

EXPORT OF BOVINE SEMEN TO ARGENTINA

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 6203EHC and its continuation 6203CON. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6203EHC.

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 6203EHC may be used for the export of bovine semen from the United Kingdom to Argentina.

Please note that export health certificate 6203EHC is in two parts, 6203EHC PART A and 6203CON PART B, and there is also a supplementary certificate 6203SUP covering assurances for Schmallenberg virus. All parts must be signed, dated and stamped.

2. 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.

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 IV.(c).

4. Schedules

Paragraphs I and II refer: Separate schedules may be used to provide the information required. The schedules must contain the same information as that required in paragraphs I and II and paragraphs I and II must be annotated "See attached schedule". Each page of the schedules must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the Official Veterinarian (OV).

The schedules must be stapled inside the health certificate and the OV should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedules and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedules and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the

schedules or in paragraphs II and III and must be deleted with diagonal lines.

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

Paragraphs V.1, V.2, V.3.4, V.4.2 and V.5.3(a) refer: OVs may certify these paragraphs 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.

With reference to paragraph V.7, if egg products have been used in the preparation of the semen diluent and the eggs have not come from an SPF flock, the exporter must provide details of the supplier(s) of the eggs to APHA or DAERA to enable form 618NDC to be completed.

With reference to paragraph V.8, if milk has been used in the processing of the semen that has not come from the UK, the exporter must provide details of the supplier(s) of the milk to APHA or DAERA to enable form 618NDC to be completed.

**6. 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).

If tests for bluetongue are required, samples must be sent to the Pirbright Institute. Guidance on submission of samples, including the submission forms to use, can be found at: [http://www.pirbright.ac.uk/files/quick\\_media/Diagnostic%20Price%20List.pdf](http://www.pirbright.ac.uk/files/quick_media/Diagnostic%20Price%20List.pdf)

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.

**7. Residency of the donor bulls in the UK**

Paragraph V.4.1 refers: If necessary, details in the cattle passport may be checked to establish whether paragraph V.4.1 can be signed.

**8. Sealing of the transport container**

Paragraph V.12 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 II.d) 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.10). 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 II.d) 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**.

**9. 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.

SPENCER