

**EXPORT OF EQUINE SEMEN TO OMAN**

**NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER**

**1. SCOPE**

Health certificate 4680EHC may be used to accompany consignments of equine semen exported to Oman and collected, processed and stored on EC approved equine semen collection centres and storage centres.

**2. Identification of horses**

Paragraph I refers. All donor stallions and teaser mares must be identified. The identity of each animal must be confirmed whenever it is examined, collected from, sampled or treated. In the absence of a passport and if there is no other means of identification such as a tattoo or microchip, the Official Veterinarian should prepare a silhouette for use while the animal is on the collection centre. This silhouette should be retained by the Official Veterinarian and filed with a copy of each semen export health certificate which is issued for that animal.

**3. Approval of the semen collection centre and storage facilities**

Paragraphs V (a) and (f) refer. The semen collection centre and storage facilities must be approved and registered by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for the purpose of intra-Community trade in equine semen and supervised by an Official Veterinarian. A copy of Chapter I, Annex D laying out the conditions for the approval of the semen collection centre is attached at Appendix I. Paragraphs V (a) and (f) may be certified if the conditions of Chapter I, Annex D are met and if the semen for export has been stored in facilities approved by the Department. Exporters and Official Veterinarians should contact the local DVM for details of the procedures for approving semen collection centres and storage facilities.

**4. Disease Clearance**

Paragraph V (b) refers. The Official Veterinarian should obtain written confirmation from the DVM that Great Britain was free of African horse sickness during the relevant period.

Paragraph V (e) refers. The Official Veterinarian should obtain written declarations from the owner of the donor stallion and if necessary, from other Veterinary Surgeons responsible for the holdings where the stallions has been kept during the relevant periods.

**5. Submission of samples for testing**

Paragraphs V (i), (j), (k), (m), (n) and (o) refer. Where semen collection and testing of the stallion takes place in Great Britain all swabs for CEM testing must be sent to Penrith Regional AHVLA laboratory. All blood samples and semen samples for the EVA virus isolation test, should be sent to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Weybridge.

All CEM swabs from individual animal must be submitted to the same laboratory, and must arrive at the laboratory within 48 hours of sampling. If more than 10 swabs are to be submitted, prior notice should be given to the laboratory. A separate laboratory report form must accompany each sample.

Where semen collection and testing of the stallion took place in another European Community country, details of CEM swabs and blood tests will be found on the export health certificate which accompanied the semen when it was imported from the European Community country of collection to Great Britain.

**6. Collection, processing, storage and transport of the semen**

Paragraph V (p) refers. A copy of Chapter III, Annex D of Directive 92/65/EEC is attached, at Appendix II. Paragraph V (p) may be certified if the conditions of Chapter III, Annex D are met.

**7. Transport**

Paragraph IV refers. The exporter is responsible for provision of the tamperproof seal. The flask should be sealed under the supervision of the Official Veterinarian and the seal number entered at paragraph IV.

**8. Completion of the health certificate**

The Official Veterinarian must complete sign, stamp and date the export health certificate in ink of any colour other than black.

**9. Issuing the health certificate and return a copy to the DVM**

The Official Veterinarian must make two photocopies of the export health certificate (EHC). The original EHC must be given to the exporter. One copy must be retained by the Official Veterinarian and one copy must be returned to the Divisional Veterinary Manager as soon as possible after completion and no later than 7 days after the date of export.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
1A Page Street  
London  
SW1P 4PQ

## ANNEX D

## CHAPTER I

1. *Conditions governing the approval of semen collection centres*

Semen collection centres must:

1. be placed under the supervision of a "centre veterinarian";
2. have at least
  - (a) lockable animal accommodation and if required for equidae an exercise area which are physically separated from the collection facilities, the processing and storing rooms;
  - (b) isolation facilities which have no direct communication with the normal animal accommodation;
  - (c) semen collection facilities including a separate room for the cleansing and disinfection or sterilisation of equipment;
  - (d) a semen processing room separated from the collection facilities which need not necessarily be on the same site;
  - (e) a semen storage room which need not necessarily be on the same site;
3. be so constructed or isolated that contact with outside livestock is prevented;
4. be so constructed that the entire centre except the office rooms and, in the case of equidae, the exercise area can be readily cleaned and disinfected.

II. *Conditions for the supervision of semen collection centres*

Semen collection centres must:

1. be supervised that they contain only animals of the species whose semen is to be collected;

However, other domestic animals may be admitted, provided that they present no risk of infection to those species whose semen is to be collected and they fulfil the conditions laid down by the centre veterinarian.

If in the case of equidae the collection centre shares a site with an artificial insemination or service centre, then mares, teaser stallions and stallions for natural service are admitted provided they meet the requirements of Annex D Chapter II paragraph A(1), (2), (3) and (4);
2. be monitored to ensure that records are kept which show:
  - the species, breed, date of birth and identification of each animal present in the centre,
  - any movement of animals entering or leaving the centre,
  - the health history and all diagnostic tests and the results thereof, treatments and vaccinations carried out on animals kept,
  - the date of collecting and processing semen,
  - the destination of semen,
  - the storage of semen;
3. be inspected by an official veterinarian during the breeding season at least once a year in the case of animals with seasonal breeding and twice a year in the case of non-seasonal reproduction in order to consider and verify all matters relating to the conditions of approval and supervision;

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4. be so supervised that the entry of unauthorised persons is prevented. Furthermore, authorised visitors must be required to comply with the conditions laid down by the centre veterinarian;
  5. employ competent staff who have received adequate training on disinfection and hygiene techniques to prevent the spread of disease;
  6. be monitored to ensure that:
    - none of the animals kept in the centre is used for natural breeding at least 30 days prior to first semen collection and during the collection period,
    - the collection, processing and storage of semen is carried out only in premises set aside for these purposes,
    - all utensils coming into contact with the semen or the donor animal during collection or processing are either properly disinfected or sterilised prior to use or new, disposable and discarded after use,  
  
If, in the case of equidae, the collection centre shares a site with an artificial insemination centre or a service centre, there must be a strict separation between instruments and equipment for artificial insemination or natural service and instruments and equipment coming into contact with donor animals or other animals kept in the collection centre and the semen.
    - products of animal origin such as diluents, additives or extenders are used in the processing of the semen, which present no animal health risk or which have undergone prior treatment to preclude such risk,
    - in the case of frozen or chilled semen cryogenic agents are used, which had not been used previously for other products of animal origin,
    - any receptacle for the storage or transport of semen is either disinfected or sterilised as appropriate prior to use or new, disposable and discarded after use;
  7. ensure that each individual dose of semen is indelibly identified in such a way that the Member State of origin, date of collection, the species, the breed, the identity of the donor animal and the name and/or number of the approved centre which collected the semen may be established.
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## CHAPTER III

## REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO SEMEN, OVA AND EMBRYOS

Semen, ova and embryos must have been collected, processed and preserved in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) The washing of ova and embryos even in the case of equidae must be carried out in accordance with conditions to be laid down in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 26. Pending the adoption of such condition, international standards are applicable.

The zona pellucide of ova and embryos must remain intact before and after washing.

Only ova and embryos from the same donor may be washed at the same time.

After washing, the zona pellucida of each ovum or embryo must be examined over its entire surface area under a magnification of at least 50 and be certified as being intact and free from any adherent material.

- (b) The medium and solutions used for collection, processing (examination, washing and treatment), conservation or freezing of ova and embryos must be sterilised in accordance with approved methods and handled in such a way that they remain sterile.

Antibiotics must be added to the collection, washing and conservation mediums for ova and embryos and to the diluents for semen. If necessary detailed rules will be determined under the procedure provided for in Article 26.

- (c) All materials used for the collection, processing, conservation or freezing of semen, ova and embryos must be either disinfected or sterilised as appropriate before use or new, disposable and discarded after use.

- (d) Additional tests may be established under the procedure provided for in Article 26, in particular as regards the collection of washing liquids, so as to establish that no pathogens are present.

- (e) Ova and embryos, which have successfully undergone the examination provided for in (a), and semen shall be placed in sterile containers, which are duly identified, contain only products from one male or female donor and are sealed immediately.

The identification to be established under the procedure provided for in Article 26 shall ensure that at least the country of origin, the date of collection, the species, the breed, the identity of the donor animal and the name and/or the number of the collection centre/team may be established.

- (f) Frozen semen, ova and embryos must be placed in sterile liquid nitrogen containers which present no risk of contamination to the product.

- (g) Frozen semen, ova and embryos must be stored in approved conditions for a minimum period of 30 days prior to dispatch.

- (h) Semen, ova and embryos must be transported in containers which either have been cleaned, disinfected or sterilised as appropriate before use or are new, disposable and discarded after use.