

EXPORT OF FROZEN PORCINE SEMEN TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA - 865EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF 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 865EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 865EHC.

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 865EHC may be used for the export of frozen porcine semen from the United Kingdom to the Republic of South Africa (RSA). Export of fresh porcine semen is currently not permitted by the RSA veterinary authorities.

2. 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 Rural Directorate, the Welsh Assembly Government Department for Rural Affairs 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.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in ink of any colour other than black.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) Specialist Service Centre (SSC) - Exports 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. 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.

Prior to making arrangements to export porcine semen, exporters are advised to contact the Directorate of Animal Health of the RSA Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for the latest advice regarding any import documentation that may be required.

Currently an import permit is required for all export consignments of frozen porcine semen to the RSA. The number of the Import Permit should be entered in the certification statement at the beginning of Section V. of the certificate.

4. SCHEDULES

Parts I and II of the certificate refer. If necessary, separate schedules may be used to identify the donor boars / porcine semen certified. Schedules must contain the same information as that required in Parts I and II and Parts I and II must be annotated "See attached Schedule" as appropriate.

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 OV.

Schedules 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 Parts I and II must be deleted with diagonal lines.

5. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE (FORM 618NDC)

Paragraph V.1.1. may be certified on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC issued by the AHVLA Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle (or the issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland).

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

Paragraph V.2.1. refers. The semen collection centre must be approved by Defra in accordance with 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.

7. FREEDOM OF FARMS OF ORIGIN AND SEMEN COLLECTION CENTRE FROM OTHER DISEASES

Paragraphs V.3. and V.4.2. refer. OVs should take into account their personal knowledge of the disease status of the approved semen collection centre and, if appropriate, the farms of origin of the donor boars. If necessary, this may be supported by discussion with the veterinarians supervising the farms of origin of the donor boars and also the local office of the AHVLA/DARD.

Certifying OVs should also carry out appropriate checks of collection centre records including use of medicines and fertility records to verify freedom from the named diseases.

These checks may also be supported by means of written declarations from the veterinarians supervising the farms of origin and the operator of the collection centre attesting to freedom from the diseases mentioned in these paragraphs.

Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS)

Lack of clinical occurrence of PRRS cannot be certified for a herd which contains pigs which have been vaccinated against PRRS, nor can this be certified for herds in which serological monitoring or other testing has indicated the presence of PRRS. Because of the many and often subtle clinical manifestations of PRRS it is not straightforward to certify an absence of occurrence of this disease. If clinical signs such as reduced appetite and pyrexia, inco-ordination, circling and falling to one side and sudden death have occurred in groups of boars and an alternative aetiology has not been established, then it should be suspected that PRRS is occurring on the centre (note that concurrent infections with other pathogens are also common in outbreaks of PRRS).

Leptospirosis

The declaration in respect of leptospirosis is for absence of clinical signs of leptospirosis such as fever, anorexia and jaundice in groups of boars in the last 6 months or, if these clinical signs have occurred, if an alternative diagnosis has been obtained.

A declaration for lack of clinical occurrence of leptospirosis cannot be certified for a pig herd which contains pigs which are vaccinated against leptospirosis. Such a licensed vaccine is not currently available in the UK.

8. ORIGIN AND RESIDENCY STATEMENTS

Paragraph V.2.4. refers. The certifying OV should check appropriate farm and movement records to verify that the donor boars meet the origin and residency requirements of this paragraph.

The OV may also request the operator of the collection centre to provide a signed statement as additional verification of origin and residency.

9. 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 Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) Laboratory, New Haw, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB, (Tel: 01932 341111). Some tests are carried out at AHVLA 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).

Paragraph V.5.1.1. describes the testing regime for donor boars with regard to brucellosis, as required by Directive 90/429/EC (as amended). OVs should note that the buffered brucella antigen test (BBAT) carried out by UK laboratories is the Rose Bengal Test, as specified in the certificate.

Paragraphs V.5.2., V.5.3.1. (if appropriate) and V.5.4. describe the additional tests on donor boars producing semen for export as required by the RSA authorities.

Notwithstanding the requirements of Directive 90/429/EC concerning routine testing for Aujeszky's disease, additional testing for Aujeszky's disease must also be carried out within the time limits described in paragraph V.5.2.

OVs should also note that the RSA import conditions specify that there must be no increase in serological titres for PRRS and Aujeszky's disease between the pre- and post-collection sampling as required by paragraph 5.2.

For operational reasons, laboratories involved in pre-export testing 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.

IMPORTANT

OVs MUST ENSURE THAT COPIES OF ALL TEST RESULTS ARE ATTACHED TO THE COMPLETED HEALTH CERTIFICATE. THIS IS A REQUIREMENT OF THE VETERINARY AUTHORITIES OF THE RSA.

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 Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/contact-us/tradeexports.html>

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