No: .....

EXPORT OF IN VIVO DERIVED BOVINE EMBRYOS FROM FMD-FREE MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF TEAM VETERINARIANS, OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

1. **Scope**

Certificate 6387EHC must be used to accompany in-vivo bovine embryos from the United Kingdom to the United States of America.

USDA APHIS Veterinary Services have confirmed on 19 August 2020 that this certificate can also be used to accompany in-vitro derived bovine embryos to the USA.

A separate certificate must be issued for each consignment of embryos.

The original of this certificate must accompany the shipment.

2. **Signing of the certificate**

The health certificate must be signed at paragraph 12, Section A of Part D, by the Team Veterinarian of the Embryo Collection Team. A Veterinary Officer of the Department must sign the certificate at paragraph 14, Section B of Part D.

Please note: Section B of Part D of 6387EHC 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**.

Section A

3. **Tuberculosis/Brucellosis**

Paragraphs 11.1 and 11.5 refer. Paragraph 11.1 refers to clinical or pathological evidence, but not test evidence. If there is clinical or pathological evidence of either disease on a holding, it is unlikely that restrictions on the holding will be lifted within 12 months of the slaughter of the animal. If the donor has not been resident during the 12 months prior to collection on the holding from which the embryos were collected, the Team Veterinarian must ensure that such evidence was not found in all other holdings on which the donor was resident during this period e.g. by contacting the owner/s or their veterinarian/s or the local APHA office/s. Officially free at paragraph 11.5 means officially tuberculosis free (OTF) in accordance with Directive 64/432/EEC, i.e. there must be no

unresolved IR to the tuberculin test present on the holding at the time of collection.

4. **Inspection during the 60 days prior to the collection of embryos**

Paragraph 11.3 refers. USDA have not specified whether veterinary inspection must take place. To ensure that the requirements are met, it is advisable for the Team Veterinarian to inspect at the beginning of the 60 day period, and advise the owner/keeper on the isolation/separation required.

5. **Semen used to fertilise the embryos**

Paragraph 11.7 refers. Semen used must meet the requirements of Directive 88/407/EEC for intra-Community trade, as amended. Those countries considered by the USDA as being free from FMD and rinderpest are listed in Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations Part 94.1 on the USDA website – see below. Semen collected during 15/01/2001 to 17/12/2002 in Great Britain, or during 10/02/2001 to 05/11/2001 in Northern Ireland, (dates inclusive) cannot be used for fertilisation of the embryos intended for export to the U.S.A. This is because the USDA had suspended the FMD free status of GB/NI during these periods.

Use of sexed semen – paragraph 11.7.1 refers:

If sexed semen was used to fertilize the embryos to be exported, paragraphs 11.7.1.1 and 11.7.1.2 must be certified. To enable this to be done, the Team Veterinarian must seek assurances from the Centre Veterinarian at the semen collection centre that supplied the sexed 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 a virucidal, 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_approvedeu-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 need to be collected in the UK); and
- There is effective supervision of the process by:
  - The Centre Veterinarian
  - The APHA/DARD veterinarian responsible for auditing the centre/laboratory

Section B

6. **Freedom from Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Rinderpest**

Paragraph 13.1 refers. Those countries considered by the USDA as being free from FMD and rinderpest are listed in Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations Part 94.1 on the USDA website – see below. Embryos collected during 15/01/2001 to 17/12/2002 in Great Britain, or during 10/02/2001 to 05/11/2001 in Northern Ireland, (dates inclusive) are not eligible for export, or for

use for export, to the U.S.A. This is because the USDA had suspended the FMD free status of GB/NI during these periods.

7. **Freedom from Classical Swine Fever and African Swine Fever**
Paragraph 13.6 refers. Those countries considered by the USDA as being free from CSF but affected with ASF are similarly listed in Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations on the USDA website.

8. **Embryo Collection Team Veterinarians**
Paragraph 13.4 refers. The rules for trade in bovine embryos are laid down in Council Directive 89/556/EC (as amended). Team Veterinarians responsible for approved embryo collection teams must be fully conversant with the rules laid down in this Directive.

9. **Support assurances from Team Veterinarian to enable certain paragraphs in Section B to be signed by the Official Veterinarian**
The Team Veterinarian must provide the assurances required at Paragraphs 13.3 to 13.7 of Section B to the Veterinary Officer to enable these paragraphs to be signed. Trypsin collected during 15/01/2001 to 17/12/2002 in Great Britain, or during 10/02/2001 to 05/11/2001 in Northern Ireland, (dates inclusive) cannot be used for washing embryos intended for export to the USA. This is because the USDA had suspended the FMD free status of GB/NI during these periods.

With regard to Paragraph 13.6, the list of countries considered by the USDA to free from FMD and rinderpest can be found by following the link provided on the certificate.

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.