

EXPORT OF BOVINE SEMEN TO AUSTRALIA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE CERTIFYING OFFICERS 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 4930EHC and its continuation 4930CON. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 4930EHC.

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**

This certificate covers the export of frozen bovine semen to Australia.

Semen collected in the United Kingdom between 1 January 2001 and 15 January 2002 or between 1 July 2007 and 18 February 2008 (inclusive of these dates) may **NOT** be exported to Australia.

Also, in the case of semen collected on or after 1 May 2006, the donor animals have to be tested for bluetongue as specified.

From 1 April 2010, Australia has indicated that it will allow semen from bulls which are seropositive to infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis (IBR/IPV) to be imported, subject to each collection of semen testing negative for virus in accordance with the recommendations of the OIE Code. This certificate can also be used for the export of such semen, subject to sight of an import permit enabling this.

2. **Countersignature by Official Veterinarian (OV)**

Having been signed by the Authorised Veterinary Surgeon at the Approved Semen Collection Centre (AVS), this certificate must be countersigned at paragraph VI by a Veterinary Officer (VO) of the Department. The VO will take a copy of the certificate for record keeping purposes, before returning the original to the Authorised Veterinary Surgeon in charge of the Semen Collection Centre or his/her agent..

3. **Obtaining an import permit**

It is the responsibility of the exporter to obtain an import permit and check that the conditions attached to the permit are met by the current health certificate 4930EHC. Import permit enquiries should be directed to Live Animal Imports - AQIS Canberra. Contact details are: Telephone: +61 2 6272 4454 Facsimile: +61 2 6272 3110
E-mail: animalimp@aqis.gov.au.

The Australian import permit number must be recorded at Paragraph IV. e).

4. **Signing, stamping and dating of certificate, tables summarising tests and laboratory reports**

The Australian conditions require the export health certificate to be signed, stamped and dated on each page as well as the table providing details of the tests and the laboratory reports (which are considered an extension of the main certificate). The VO must therefore remember to do this when paragraph VI. is completed.

5. **Laboratory tests**

The AVS 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 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).

For operational reasons however, the laboratories involved may change periodically. Accordingly, the AVS 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 AVS should seek the advice of the relevant laboratory.

6. **Council Directive 88/407/EEC and dispensation in relation to IBR/IPV**

Note that Semen Collection Centres operating according to the requirements of Council Directive 88/407/EEC (as amended) and eligible to export/store semen for intra Community trade, are also, by the terms of the Australian import conditions, eligible to export semen to Australia.

Moreover, centres containing animals which are seropositive to IBR/IPV (whether whole virus or not) - say due to an outbreak of the disease - but which are otherwise compliant with all the other requirements of Council Directive 88/407/EEC (as amended) are also eligible to export to Australia. The Authorised Centre Veterinarian must ensure that the requirements of Council Directive 88/407/EEC - other than in relation to that for the bulls/animals to be seronegative for IBR/IPV - continue to be met, and to satisfy the counter-signing VO that this is the case.

7. **Cleansing and disinfection of containers**

Paragraphs V.1) and V.m) refer. The final check on identity and the placement of the semen into new, unused liquid nitrogen in a new or properly disinfected container prior to export of the semen to Australia must be performed under the supervision of an Official Veterinarian.

In the case of disinfected containers, Defra approved disinfectant must be used at a dilution rate officially approved in respect of the General Orders made under the Animal Health Act 1981.

8. **Checking/Inspection by Australian Quarantine Inspection Service**

Paragraph IV. a) refers. All consignments must be duly approved by AQIS. The addition of paragraph IV. a) "Name and address of the consignee" has been made to ensure that importers realise that all consignments must be checked by AQIS before being released.

9. **Notifiable disease clearance**

Paragraphs V.a) and V.f) i) refer: These paragraphs may be certified 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 DARD in Northern Ireland.

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 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, DARD at Dundonald House, Belfast.