

EXPORT OF EQUINE SEMEN TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

1. **Scope**
Export health certificate 4208EHC may be used to accompany frozen equine semen exported from the UK to South Africa.

2. **Import Permit**
An import permit must be obtained from the Directorate of Animal Health, Republic of South Africa at the following address:

Directorate of Animal Health
Import/Export Control
Private Bag x 138
Pretoria 0001
Republic of South Africa

Tel: 00 2712 3197514
Fax: 00 2712 3298292

On arrival in South Africa, the semen will be subject to post import controls and tests as specified in the import permit.

3. **Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)**
This certificate may be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or a Local Veterinary Inspector (LVI) appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government, 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) Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at 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.

4. **Identification of horses**
Paragraph I refers. It is essential that all horses on the semen collection centre are correctly identified and that the identity of each animal is confirmed whenever it is examined, collected from, sampled or treated. All horses must be uniquely identified by a valid passport (and a microchip in the case of equidae born or identified for the first time on or after 1 July 2009) in accordance with Council Directive 90/426/EEC and Regulation (EC) No. 504/2008.

5. **Approval of the Semen Collection Centre**
Paragraph V (a) of 4208EHC refers. The centre must be approved for EU trade under Directive 92/65/EEC by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and supervised by an Official Veterinarian. The exporter/operator should apply to the local AHVLA office for approval of the centre. Official Veterinarians should check at the time of certification that the semen collection centre complies with the requirements for intra-EU trade - see Annex A of the guidance for intra-EU Trade in equine semen for further information <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animal-trade/files/Equine-Semen-nfg2.pdf>.

6. **Admission of horses onto the Centre - Articles 4 and 5 of Council Directive 90/426/EEC (the codified version of which is Council Directive 2009/156/EC)**

Paragraph V (d) of 4208EHC refers. Articles 4 and 5 of Council Directive 90/426/EEC apply to movement of equidae within the UK and between EU Member States. In order to comply with these Articles, equidae entering the semen collection centre during the period of residence of the donor, semen collection and storage should meet the following requirements:

- (a) be identified by an identification document (passport)
- (b) show no clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease;
- (c) as far as can be determined and on the basis of an owner's declaration) have not been in contact with equidae suffering from infectious or contagious disease during the 15 days prior to entry;
- (d) come from a country or region free of African horse sickness;
- (e) come from a holding which was not subject to official prohibition for following reasons:
 - due to equine encephalomyelitis during the previous 6 months;
 - due to equine infectious anaemia, for 3 months after the date when, the infected animals have been slaughtered and the remaining animals have shown a negative result in two Coggins tests carried out 3 months apart;
 - due to vesicular stomatitis during the previous six months;
 - due to rabies for one month from the last recorded case;
 - due to anthrax for 15 days from the last recorded case;

However: if all the animals of species susceptible to the above diseases located on the holding were slaughtered and the premises disinfected, the period of prohibition is 30 days, beginning on the day on which the animals were destroyed and the premises disinfected, except in the case of anthrax, where the period of prohibition is 15 days.

If the Official Veterinarian has no knowledge of the disease status of the holding of origin of any equidae on the centre, the DVM should be consulted.

Further information can be found at Annex B of the guidance for intra-EU Trade in equine semen: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animal-trade/files/Equine-Semen-nfg2.pdf>.

7. **Residency in the United Kingdom**

Paragraph VI (a) refers. The Official Veterinarian should receive a written declaration of residency from the owner or agent of the owner and should make due enquiries by reference to the passport/ identity document or other records as to the validity of the declaration. If the Official Veterinarian has any reason to doubt the validity of the declaration, the Centre for International Trade in Carlisle should be consulted.

8. **Disease clearance**

Paragraph VI (d) refers. The certification covering diseases contained in paragraphs VI (d) should be signed on the basis of the Official Veterinarian's knowledge of the disease history of the premises of origin of the donor stallions or on the basis of a written support document from another veterinary surgeon responsible for the premises. The Official Veterinarian should also consult the local AHVLA office as necessary for confirmation of official records with regard to notifiable diseases if in doubt.

9. **Official disease clearance**

Paragraph V (b) and paragraphs VI (h)(i) and (j)(i) if applicable refer. These paragraphs may be signed on behalf of the Department provided written authority has been received on form 618NDC. This form will be issued

provided that no outbreak of dourine or glanders occurred in the 6 months prior to semen collection. The Official Veterinarian responsible for the semen collection centre should provide the Centre For International Trade in Carlisle with a written statement of the semen collection date(s) and freezing date(s) in order for the 618NDC to be issued. If dourine or glanders occurs during the 6 months prior to collection of semen, the tests at paragraphs VI (h)(ii) or (j)(ii) respectively are applicable.

10. **Laboratory tests (other than for CEM)**

Paragraph VI (f), (g) and (h)(ii) and (j)(ii) if applicable refer. All blood samples for tests mentioned at paragraphs VI (f), (g) and (h)(ii) and (j)(ii), must be submitted for testing to AHVLA, Weybridge. For each test 5ml of clotted whole blood is required.

11. **CEM testing**

Paragraph VI (k) refers. CEM testing must be carried out at Penrith Regional AHVLA laboratory.

All swabs from an individual animal must be submitted to the same laboratory and must arrive at the laboratory within 48 hours of sampling. A separate laboratory report form must accompany each sample. Miniswabs should be used to swab sinuses, and these swabs should be first moistened to facilitate entry and full penetration into the sinuses.

12. **Semen processing**

Paragraph VII (a) of 4208EHC refers. To comply with Chapter III, Annex D of Council Directive 92/65/EEC, the semen should be collected, processed, stored and transported in accordance with the following conditions:

- antibiotics were added to the diluents for semen;
- all the materials used for the collection, processing, conservation or freezing of semen were either disinfected or sterilised or new before use and disposed of after use;
- the semen was placed in a sterile container (straw or ampoule), containing only products from one donor and duly identified;
- each individual dose of semen is indelibly identified. The identification includes 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 number of the collection centre; the frozen semen has been stored in approved conditions for a minimum period of 30 days prior to dispatch; the semen has been transported in flasks which were either cleaned and disinfected or sterilised or new before use and disposed of after use.

13. **Transport**

Paragraph VII (b) refers. The exporter is responsible for provision of the seal and allocated seal number. Sealing of the transport container should be carried out under the supervision of the Official Veterinarian and the seal number entered at paragraph VII (b).

14. **Completion of the health certificate**

The Official Veterinarian should sign and stamp the export health certificate in ink of any colour other than black.

15. **Return of copy certificate to the Centre for International Trade, Carlisle**

A copy of the completed certificate and check list must be returned to the Centre for International Trade, Carlisle within 7 days of signature.

16. **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 Centre for International Trade, Carlisle via the link below:

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

