

EXPORT OF PORCINE SEMEN TO SINGAPORE - 7647EHC

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT NOTE

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7647EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7647EHC.

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 7647EHC may be used for the export of chilled fresh (not frozen) porcine semen from the United Kingdom to Singapore.

2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

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. 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 and Rural Development (DARD).

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 Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) Centre for International Trade at 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.

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 given in the health certificate at paragraph IV(d).

4. SCHEDULES

Parts I and II refer. Separate schedules may be used to identify the donor boars and porcine semen certified. Schedules must contain the same information as that required in Parts I and II. Parts I and II

must be annotated "See attached schedule" as appropriate. Each page of the schedule(s) must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the OV.

The schedule(s) must be stapled inside the health certificate and the OV should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule(s) and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedule(s) and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule(s) or in Parts I and II must be deleted with diagonal lines.

5. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE (FORM 618NDC)

Paragraphs V(a) and V(b) refer. OVs may certify these paragraphs on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC issued by the AHVLA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the local office of DARD in Northern Ireland.

6. 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, laying down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-Community trade in and imports of semen of domestic animals of the porcine species.

Paragraphs V(c), V(d), V(e), V(f), V(h) and V(n) may be certified on the basis that the semen collection centre is approved by the Department and operating in accordance with Council Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended).

7. LABORATORY TESTS

Paragraphs V(e), V(f), V(h), V(l)(TGE testing) and V(m)(i)(if applicable) refer. The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out routine and pre-export testing is officially approved for this purpose by Defra or DARD.

In Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the AHVLA Laboratory, New Haw, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB, (Tel: 01932 341111). Some tests are carried out at VLA Lasswade, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0PZ, (Tel: 0131 445 6169). Certain specialist tests are carried out at regional AHVLA 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 AHVLA 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.

8. **TUBERCULIN TESTING OF DONOR BOARS FOR EXPORT PURPOSES**

Paragraph V(1) refers. The health certificate requires a one-off tuberculin test in the 30 days prior to the first collection of semen for export. As long as the donor boar remains in the semen collection centre, it need not be tested for TB again.

Private tuberculin skin testing, including for export purposes, of pig herds (or individual animals) of unknown TB status at the owner's or the Semen Collection Centre (SCC) managers' request can be permitted, provided that the owner or SCC manager is willing to pay an Official Veterinarian (OV) to perform the test. Herd owners and the SCC managers are advised of the possible repercussions of a positive test result (e.g. herd restrictions). If an OV reports a reactor at a private skin test, the herd/animals at the SSC centre must be placed under movement restrictions and a check test of other pigs on the premises arranged (with the owner's/ SCC manager's agreement).

AHVLA will supply the tuberculin free of charge.

The testing OV will need to complete the test chart [(TN52A/TN52A(Welsh)/TN52B/TN52B(Welsh)] and promptly send the results to the local AHVLA office. The specific arrangements for herds or animals at Semen Collection Centres in Northern Ireland should be discussed with the local DARD office.

The comparative intradermal test should be carried out using avian and bovine PPD tuberculin. The test must be read after 72 hours.

The indications for use and the special warning in the tuberculin datasheet specify a period of 42 days following a previous administration of tuberculin within which the use of tuberculin should be avoided. However, exporters and OVs should note that tuberculin testing should not be repeated within 60 days of a previous tuberculin test in line with the UK policy instructions on TB testing. Before a pre-export test is carried out, the OV should seek confirmation that the animals to be tested have not had a previous test within that period.

Tuberculin is not licensed for use in pigs and OVs are reminded to follow the RCVS "cascade" procedures for the purposes of TB testing in pigs.

Tuberculin Testing Method

The preferable site is the loose skin at the base of each ear. Each site should be cleaned, the loose skin at the base of the ear raised into a fold and the skin thickness measurement recorded. Standard strength PPD, as issued for cattle, must be used and a dose of 0.1 ml injected intra-dermally into each raised fold taking care not to inject subcutaneously.

A useful aid for subsequently reading the test is, after cleaning, to draw a circle on the skin at each selected site with a black felt-tip pen and the injections are made within the encircled areas. Any increase in skin thickness of more than 2mm at the site of injection or any oedema, necrosis or swelling of associated lymph nodes, should be regarded as a positive reaction. If any animal has a reaction at the bovine site greater than at the avian site, the local office of the AHVLA or DARD must be informed.

9. **OMISSION OF PARAGRAPH V'i'**

The omission of a paragraph V(i) is deliberate to avoid any confusion between the letter 'i' used alphabetically and 'i' used as a Roman numeral in sub-paragraphs.

10. **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/>