

No:

EXPORT OF BOVINE SEMEN FROM FMD-FREE MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - 138EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE CERTIFYING VETERINARIANS

1. Scope of the certificate

This certificate covers the export of bovine semen from FMD-free Member States of the European Union to the United States of America.

In addition to non-sexed semen, it can be used for sexed semen either collected in the EU Member State where the semen sexing facility is located or imported from the USA meeting all EU import requirements.

Please note that the certificate can only be used for semen, whether sexed or non-sexed, collected in the EU Member State of export or imported from the USA meeting all EU import requirements.

2. Signing of the certificate

The health certificate must be signed at paragraph 12, Section A of Part D by the Centre Veterinarian (i.e. Authorised Veterinary Surgeon at the Semen Collection/Storage Centre). A Veterinary Officer of the Department must sign the certificate at paragraph 14, Section B of Part D.

Please note:

At paragraph 11.5 and again at paragraph 11.11.1 the Centre Veterinarian (CV) is required to certify that certain actions took place "under my supervision". This implies that only semen collected and processed whilst the certifying CV was in post can be certified. However, for semen collected and processed at other times, providing the certifying CV has documentary proof that these actions were carried out under the supervision of the CV in post at that time, he or she can sign these paragraphs as written.

Please also note:

Section B of Part D of 138EHC suggests it can be signed by an Official Veterinarian. However, in the case of exports to USA, an Official Veterinarian is considered to be a Veterinary Officer of the Department, so you must approach the local office of the Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA) or, in the case of Northern Ireland, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), Dundonald House, Belfast, to arrange countersignature.

VOs should affix their SP stamp to the certificate in the normal manner. The VO should retain a copy for record keeping purposes, and, if not based at the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle, should also forward a copy to them, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DARD, Dundonald House, Belfast, within seven days of signing.

The health certificate must be signed and stamped in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK.**

3. Import Permit

It is the responsibility of the importer to obtain an import permit in advance from USDA/APHIS/VS. Enquiries should be addressed to:- National Center for Import And Export, Import/Export Animals, 4700 River Road, Unit 39, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231 - Telephone (301) 734-3277 or Facsimile (301) 734-8226.

4. **Council Directives**

In order to complete this certificate it is necessary to be familiar with the relevant EC Directives. These can be obtained from HMSO or established bookshops. Generally speaking, semen that is produced in accordance with the EC Directive 88/407/EEC, as amended by 2003/43/EC, will be certifiable under this certificate.

5. **Bovine Viral Diarrhoea - Mucosal Disease (BVD-MD) virus**

Paragraph 11.2.5 refers. This only applies to BVD-MD serologically positive bulls, and is reflected in the EC Directive which requires a test, prior to the initial dispatch of semen from BVD-MD serologically positive bulls, of a semen sample from each animal for virus using the virus isolation test for BVD-MD. In the event of a positive result (i.e. if the 'Cumulus' phenomenon is demonstrated), the bull should be removed from the centre and all of its semen destroyed i.e. should not be certified for trade.

NB The reference to Article 4.5.5 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code is incorrect, due to renumbering of the Chapters. However, the certificate may be signed as it is written.

6. **Sex-sorted semen**

For sex-sorted semen, a 'Cleaning and Disinfection' protocol needs to be in place to ensure there is no cross contamination between semen from SBV seropositive and SBV seronegative bulls when these batches are sex-sorted using the same machines. The machines are expensive and have tubes which need to be cleansed and disinfected in situ, so these need to be flushed/rinsed using a combination of proprietary cleansing agents, bleach and viricidal, alternating with purified water. APHIS studies these protocols and if satisfied, publish the names of the sex-sorting semen collection laboratories on their website:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/import-live-animals/ct-approved-bovine-semen-sexsorting-facilities>.

Import permits will only be issued for semen sex-sorted in these laboratories, provided:

- The semen was collected in an EU approved semen collection centre in the same country (ie semen sex-sorted in the UK needs to be collected in the UK); and
- There is effective supervision of the process by:
 - o The Centre Veterinarian
 - o The APHA/DARD veterinarian responsible for auditing the centre/laboratory

7. **Support assurances from Centre Veterinarian to enable certain paragraphs in Section B to be signed by the Veterinary Officer**

The Centre Veterinarian must provide the assurances required at Paragraph 13.3, Paragraphs 13.6 to 13.12 and Paragraph 13.14 of Section B to the Veterinary Officer to enable these paragraphs to be signed. With regard to Paragraph 13.3, the intention is that the requirement must be met at the time the donor animals were admitted into the SCC. With regard to Paragraph 13.7, the list of countries considered by the USDA to free from FMD and rinderpest can be found by following the link provided below.

8. **Freedom from FMD and Rinderpest**

Paragraphs 13.1. and 13.7. refer. The list of countries recognised by the United States Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A.) to be free from foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest can be found by reference to Title 9, Chapter 94.1 of the CFR ([United States] Code of Federal Regulations), as updated from time to time at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_disease_status.shtml

9. **Diagnostic tests**

Paragraph 13.5 refers. Tests performed at APHA laboratories and the VSD laboratory, Stormont, can be deemed to comply with the methodologies set out in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Manual.

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#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>

or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DARD at Dundonald House, Belfast.