

## EXPORT OF EQUINE SEMEN TO CANADA

### NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) AND EXPORTERS

#### **IMPORTANT**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The Notes for Guidance (NFG) should have been issued to you together with export certificate 2689EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 2689EHC. 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**

Export health certificate 2689EHC may be used for the export of equine semen to Canada. The certificate is valid for **ONE CONSIGNMENT ONLY**.

2. **Import Permit**

Exporters should check with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to ascertain whether an import permit is required.

3. **CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)**

This certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation, or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by, or an OV of, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland (DAERA).

OVs/AVIs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV/AVI stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

After completion of Sections **V** and **VI**, this certificate should then be sent to the competent authority for completion of Section **VII**.

#### **Countersignature Requirements**

This certificate must be countersigned by an APHA Veterinarian.

All requests for countersignature must be submitted to the Centre for International Trade - Carlisle (CITC) at least two working days in advance of the requested date/time of countersignature using Request for APHA Veterinarian Countersignature of an Export Health Certificate (ET145) application.

The ET145 application can be submitted to CITC:

- as an attachment, at the same time you complete an online application for certification, on the Export Health Certificates (EHC) Online service, or
- by email to [processingteam@apha.gov.uk](mailto:processingteam@apha.gov.uk)

Upon receipt of your ET145 application CITC will liaise with an APHA Veterinarian at your preferred countersigning office/area to make arrangements for countersignature to take place and notify you of the arrangements made.

In GB a certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Centre for International Trade, Carlisle within seven days of signing. In the case an AVI in Northern Ireland, a certified copy must be sent to DAERA, Dundonald House, Belfast.

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

4. **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.

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

Paragraph V b) refers. The Semen Collection Centre must be a centre registered by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and supervised by an Official Veterinarian and approved on a biannual basis by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). The exporter should apply to the APHA 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.

6. **Notifiable disease clearance**

Paragraphs V f) and g) refer. The certification covering notifiable diseases contained in paragraphs V f) and g)) may be signed on behalf of DEFRA by an Official Veterinarian provided that written authority has been received on form 618NDC from the issuing office.

7. **Babesiosis (equine piroplasmiasis)**

Paragraph V h) should be certified based on the OV's knowledge of the premises of origin of the donor. If the donor has been resident in different premises in the past 12 months, supporting veterinary certification from the veterinarian in charge of the premises where the donor has been is needed.

8. **Laboratory tests (other than for CEM and bacteriological culture)**

Paragraph V j) refers. Blood samples must be sent to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency laboratory, Weybridge, allowing sufficient time for receipt of the results before the proposed date of export.

For each test, 5ml of clotted unadulterated whole blood is required.

9. **Contagious equine metritis**

Paragraphs V k) and l) refer. The Code of Practice referred to in paragraph V l) i) is that published by the Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB). The Official Veterinarian should examine the records of movement onto the centre and the laboratory reports of entry testing and routine monitoring of visiting and resident animals in the stud on which the semen collection centre is located and check that they are in compliance with the current edition of the HBLB Code.

10. **CEM testing**

Paragraph V l) ii) and iii) refer. CEM testing should be carried out at Penrith Regional APHA laboratory.

Miniswabs should be used to swab sinuses. These swabs should be first moistened to facilitate entry and full penetration into the sinuses. If the animal is undergoing any form of antibiotic treatment, swabbing for culture must not commence until 7 days have elapsed since the finish of such treatment.

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. The specimens must be sent refrigerated with chiller packs (not frozen) during transport. An official copy of the laboratory report must be attached to the certificate.

**In the case of fresh semen**, the specimens must be cultured for 14 days, after which, negative culture results must have been obtained.

11. **Transport**

Paragraph VI j) refers. The exporter is responsible for provision of the seal and allocated seal number.

12. **Routing**

The germplasm described on this certificate must be shipped by the most direct and appropriate route from the point of export to the address of destination in Canada. Transshipment through another country requires written authorisation from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The carrier must be instructed to ensure the integrity of the sealed semen

transport/shipping container(s) throughout the journey.

Written approval for routing of the shipment of germplasm through another country must be attached to the permit and accompany the shipment. With the exception of changing planes, germplasm must not be offloaded at any port of call en route.

**13. 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>