EXPORT OF IN VIVO DERIVED OVINE EMBRYOS 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 8161 EHC and its continuation 8161 CON. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificates 8161 EHC and 8161 CON.

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 8161 EHC may be used for the export of in vivo derived ovine embryos from the United Kingdom to Argentina.

Please note that the export health certificate 8161 EHC is in two parts, 8161 EHC PART A and 8161 CON PART B, and there is also a supplementary certificate 8161SUP 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. Schedules

Paragraph IV refers: Separate schedules may be used to identify the animals certified. These schedules must contain the same information as that required in paragraph IV) and paragraph IV must be annotated "See attached schedules". 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 schedule 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 paragraph IV must be deleted with diagonal lines.

SPECIMEN

4. **Import permit**

No. of authorisation / import permit refers: 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 under No. of authorisation / import permit towards the top of page 1 of 8161EHC.

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

Paragraphs V.1.1, V.1.2.1, V.4.1.3, V.4.1.7 and V.5.1.3 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 Specialist Service Centre – Exports - at Carlisle or the issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland.

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

Paragraphs V.3.2, V.4.1 (all sub-sections), V.5.2, V.6.1, V.6.2, V.6.3 and V.6.4 refer. OVs may certify these paragraphs based on personal knowledge of the embryo collection team and centre, or supporting certification from the ET team veterinarian. The term "officially reported" used in paragraph V.4.1 can also include non-notifiable diseases specifically diagnosed by a veterinarian. If further guidance is required, CIT / DAERA should be contacted.

V.1.3.
With respect to Scrapie

Paragraph V.1.3.1 may be certified on the basis of the UK (England and the other DAs) TSE Regulations, together with the necessary APHA Scrapie Notification Disease (SND) database checks (see below) which implement this paragraph.

To comply with the OIE recommendations at V.1.3.1, the donors have to originate from holdings which have a classical scrapie negligible risk status (ie have undergone active monitoring for at least 7 years) as listed in the Scottish Rural College (SRUC) Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (SMS) – http://www.sruc.ac.uk/info/120113/premium_sheep_and_goat_health_schemes/511/diseases_covered/5 .

SND checks:

If the Embryo Collection Veterinarian is not the veterinarian overseeing the holdings where the donors have resided since birth, due enquiries must be made to enable this sub-paragraph to be fully certified.

The owner/exporter **and** an authorised Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed to the appropriate panel for export purposes by Defra, the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government, or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation may need to liaise in order to complete paragraph V.1.3.1.

Close liaison with the Embryo Collection Veterinarian is required to ensure that the movement of donor ewes to the Embryo Collection Establishment can be co-ordinated since an all-in / all-out procedure may be necessary; the OV may choose to use the Embryo Collection Veterinarian to submit requests for clearances, in which case the Embryo Collection Veterinarian must submit details for all the donors (from which embryos are intended for certification) to CIT. CIT would then arrange for the details (CPHH, Name and address of holdings of birth and residence), and if necessary (e.g. if the dam of the donor is not available or it is dead), identity details of the parents of the donors to be sent to APHA, Weybridge, preferably collated and by e-mail. APHA, Weybridge will check for confirmed cases of Scrapie on the holdings which the donor ewes have resided in. If confirmed cases

SPECIMEN

are identified, further searches will be made on the Scrapie Notification Database to determine if the Scrapie was confirmed during the time that the donors were resident on the holding and whether they are the progeny of any dam/sire confirmed with scrapie. If satisfactory, paragraph V.l.3.1 can then be fully certified by the OV. The submission of the search request to CIT must be made in good time to allow the search to be completed in time.

7. **Embryo collection and processing team (Paragraph V.2 refers)**

Besides being approved by Defra in accordance with EU legislation, the team – and the processing laboratory - must also comply with any additional conditions stipulated in Chapter 4.7 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code Appendix at:

http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_coll_embryo_equid.htm

In practice, if the Team has been approved by Defra, the OIE requirements are deemed to have been complied with.

8. **Semen used to inseminate donor animals (paragraph V.4.1.8 refers)**

Please note that paragraph V.4.1.8 of the certificate requires the semen with which the donor animals are inseminated to "meet the health conditions laid down by MERCOSUR for the importation of ovine semen into Argentina". These are covered in 8160EHC, Export of Ovine Semen to Argentina. Therefore, if it is intended to use fresh semen to inseminate the donor animals, it follows that the isolation unit within which the animals are being held for collection of embryos for Argentina cannot be located on a farm and must be within an officially recognised semen collection centre which qualifies semen from donor rams according to the conditions set out in 8160EHC.

9. **Residency of the donor ewes in the UK**

Paragraph V.3.1 refers: If necessary, details in the Animal Reporting and Movement Service (ARAMS)
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sheep-and-goat-keepers-how-to-report-animal-movements
may be checked to establish whether paragraphs V.3.1 can be signed.

10. **Laboratory tests**

The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out pre-export testing is officially approved for this purpose by DEFRA or DAERA. Such approval is given on the basis that these tests are carried out in accordance with the Terrestrial Manual of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

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 VLA 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

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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.

11. Testing for Enzootic Abortion of Ewes (EAE)

Paragraph V.5.2.2 refers: The result of a Complement Fixation Test (CFT) for EAE should be regarded as negative at a titre of less than 1 in 32.

12. Sealing of the transport container

Paragraph V.7.1 refers: 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 and the date of sealing must be entered at paragraph V.7.1 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. Topping up should be done in the presence of an Official Veterinarian (OV) who ;langV.7.1 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.**

13. 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.

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