

SEMEN OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS OF THE BOVINE SPECIES FOR IMPORTATION FROM MEMBER STATES OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INTO THE TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) AND EXPORTER

****SEMEN MUST HAVE BEEN COLLECTED ON OR AFTER 31 DECEMBER 2004**

Associated Documents: 7658EHC, 7658SUP (for England-origin exports ONLY) and 618NDC.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7658EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7658EHC.

ALTHOUGH CERTIFICATE 7658EHC IS IDENTICAL TO CERTIFICATE 6183EHC FOR THE EXPORT OF BOVINE SEMEN TO THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, IT HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY AGREED WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN THE TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS.

Exporters are therefore 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. They should obtain an import permit and check this certificate against the requirements of the import permit.

If the health requirements do not match, the exporter may choose to proceed with the export using certificate 7658EHC BUT STRICTLY AT EXPORTERS RISK.

NOTE: BLUETONGUE RESTRICTIONS

The Authorities of the Turkish Republic imposed bluetongue related restrictions on bovine semen collected and stored in England, as of 1st October 2007. However, these bluetongue restrictions no longer apply to bovine semen collected from donor bulls which have been satisfactorily tested for Bluetongue Disease.

Therefore, for bovine semen collected in England, supplementary certificate 7658SUP MUST be completed on the basis that the donor animals described on the 7658EHC have been subjected to the bluetongue antibody or agent identification test with negative results. The original signed 7658SUP must be attached to the corresponding 7658EHC accompanying the consignment to its final destination. In this case, paragraph 10.4(i) of the 7658EHC may be certified on the basis of the completed 7658SUP and paragraph 10.4(ii) deleted.

Bovine semen collected and stored outside England (i.e. in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland only) may be exported using certificate 7658EHC only - i.e. without the 7658SUP. In these cases, paragraph 10.4(ii) should be deleted and paragraph 10.4(i) should be certified on the basis that the donor animals have met one or more of the following requirements:

- i. they have been kept outside a BTV restricted zone for a period of at least 60 days before commencement of, and during, collection of the semen;
- ii. they have been protected from attack from Culicoides likely to be competent BTV vectors for a period of at least 60 days before commencement of, and during, collection of the semen;
- iii. they have been subjected to a serological test according to the OIE Terrestrial Manual to detect antibodies to the BTV group, with negative results, at least every 60 days during the collection period and

between 21 and 60 days following the final collection for this consignment;

- iv. they have been subjected, with negative results, to an agent identification test for BTV according to the OIE Terrestrial Manual carried out on blood samples collected:
 - (a) at commencement and final collection; and
 - (b) during the period of semen collection for this consignment:
 - i. at least every seven days, in the case of a virus isolation test;
 - ii. at least every 28 days, in the case of a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test.

1. **Scope of the certificate**

The certificate 7658EHC covers the export of fresh or frozen bovine semen, collected on or after 31 December 2004, to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The semen must have been collected and stored at an EC approved Semen Collection Centre.

Exporters and certifying official veterinarians must take particular note of the information on disclaimers at paragraph 9.

2. **Certification by an Official Veterinarian**

This certificate may be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or an Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government, or by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland (DARD), who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate export panel for export purposes.

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 Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) Centre for International Trade, 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. **Council Directive 88/407/EEC**

The certifying Official Veterinarian must be conversant with the provisions of the Council Directive 88/407/EEC (as amended), which lays down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-community trade in, and imports of, semen of domestic animals of the bovine species.

4. **Declaration of Country Freedom /618NDC clearance**

The Official Veterinarian may certify paragraphs 10.3.(iii), 10.4 (ii) and 10.5 (ii) in respect of the United Kingdom on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC **from the AHVLA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle or the issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland.**

5. **Herd of Origin health status**

Paragraph 10.1. (b) refers. This paragraph can be certified based on compliance with Annex B, Chapter I points (b) and (c) of Council Directive 88/407/EC (as amended) as follows:

- prior to their stay in the isolation accommodation, the bulls belonged to a herd which is officially tuberculosis free and officially brucellosis free in accordance with Directive 64/432/EEC. The animals may not previously have been kept in one or more herds of a lower status.

- the bulls came from a herd free of enzootic bovine leucosis as defined in Directive 64/432/EEC, or have been produced by dams which have been subjected, with negative results, to an agar gel immunodiffusion test, carried out in accordance with Annex G of Directive 64/432/EEC, after removal of the animals from their dam. In the case of animals derived by embryo transfer, "dam" means the recipient of the semen may not be the subject of trade until the donor has reached the age of two years and has been tested in accordance with Chapter II, 1 (iii) of 64/432/EEC with a negative result.

6. **Residency**

It is not necessary for the donors to have been resident at the Semen Collection Centre for 12 months prior to collection of semen for export to Turkey, but if they have been resident for more than 12 months and have not had the annual tests, the semen is not eligible for export.

7. **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 AHVLA Laboratory, New Haw, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB, (Tel: 01932 341111). Some tests are carried out at AHVLA Lasswade, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0PZ, (Tel: 0131 445 6169). Certain specialist tests are carried out at regional AHVLA 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 AHVLA 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.

8. **Sealing of the transport containers**

Note that 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 of the seal should be given at section 6 on the health certificate. If it is necessary to top-up the container, this should be done in the presence of an official veterinarian who should apply a new tamperproof seal and endorse section 6 with the new seal number, giving his signature and name and dating and stamping the endorsement in the margin of the certificate in ink of a colour not black.

9. **Disclaimer**

Exporters and certifying official veterinarians must be aware that, although this export health certificate, 7658EHC, is identical to certificate 6183EHC for the export of bovine semen to the Republic of Turkey, it has not been officially agreed with the authorities in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Accordingly, the exporter and the Official Veterinarian must note that use of 7658EHC for export of bovine semen to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is used at the exporter's risk. Official veterinarians should ensure that the exporter is aware of this.

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 are available. If official advice is provided by authorities in the importing country or if an import permit is provided, the exporter must copy these to the AHVLA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle. If the advice or the permit do not match the assurances provided on 7658EHC, the exporter should contact the AHVLA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle via the link below:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/imports-exports/international-trade/>

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