for export of fresh and/or frozen porcine semen from the United Kingdom and all other Member States of the European Union to the United States.

2. 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 following information is for guidance only and must be verified by the exporter in advance of any exports.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires all imports of porcine semen from the United Kingdom into the USA to be accompanied by an Import Permit.

The USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) will continue to offer a manual process to users, however use of the The National Center for Import and Export (NCIE) [ePermits](#) system is now encouraged. This is a web-based system that allows users to submit permit applications, track applications, apply for renewals and amendments, and receive a copy of the permit - all while online. Users are required to sign up for an [eAuthentication](#) account to access ePermits.

Use of the ePermits system will help to expedite the entire permitting process and enable users to track the status of their permits, confirm receipt, and easily renew existing permits.

Import permits for porcine semen are available from the following address:

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
Veterinary Services (VS)
National Center for Import and Export, (NCIE)
4700 River Road, Unit 40
Riverdale, MD 20737

Tel: +(301)851-3300 Option 5
Fax: +(301)734-8226

Application form, **VS Form 17-129**, "**Application for Import or in Transit Permit (Animals, Animal Semen, Animal Embryos, Birds, Poultry or Hatching Eggs)**" can be obtained by writing or telephoning NCIE, or by downloading it from the APHIS web site via the following link:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/downloads/vs17_129.pdf

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

This certificate may be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or a Local Veterinary Inspector (LVI) appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government or by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland (DARD), who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate export panel for export purposes

Signing as SCC and SCC2 Veterinarians

In the majority of circumstances, the Centre Veterinarian for porcine SCCs also holds an appointment as an Official Veterinarian (OV). Therefore, it is possible for the certificate to be completed and signed by the Centre Veterinarian in their capacity as an Official Veterinarian. However, because of perceived conflict of interest, it is advisable that the signatory is an Official Veterinarian other than the Centre Veterinarian/s mentioned at Paragraphs II.1 and II.2.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp using ink of any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the AHVLA Centre for International Trade, 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.

4. FORMAT OF THE CERTIFICATE

Exporters are advised that the format of 1319EHC has been recently agreed at EU level between the EU Commission and the USDA. Accordingly, the layout and numbering of the certificate follow the template used by TRACES.

5. COMPLETION OF PART I - DETAILS OF DISPATCHED CONSIGNMENT

For advice on completion of Boxes I.11, I.20 and I.21, OVs should refer to the Notes, Part I section on Page 3 of the certificate.

I.4. - Local Competent Authority

The certifying OV should enter the name of the local office of AHVLA or DARD in whose administrative area the establishment from where the semen to be dispatched is located.

I.7. - Country ISO Codes

ISO 3166 is the commonly accepted International Standard for country codes. The two letter ISO Code for the whole of the United Kingdom is 'GB' and should be entered at Box I.7.

I.16 - Entry Point

This refers to the port/airport of entry into the US where the goods and documents will be inspected.

Donor Identity

The means of identification of the animal in accordance with Article 5 of Council Directive 2008/71/EC means an ear tag or a tattoo.

6. COMPLETION OF PART II - CERTIFICATION (ANIMAL HEALTH ATTESTATION)

For advice on completion of Paragraphs II.2 and II.3, OV's should refer to the Notes, Part II section on Page 3 of the certificate.

7. COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 90/429/EEC (as amended)

Paragraphs II.1, II.2, II.5 and II.6 refer: The semen collection centre must be approved by the Department in accordance with Council Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended). The certifying Official Veterinarian must be fully conversant with the provisions of Council Directive 90/429/EEC and any subsequent amendments, laying down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-Union trade in and imports of semen of domestic animals of the porcine species.

8. OFFICIAL DISEASE CLEARANCE (Form 618NDC)

Paragraph II.13 refers: The certifying Official Veterinarian may certify this paragraph on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the AHVLA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle, or the issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland.

OV's should note that official clearance for these diseases is required from the date of the last collection until the date of shipment. 618NDC forms are usually valid for 10 days after issue, so it may be necessary to renew the 618NDC to ensure that official disease clearance is valid up to and including the date of shipment.

9. COUNTRIES NOT RECOGNISED BY APHIS AS FREE FROM CERTAIN DISEASES AS INDICATED IN 9CFR PART 94

Footnote heading ⁽⁴⁾ in Part II of the Notes section of the certificate refers: OV's are advised that the website referred to under this heading and immediately below provides up to date information on the disease status of countries from the APHIS perspective, which must be respected for all exports to the US:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_disease_status.shtml

OV's are advised to consult this website for each consignment certified, as the information therein is liable to change without notice.

10. **DONOR BOARS IMPORTED INTO THE UK, COMMINGLEMENT OF DONOR BOARS WITH IMPORTED DONOR BOARS AND TRANSIT OF DONOR BOARS THROUGH USDA/APHIS DESIGNATED RESTRICTED ZONES**

Paragraphs II.7, II.8, II.9 and II.10 refer. Other than in cases where donor boars have been born, raised and kept exclusively in the UK and have never been in contact with other animals not of UK origin, OV's should be aware that certification of these paragraphs may not be a straightforward matter.

This particularly applies to situations where donor boars have been imported into the UK from other Member States of the EU or may have been in contact with other animals not meeting USDA/APHIS animal health conditions with regard to the diseases referred to in these paragraphs. Any donor boar transiting a region not regarded by USDA/APHIS as free from CSF must not travel in anything other than the specified means of transport as described in paragraphs II.8 and II.10 with seals intact on arrival at the point of destination.

Outbreaks of diseases in questions are notified to both the European Commission (http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/adns/adns_outbreaks_per_disease_en.pdf) and the OIE (http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Diseaseinformation/Immsummary). Whilst the rest of the EU has been free of FMD and rinderpest for a number of years, outbreaks of the following diseases continue to occur:

- CSF: in Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia and Croatia; EU Commission Decision 208/855/EC prohibits the movement of pigs from these MSs/regions (Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the Annex - <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:2008D0855:20130701:EN:PDF>), but provides derogations from such movements provided certain conditions are complied with. Movements under the derogation would render the donors ineligible for exports to the US.
- SVD: in Italy;
- ASF in Italy (Island of Sardinia only).

OVs are forewarned that despite the above background information, it is likely that carrying out the checks necessary to certify these paragraphs may prove difficult. OV's are therefore advised not to certify these paragraphs unless they are in full possession of all the relevant details, backed up by written evidence (eg support certification), and are confident to do so.

11. **ADDITIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH RELATED STATEMENTS**

Paragraph II.11 may be certified on the basis of the OV's personal knowledge of the operation of the semen collection centre and its animal health status during the 60 days prior to collection of semen for export to the US. If necessary, this may be supported by a written declaration from the operator of the centre confirming that the requirements of this paragraph have been met.

If the semen was collected in another centre, this statement must be supported by means of a written declaration from the veterinarian supervising that centre.

Paragraph II.12 refers. If any of the donor boars listed in the

certificate exhibits clinical evidence of a communicable, ie officially notifiable, disease between the date of collection and the date of shipment, the outbreak must be investigated officially and the situation resolved by either Defra or DARDNI prior to dispatch of the consignment

If the semen was collected in another centre, this statement must be supported by means of a written declaration from the veterinarian supervising that centre.

If any of the donors test positive for notifiable disease, Directive 90/429/EC requires the animal/s in question to be isolated and the semen collected from it/them since the last negative test to be withdrawn from intra-Union trade. It also requires semen collected from each animal at the SSC since the date of that animal's last negative test to be held in separate storage and not traded until the health status of that centre has been officially re-established. Semen which is subject to such prohibition should not be certified for export to the US.

12. 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 AHVLA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle via the link below:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/imports-exports/international-trade/>