

EXPORT OF EC-STATUS BOVINE SEMEN COLLECTED OUTSIDE GREAT BRITAIN TO NORTHERN IRELAND/ISLE OF MAN/JERSEY/GUERNSEY

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE EXPORTER AND CERTIFYING VETERINARIANS

Associated Documents: 7003EHC

1. Scope of the certificate

The export health certificate 7003EHC covers the export of bovine semen collected at EC approved Semen Collection Centre outside Great Britain, and legally imported into Great Britain. An authenticated copy of the original import health certificate must be attached to 7003EHC - see paragraph 7 below.

2. Certification by an Official Veterinarian

The export health certificate (EHC) may be signed by an Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Scottish Government or Welsh Government, on the appropriate panel or a Whole Time Veterinary Officer, on the basis of support certificate ('pre-certificate') from the Authorised Centre Veterinarian responsible for the store from which semen is to be exported (main AVS).

3. Completion of EHC

Having completed all the checks, ensuring the EHC is fully completed and all the appropriate deletions and/or additions have been made, the Official Veterinarian must sign and stamp the EHC with the Official Veterinarian's official stamp in ink of any colour other than black. The completed certificate will accompany the consignment to its final destination.

4. Signatories and Conflict of Interest

In relation to export certification of semen, there may be circumstances where it is not appropriate for the Authorised/Approved Veterinary Surgeon (AVS) for the AI Centre to sign the final export certificate because of potential conflict of interest.

There are two alternative methods of certification, a) and b) below, depending on whether or not any conflict of interest is deemed to exist:

a) Direct certification by AVS for Centre acting as an Official Veterinarian:

In cases where, with the agreement of APHA Customer Service Centre (CSC) Carlisle, it has been deemed there is no unmanageable conflict of interest preventing the AVS from certifying the consignment directly, the final export health certificate will be issued directly to the AVS for completion provided that the AVS also holds an Official Veterinarian appointment for Panel GX. In these cases, the AVS will sign the final certificate in their capacity as an Official Veterinarian. The AVS must have previously submitted a satisfactory "conflict of interest declaration" to CSC Carlisle.

b) Pre-certification procedure with final certification by Veterinary Officer or independent Official Veterinarian;

In other cases where there may be a conflict of interest for the AVS or where agreement on this matter has not been received from CSC Carlisle, then a 'pre-certificate', which is essentially a copy of the main certificate, should be signed by the AVS (in his/her capacity as the AVS, with appropriate amendments made to the signature block) with final certification being done by a Veterinary Officer or independent OV appointed to panel GX on the basis of this support document.

5. Council Directive 88/407/EEC

The Certifying veterinarians must be conversant with the provisions of Council Directive 88/407/EEC (and any subsequent amendments), which lays down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-Union trade in and imports of semen of domestic animals of the bovine species.

6. **IBR/IPV**

If bovine semen is collected on or before 31/12/2004, the semen from bulls giving a positive reaction to the serum neutralisation test or the ELISA test for infectious bovine rhino tracheitis/infectious pustular vulvo-vaginitis but which has already given a negative reaction to these tests prior to a first vaccination may be certified, as laid down in the Council Directive. Bovine semen collected after 31/12/2004 must be from centres where all bulls are seronegative.

7. **Authentication of the original import health certificate**

- For bovine semen imported from other Member States, the semen must be imported into Great Britain in accordance with Council Directive 88/407 (as amended). An authenticated copy of the original import health certificate must be attached to certificate 7003EHC. A copy of the original import health certificate should be endorsed 'authenticated copy', signed and stamped by an Official Veterinarian (OV).
- For bovine semen imported from approved third countries listed in Decision 2004/639/EC, the semen must be imported into Great Britain in accordance with Commission Decision 94/577/EC as amended. Such semen would have been legally imported via a Border Inspection Post (BIP), accompanied by a Border Crossing Certificate (BCC) and an import health certificate authenticated by an official veterinarian at the BIP of entry into the EC. Copies of the BCC and authenticated import health certificate must be attached to certificate 7003EHC. The OV should add the words 'Authenticated Copy' to each document and sign and stamp in ink of any colour other than black.
- In the case of part of the original imported consignment being exported, the authenticated copy of the health certificate referred to above should be amended by deleting the details of the semen **not** being exported and the deletions initialled and dated by the OV.

8. **Bluetongue - paragraph 2 refers**

Directive 2000/75/EC (as amended) establishes an exit ban which prohibits movements of ruminant animals and their germplasm from bluetongue restricted zones (RZ). However, Regulation 1266/2007 provides some exemptions from the exit ban and semen may be traded between MSs on the basis of one of the five options listed. Therefore, for semen collected in a MS of the EU, one of the five options needs to be selected, based on the certificate issued in the MS in which the semen was collected. However, for semen collected in a third country, the EC certificate which accompanies the consignment does not go into any detail as to which option the semen has been certified under; it simply says that the semen has complied with the OIE recommendations, or in the case of Canada, where a simplified certificate exists under the EC-EU veterinary equivalence agreement, there is no mention made of bluetongue. So, in the case of semen of third country origin, paragraph 2 may be deleted.

9. **Transportation**

During transport, the semen must not come into contact with semen not certified to the same health status.

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 Centre for International Trade - Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening>