

SEMEN OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS OF THE BOVINE SPECIES FOR IMPORTATION FROM MEMBER STATES OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INTO THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY - 6183EHC

****SEMEN MUST HAVE BEEN COLLECTED ON OR AFTER 31 DECEMBER 2004**

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) AND EXPORTER

Associated Documents: 6183EHC and 618NDC.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 6183EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6183EHC. We strongly suggest that exporters obtain full details of the importing country's requirements from the veterinary authorities in the country concerned, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. Scope of the certificate

The certificate 6183EHC covers the export of fresh or frozen bovine semen, collected on or after 31 December 2004, to Turkey. The semen must have been collected and stored at an EC approved Semen Collection Centre. In the case of semen collected before 31 December 2004, certificate 6853EHC must be used.

There is also a supplementary certificate 6183SUP covering assurances for Schmallenberg virus.

Both certificates must be signed, dated and stamped within two days prior to shipment and they are valid for ten days in the case of air shipment.

The Turkish authorities have advised that there should be no handwritten information on the certificate; all information must be entered in typescript.

2. Certification by an Official Veterinarian

In Great Britain, this certificate may be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or by an authorised Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed to the appropriate panel for export purposes by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government, or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

In Northern Ireland, this certificate may be signed by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed as an OV to the appropriate export panel for export purposes by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

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 Plant and Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade at Carlisle within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DAERA, Dundonald House, Belfast.

The OV should keep a copy for his/her own records.

3. Identification of the commodities

Section I.28 refers: All batches should be entered into the certificate. If there is insufficient space, the Turkish authorities should be consulted to determine if the use of a schedule is permitted to identify the animals certified.

If permitted, the schedule must contain the same information as that required in section I.28 and section I.28 must be annotated "See attached schedule". Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the Official Veterinarian (OV).

The schedule must be stapled inside the health certificate and the OV should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedule and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule or in section I.28 must be deleted with diagonal lines.

If a schedule is not permitted then multiple certificates must be used.

4. Council Directive 88/407/EEC

The certifying Official Veterinarian must be conversant with the provisions of the Council Directive 88/407/EEC (as amended), which lays down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-community trade in and imports of semen of domestic animals of the bovine species.

5. Declaration of Country Freedom /618NDC clearance

Paragraphs II.1, II.3, II.5.3.1 and II.5.4.1 refer: OVs may certify these paragraphs on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland.

6. Herd of Origin health status

Paragraph II.4.1 and II.4.2 refer. These paragraphs can be certified based on compliance with Annex B, Chapter I points (b) and (c) of Council Directive 88/407/EC (as amended) as follows:

- prior to their stay in the isolation accommodation, the bulls belonged to a herd which is officially tuberculosis free and officially brucellosis free in accordance with Directive 64/432/EEC. The animals may not previously have been kept in one or more herds of a lower status.

- the bulls came from a herd free of enzootic bovine leucosis as defined in Directive 64/432/EEC, or have been produced by dams which have been subjected, with negative results, to an agar gel immunodiffusion test, carried out in accordance with Annex G of Directive 64/432/EEC, after removal of the animals from their dam. In the case of animals derived by embryo transfer, "dam" means the recipient of the embryo. If this requirement cannot be fulfilled, the semen may not be the subject of trade until the donor has reached the age of two years and has been tested in accordance with Chapter II, 1 (iii) of 64/432/EEC with a negative result.

7. Residency

Paragraph II.4.5 refers: It is not necessary for the donors to have been resident at the Semen Collection Centre for 12 months prior to collection of semen for export to Turkey, but if they have been resident for more than 12 months and have not had the annual tests, the semen is not eligible for export.

8. Laboratory tests

The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out pre-export testing is officially approved for this purpose by Defra or DAERA.

In Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the APHA Laboratory, New Haw, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB, (Tel: 01932 341111). Some tests are carried out at APHA Lasswade, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0PZ, (Tel: 0131 445 6169). Certain specialist tests are carried out at regional APHA laboratories.

In Northern Ireland, the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the Veterinary Sciences Division (VSD) Laboratory, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3SD (tel: 028 9052 0011).

If tests for bluetongue are required, samples must be sent to the Pirbright Institute. Guidance on submission of samples, including the submission forms to use, can be found at:

http://www.pirbright.ac.uk/files/quick_media/Diagnostic%20Price%20List.pdf

For operational reasons however, the laboratories involved may change

periodically. Accordingly, the OV is advised to check with the APHA or VSD to determine to which laboratories samples should be sent for testing. Samples should always be sent to the laboratory concerned sufficiently in advance of the export date to enable the tests to be carried out and reported. If in doubt as to the procedures for collection, the requirement for transport medium if any, dispatch of samples and the length of time a test is likely to take, the OV should seek the advice of the relevant laboratory.

9. **Sealing of the transport containers**

Paragraph I.23 refers: The semen must be secured within a cryogenic container by a tamperproof seal applied in such a way that the container cannot be opened without breaking the seal. The number on the seal must be entered at paragraph I.23 on the health certificate.

If it is necessary to top up the container, topping up should be done in the presence of an Official Veterinarian (OV) who must apply a new tamperproof seal. The OV must endorse paragraph I.23 on the health certificate with the new seal number, giving name and signature and dating and stamping the endorsement in the margin of the certificate in any ink colour **other than black**.

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, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.