

EXPORT OF BOVINE EMBRYOS TO SOUTH AFRICA

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 6176EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6176EHC.

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 6176EHC may be used for the export of bovine embryos from the United Kingdom to South Africa.

2. Certification

This certificate must be signed by the team veterinarian and countersigned by a Whole Time Veterinary Officer (WTVO) of the Department.

The WTVO must sign and stamp the health certificate with the official OV stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal Health Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DARD, Dundonald House, Belfast.

The signatory veterinarians should keep a copy for their 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. The import permit number should be given in the health certificate at paragraph III f).

4. Schedules

Paragraph I.a) refers: A separate schedule may be used to identify the animals certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in paragraph I.a) and paragraph I.a) 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 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.a) must be deleted with diagonal lines.

5. Approved processing laboratory

Paragraph IV.c) refers: Although the processing laboratories (whether permanent or mobile) are approved as part of the approval of the collection team (under EU legislation and also as recommended by the OIE Code), the South African veterinary import permit specifically requires details of such a facility to be mentioned on the certificate. In the case of a mobile laboratory, the address of the collection team should be mentioned here.

6. Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)

Paragraph V.c) refers: OVs may certify paragraph V.c) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the local Animal Health Divisional Office (or equivalent in Northern Ireland).

7. **Official freedom from tuberculosis and brucellosis**

Paragraphs V.d) 2)i) and ii) refer. The herds of origin must officially free in accordance with EU legislation. This means that the herds, and individual animals in the herds, must not be under any official tuberculosis or brucellosis related restrictions at the time of collection of embryos. This includes, in the case of tuberculosis, whole herd restrictions (TB2) served e.g. following the discovery of TB test reactors, slaughterhouse cases, an overdue TB test, etc., or individual animal restrictions (TB34) served e.g. following the discovery of inconclusive reactors (IRs) to the tuberculin test. If the team veterinarian is not sure that the herd meets this criteria, then Animal Health must be contacted to confirm the position.

8. **Laboratory tests**

The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out 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 Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) 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 VLA 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 VLA 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.

9. **Sealing of the transport container**

Paragraph V.e).6) refers: The semen 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.g) on the health certificate.

If it is necessary to top up the container, the additional liquid nitrogen used must meet the requirements of the certificate (see paragraph V.e).6)). 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.g) 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**.

10. **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 Animal Health Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle via the link below:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/about-us/contact-us/centrops.htm>

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