EXPORT OF OVINE AND CAPRINE SEMEN TO MEXICO

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 6619EHC and its continuation 6619CON. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6619EHC.

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.

The certificate will be pre-printed with all the information included at the time of application for export. There must be no hand written entries or amendments in the certificates, other than signatures and the dates of signatures.

1. Scope of the Certificate

Export health certificate 6619EHC may be used for the export of ovine and caprine semen from the United Kingdom to Mexico.

Please note that the export health certificate 6619EHC is in two parts, 6619EHC PART A and 6619CON PART B. Both parts must be signed, dated and stamped on the day of shipment.

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 Official Veterinarian or 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.

The centre veterinarian may use an identical copy of the original EHC to compile all the supporting information for the certifying OV.

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.e).

4. Schedules, volume measures and antibiotic dilutions

Paragraphs I. and II. a), b)and c) refer: A separate schedule may be used to identify the animals certified and to give the required information concerning the semen. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in paragraphs I. and II. a), b) and c), and paragraphs I. and II. a), b)and c) 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. Any blank spaces in the schedule or in paragraphs I. and II. a), b) and c) must be deleted with diagonal lines or the sections not used crossed out, e.g. ~~(ii)~~.
Section II (b) should be completed with the total volume stated in litres in addition to the information requested in this section, e.g. 2954 x 0.25 ml (millilitres/mililitros) (TOTAL = 0.7385 LITRES/LITROS)

Preservative/antibiotic dilutions -section II (d) refers:
The antibiotics used and their concentration must be entered at this sections. The combinations acceptable by Mexico are the following:

- gentamycin (250 µg), tilosyn (50 µg), and lincomycin-spectinomycin (150/300 µg);
- penicilin (500 IU), streptomycin (500 IU) and lincomycin-spectinomycin (150/300 µg);
- amikacin (75 µg) and divekacin (25 µg;
- [or] penicillin (500 IU), dihydrostreptomycin (500 µg).

5. Clinical Examination

Paragraph V.b) refers: in order to sign this paragraph, a clinical inspection of the donor ram(s) is required on the day of collection.

6. Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)

Paragraphs V.c)and V.g)sub-paragraphs i)and ii)refer: OVs may certify paragraphs V.c)and V.g) sub-paragraphs i) and ii) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Customer Service Centre at Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

7. Additional Support Assurances required to enable certain paragraphs to be signed by the Official Veterinarian.

Paragraphs V.a),V.b),V.d),V.e),V.f),V.g),V.h),V.j),V.k),V.l),V.m),V.n),V.o), V.p),V.q),V.r),V.s),V.t)and V.u)refer. OVs may certify these paragraphs based on personal knowledge of the semen collection centre, or supporting certification from the centre veterinarian. If further guidance is required, APHA / DAERA should be contacted.

V.d) "That the donor animals were kept in an establishment where vector control measures have been in place for at least 60 days before commencement of, and during, collection of the semen."

Centre operators must have procedures in place that provide protection. These procedures should be discussed and agreed with the Official Veterinarian before collection of the semen to be exported is started. They should be reviewed at least every six months and a signed record of this review must be kept. Examples of such measures include regular (but responsible) use of insecticides with residual effect, maintaining an environment that prevents breeding of the vectors, and use of vector traps must be part of the measures.

V.r).
Collection, processing and storage of semen in accordance with the provisions of the OIE Animal Health Code.
Information can be found at
http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_coll_semen.htm

Specifically:

OIE Article 4.6.6 applies.
Conditions applicable to the collection of semen
The floor of the mounting area should be clean and provide safe footing. A dusty floor should be avoided.

The hindquarters of the teaser, whether a dummy or a live teaser animal, should be kept clean. A dummy should be cleaned completely after each period of collection. A teaser animal should have its hindquarters cleaned carefully before each collecting session. The dummy or hindquarters of the teaser animals should be sanitized after the collection of each ejaculate. Disposable plastic covers may be used.

The hand of the person collecting the semen should not come into contact with the animal's penis. Disposable gloves should be worn by the collector and changed for each collection.

The artificial vagina should be cleaned completely after each collection where relevant. It should be dismantled, its various parts washed, rinsed and dried, and kept protected from dust. The inside of the body of the device and the cone should be disinfected before re-assembly using approved disinfection techniques such as those involving the use of alcohol, ethylene oxide or steam. Once re-assembled, it should be kept in a cupboard which is regularly cleaned and disinfected.

The lubricant used should be clean. The rod used to spread the lubricant should be clean and should not be exposed to dust between successive collections.

The artificial vagina should not be shaken after ejaculation, otherwise lubricant and debris may pass down the cone to join the contents of the collecting tube.

When successive ejaculates are being collected, a new artificial vagina should be used for each mounting. The vagina should also be changed when the animal has inserted its penis without ejaculating.

The collecting tubes should be sterile, and either disposable or sterilised by autoclaving or heating in an oven at 180°C for at least 30 minutes. They should be kept sealed to prevent exposure to the environment while awaiting use.

After semen collection, the tube should be left attached to the cone and within its sleeve until it has been removed from the collection room for transfer to the laboratory.

Article 4.6.7 applies.
Conditions applicable to the handling of semen and preparation of semen samples in the laboratory
Diluents

All receptacles used should have been sterilised.

Buffer solutions employed in diluents prepared on the premises should be sterilised by filtration (0.22 µm) or by autoclaving (121°C for 30 minutes) or be prepared using sterile water before adding egg yolk (if applicable) or equivalent additive and antibiotics.

If the constituents of a diluent are supplied in commercially available powder form, the water used should have been distilled or demineralised, sterilised (121°C for 30 minutes or equivalent), stored correctly and allowed to cool before use.

Whenever milk, egg yolk or any other animal protein is used in preparing the semen diluent, the product should be free from pathogenic agents or sterilised; milk heat-treated at 92°C for 3–5 minutes, eggs from SPF flocks when available.

When egg yolk is used, it should be separated from eggs using aseptic techniques. Alternatively, commercial egg yolk prepared for human consumption or egg yolk treated by, for example, pasteurisation or irradiation to reduce bacterial contamination, may be used. Other additives should also be sterilised before use.

Diluent should not be stored for more than 72 hours at +5°C before use. A longer storage period is permissible for storage at -20°C. Storage vessels should be stoppered.

A mixture of antibiotics should be included with a bactericidal activity at least equivalent to that of the following mixtures in each ml of frozen semen: gentamicin (250 µg), tylosin (50 µg), lincomycin–spectinomycin (150/300 µg); penicillin (500 IU), streptomycin (500 µg), lincomycin-spectinomycin (150/300 µg); or amikacin (75 µg), divekacin (25 µg).

The names of the antibiotics added and their concentration should be stated in the international veterinary certificate.

Procedure for dilution and packing
The tube containing freshly collected semen should be sealed as soon as possible after collection, and kept sealed until processed.

After dilution and during refrigeration, the semen should also be kept in a stoppered container.

During the course of filling receptacles for dispatch (such as insemination straws), the receptacles and other disposable items should be used immediately after being unpacked. Materials for repeated use should be disinfected with alcohol, ethylene oxide, steam or other approved disinfection techniques.

If sealing powder is used, care should be taken to avoid its being contaminated.

Conditions applicable to the storage and identification of frozen semen
Semen for export should be stored in straws separately from other genetic material not meeting the requirements of this chapter with fresh liquid nitrogen in sterilised/sanitised flasks before being exported.

Semen straws should be sealed and code marked in line with the international standards of the International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR).

Prior to export, semen straws should clearly and permanently be identified and placed into new liquid nitrogen in a new or sterilised flask or container under the supervision of an Official Veterinarian. The contents of the container or flask should be verified by the Official Veterinarian prior to sealing with an official numbered seal before export and accompanied by an international veterinary certificate listing the contents and the number of the official seal.

Sperm sorting
Equipment used for sex-sorting sperm should be clean and disinfected between animals in accordance with the recommendations of the licencer of the system.

Where seminal plasma, or components thereof, is added to sorted semen prior to cryopreservation and storage, it should be derived from animals of same or better health status.

Semen straws containing sex-sorted sperm should be permanently identified as such.

8. 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, 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.

9. Sealing of the transport container

Paragraph V.u) 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 V.u) 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.u). 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 V.u) 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.**

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