

EXPORT OF BOVINE EMBRYOS TO AUSTRALIA

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 629EHC, the schedules providing details of the donor animals and laboratory test results 629SCH and a supplementary certificate covering Schmallenberg virus (SBV) requirements 629SUP. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 629EHC and these associated documents.

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 629EHC may be used for the export of Bovine embryos from the United Kingdom to Australia. All pages must be signed, dated and stamped on the day of shipment.

Paragraph V. a) iii. refers to embryos 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).

If the embryos were collected in **France, Netherlands or Republic of Ireland**, Defra's Global Animal Health Division must be contacted for advice as AQIS will only accept embryos collected outside the FMD period as below:

**France:** Only Embryos collected **prior to 5th February 2001 or after 23rd June 2001** may be imported into Australia;

**Netherlands:** Only Embryos collected **prior to 12 February 2001 and after 25 August 2001** may be imported into Australia;

**Republic Of Ireland:** Only Embryos collected **prior to 1st February 2001 and after 22 June 2001** may be imported to Australia.

2. Import Permit requirement

A valid import permit is required prior to import of the embryos into Australia. Enquiries should be directed to Live Animal Imports - DAFF, Canberra. Contact details are: Tel.: +61 2 6272 4454 Fax.: +61 2 6272 3110 E-mail: animalimp@daff.gov.au.

The import permit number should be given in the health certificate at paragraph III. f).

3. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)

In Great Britain, this certificate may be signed by an 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 by a Veterinary Officer of the Department. 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, Northern Ireland (DARDNI).

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any 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) Centre for International Trade (CIT) 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.

If necessary, the OV must obtain the required assurances from the Approved Embryo Collection Team Veterinarian before the health information on the certificate at section V. is signed.

**DAFF requires each and every page of the certificates and schedules of donor animals and laboratory test results to bear the health certificate number of the certificate and be stamped, dated and signed by the Official Veterinarian.**

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

Paragraphs V. a) i and ii refer: OV's may certify paragraphs V. a) i and ii. on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the CIT in Carlisle (or equivalent in Northern Ireland).

**5. Laboratory tests**

Samples must be sent for testing to the laboratories of the AHVLA (Great Britain) or AFBI (Northern Ireland), or in the case of bluetongue to the Pirbright Institute. The majority of pre-export tests are carried out at AHVLA, New Haw, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB, Tel:01932 357335. Some tests are carried out at the regional VLA laboratories. For operational reasons however, the laboratories involved may change periodically. Accordingly, OV's should check with the AHVLA to establish to which laboratories samples should be sent for testing. Samples should always be received in advance of the export date. 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, OV's should seek the advice of the relevant laboratory.

Schedule B of 629SCH and the table in 629SUP must be completed to summarise the results of the tests that are required and have been carried out.

**6. Council Directive 89/556/EC (as amended)**

Paragraph V. d) refers: The certifying OV as well as the Approved Embryo Collection Team Veterinarian must be conversant with the requirements of Council Directive 89/556/EC (as amended) which relates to the intra-community trade in bovine embryos.

Paragraphs V. f) g) and h) refer: The laboratories and containers/centres used for processing, aggregation and/or storing the embryos must have been approved as part of the approval of the Team under this Council Directive. It is unlikely that the embryos will be subjected to further processing (eg sex sorting) once sealed in a straw/vial/ampoule, but regardless of this, the cryogenic containers used to move the embryos internally (eg for aggregation) must be sealed with a tamperproof, individually numbered seal. The correct option under paragraph V. h) needs to be certified.

**7. Transport container and official seals**

Paragraphs V. i) and j) refer: The embryos 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 as well as under paragraph V. j).

The final check on identity and the placement of the embryos into new, unused liquid nitrogen in a new or properly disinfected container prior to export of the embryos to Australia must be performed **under the supervision of an Official Veterinarian.**

If it is necessary to top up the container, the additional liquid nitrogen

used must meet the requirements of the certificate (see paragraph g). 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**.

**8. 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 in Carlisle, via the link below:

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