**No:** .............

**EXPORT OF EQUINE SEMEN TO SAUDI ARABIA**

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

1. **Scope**

 **Export health certificate 6108EHC may be used to accompany fresh, chilled or frozen equine semen from Great Britain to Saudi Arabia.**

2. **Import permit**

 Permission to import must be obtained from Saudi Arabia Ministry of Agriculture,Animal and Quarantine Branch. In order to obtain an Import Permit, an application form must be submitted to the Saudi Arabian Authorities. Tel/Fax: 00 9661 401 1323 or 00 9661 404 4292

3. **Identification of horses**

 Paragraph I refers. It is essential that all stallions and teaser mares are correctly identified and that the identity of each animal is 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.

4. **Approval of the Semen Collection Centre**

 Paragraph V (a) refers. The centre must be registered by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs supervised by an Official Veterinarian and approved by the Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM). The exporter should apply to the local Animal Health Divisional Office for approval of a centre. Official Veterinarians should check at the time of certification that the semen collection centre complies with the requirements for approval. See Check List 6108CKL.

5. **Check List 6108CKL**

 Paragraphs V (a) and (e) refer. Paragraphs V (a) and (e) of export health certificate 6108EHC refer to requirements laid down in Chapters I and III of Annex D to Council Directive 92/65/EEC. Paragraphs V (a) and (e) may be signed provided that all the questions in the Check List 6108EHC can be answered in the affirmative.

6. **Council Directive 90/426/EEC**

 Paragraph IV of the Check List 6108EHC refers. The requirements for equidae entering the centre are laid down in Articles 4 and 5 of Council Directive 90/426/EEC (see Annex A - 6108ANA). For holdings in GB, the Official Veterinarian should check the status of the holding of origin as necessary with the veterinary surgeon responsible for these premises and the local DVM. All equidae legally imported directly into the centre from another EU Member State or approved third country must meet the requirements of Directive 90/426/EEC. The Official Veterinarian should see the health certificate which accompanied the animal on importation or in the case of imports from third countries, the border crossing certificate issued at the Border Inspection Post of entry into the Community. In case of doubt, the DVM should be consulted.

7. **Status of the donor stallion prior to entering the collection centre**

 Paragraph V (c) refers. The Official Veterinarian should receive a written declaration from the owner stating the premises where the horse has been resident during the 60 days prior to semen collection and that the horse had not been exposed to equidae suffering from an infectious or contagious disease both in the 15 days prior to admission to the centre, in the 15 days prior to semen collection and in the 30 days after collection. The declaration should also confirm that the horse has not been used for natural service during at least the 30 days prior to semen collection and during the collection period. The Official Veterinarian should make due enquiry as to the validity of the declaration and to the disease status of the holdings were the horse has been kept.

8. **Storage of semen**

 Paragraph V (d) refers. Semen must be stored either in approved facilities on the approved centre the semen was collected or on another DEFRA approved storage facility. In case of doubt, the Official Veterinarian or exporter should consult the DVM.

9. **Sealing of the transport container**

 Paragraph IV (e) refers. The exporter is responsible for provision of the tamper-proof seal used to seal the transport container under the Official Veterinarian’s supervision. The seal number should be entered at paragraph IV (e).

10. **Completion of the health certificate**

 The export health certificate must be signed and stamped with the Official Veterinarian stamp in ink of any colour other than black.

11. **Return of copy certificate and check list to the DVM**

 A copy of the completed certificate and check list 6108CKL should be returned to the DVM within 7 days of signing.

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