No:.....

EXPORT OF BOVINE SEMEN TO CHILE

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and are issued to you to be used with export certificate 498EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 498EHC.

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**

The Chilean Veterinary Authority (SAG) has agreed with the EU Commission that this certificate may be used for the import of bovine semen from any Member State of the EU. This TRACES style certificate may therefore be used for the export of bovine semen to Chile.

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 and Rural Development (DARD).

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 DARD, Dundonald House, Belfast.

The OV should keep a copy for his/her own records.

3. **Schedules**

Paragraph 1.25 refers: A separate schedule may be used to identify the commodities certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in paragraph 1.25 and paragraph 1.25 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.

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

Paragraphs paras II.1 (FMD and CBPP), II.3.2 (BTV), II.5.1 (Brucellosis) and II.5.3 (BTV again) refer:

OVs may certify paragraph II.1 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.

Paragraph II.3.2 refers to the UK's Bluetongue disease status at the time the donor bull(s) entered the semen collection centre. If the UK was free of BTV, OVs may certify this paragraph provided written authority to do so has been received on form 618NDC. If the UK was not free of BTV at this time, OVs can certify that holding(s) from which the bull(s) came were under a surveillance programme for BTV as this (passive, and as epidemiologically justified, active serological, virological, vector and sentinel surveillance) is required under both UK and EU legislation.

Paragraph II.5.3 refers to the UK's BTV status at the time the semen to be exported was collected. OVs can therefore either certify the first indent provided written authority to do so has been received on form 618NDC or they must certify the second indent concerning the testing for BTV carried out on the donor bull(s).

Paragraph II.5.1 refers to the UK's brucellosis status. Chile accepts the principle of regional freedom. Therefore, if the semen collection centre is located in a part of the UK which is officially Brucellosis-free, OVs could sign the first indent provided written authority to do so has been received on form 618NDC. **HOWEVER, as the EU legislation (Directive 88/407/EEC, as amended) requires tests for this disease regardless, the test options can (and it is recommended, should) be certified.**

5. **Holding(s) of origin of donor bull(s)**

Paragraph II.3.3 refers: this paragraph requires the donor bulls to come from holdings that have not been subjected to health restrictions for notifiable infectious-contagious diseases to which cattle are susceptible "in the last 24 months". This requirement relates to the 24 months immediately prior to the donor bull entering the semen collection centre. As the certificate lays down specific requirements for tuberculosis, brucellosis and bluetongue, these three diseases can be excluded from this requirement.

6. **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 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, Penicuick, 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 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. **Testing for bovine tuberculosis**

Paragraph II.5.2, second indent, refers: SAG have confirmed that they accept the use of either the single intradermal tuberculin test with mammalian PPD or the comparative intradermal test, according to the official standards of the exporting country.

8. **Testing for bovine genital campylobacteriosis**

Paragraph II.5.2, second indent, refers: the superscript at the end of this sentence should be (5) not (6) as on the certificate, ie, the testing requirement relates only to donor bulls or animals having contact with the donors.

9. **Storage of semen in sterilised vials**

Paragraph II.6.3 refers: this paragraph requires the semen to be exported to be stored "only in sterilised vials". If the semen is packed in straws, the straws must be new to meet this requirement.

10. **Sealing of the transport container**

Paragraph 1.21 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 1.21 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 II.6.3). 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 1.21 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.**

11. **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.