

EXPORT OF BOVINE SEMEN OF EC STATUS TO GUERNSEY

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE EXPORTER AND CERTIFYING VETERINARIANS

Associated Documents: 6931EHC and 372DMR

1. **Scope of the certificate**
The export health certificate 6931EHC covers the export to Guernsey, of bovine semen collected at EC approved Semen Collection Centre in the United Kingdom.
2. **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-community trade in and imports of semen of domestic animals of the bovine species.
3. **Authentication of the original import health certificate**
 - Paragraph II a) refers:
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 6931EHC. A copy of the original import health certificate should be endorsed 'authenticated copy', signed and stamped by the Authorised Veterinary Surgeon and countersigned by the Whole Time Veterinary Officer.
 - For bovine semen imported from approved third countries, the semen must be imported into Great Britain in accordance with Commission Decision 94/577/EC. Such semen would have been legally imported via a Border Inspection Post (BIP), accompanied by a Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED) and an import health certificate authenticated by an official veterinarian at the BIP of entry into the EC. Copies of the CVED and authenticated import health certificate must be attached to certificate 6931EHC. The AVS should add the words 'Authenticated Copy' to each document and sign and stamp in ink of any colour other than black. Paragraph III a) i should be deleted.
 - In the case of part of the original imported consignment being exported, the authenticated copy of the health certificate referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 above should be amended by deleting the details of the semen **not** being exported and the deletions initialled and dated by the Authorised Veterinary Surgeon in charge of the Storage/Semen Collection Centre.
4. **Laboratory tests**
Paragraph IV 2. b) refers.
Samples must be sent for testing to the laboratories of the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). The majority of pre-export tests are carried out at the Animal and Plant Health Agency's Weybridge site, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 3NB; (Tel:01932 341111, Fax: 01932 347046). Some tests are carried out at the APHA Lasswade laboratory, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Midlothian EH26 0PZ; (Tel:0131 4456169 Fax: 0131 4456166).

Specialist tests

Certain specialist tests are carried out at specific regional APHA laboratories (e.g. For CEM at Bury St Edmunds, for Campylobacter and for Trichomonas, at Starcross). For operational reasons the laboratories involved may change and if in doubt, the Authorised Veterinary Surgeon(s) (AVSs) should check with the VLA to establish, to which laboratory samples should be sent for testing. Samples should be submitted to the relevant laboratory in ample time to allow reports to be received in advance of the export date. If in doubt as to the length of time a test is likely to take, AVSs should seek the advice of the relevant laboratory.

5. **Tests for Campylobacter and for Trichomonas**

Tests for *Campylobacter* and for *Trichomonas* are available at the APHA Weybridge, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 3NB (Tel no: 001932 341111 Email: lab.services@apha.gsi.gov.uk and at Lasswade (Tel: 0131 4456169, Fax: **0131 4456166**). A "CAMPYCULTURE" kit is available, catalogue number PA 0800. Each kit contains sufficient reagent to sample one bull or two cows and contains full instructions, transport medium and a submission form. It is advised that samples be **collected in the afternoon and despatched so that they travel to Starcross/Lasswade overnight**. Samples must be received at the laboratory **within 24 hours of collection**.

If British Rail "Red Star" service is used, the parcel should be addressed to either:

APHA Weybridge, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 3NB

or:

**APHA Lasswade, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik,
Midlothian EH26 0PZ**

respectively.

The laboratory must be advised by fax before 16.30 hours on the day of despatch, of the anticipated time of arrival of the package at Winchester/Edinburgh railway station the next day.

6. **Packaging of specimens to APHA**

Note that any specimens despatched must be securely packaged with due regard for Health & Safety and if sent by post, must comply with the International postal regulations (even for domestic routes). This means that samples which may contain infectious material must be packed with bubble-wrap and absorbent wadding within a corrugated or metal outer box (i.e. "UN602" specification; see AHC 99/24)

7. **Bluetongue**

Directive 2000/75/EC (as amended) establishes an exit ban which prohibits movements of ruminant animals and their germplasm from bluetongue restricted zones (RZ).

Paragraph IV 8. may be certified on the following basis:

The semen must have been collected from donor animals complying with **at least one** of the following options:

Option 1: the donor animals have been resident **outside a RZ** for at least **60 days** both before and during the collection of the semen being certified; semen collected during the 60 days prior to the centre/holding getting caught up in the RZ will be ineligible for export under this option. However, if the donors can be/have been tested serologically between 21 and 60 days after the final collection in accordance with option 4, with negative results, then the semen can be certified for export under that option.

Option 2: the donor animals have been resident in a bluetongue **seasonally-free zone** during that zone's seasonally vector-free period⁽¹⁾ for at least **60 days** both before and during the collection of the semen being certified;
AND

the donor animals have been subjected to an **agent identification test** (according to the OIE Terrestrial Manual) with negative results no earlier than **7 days** before collection of the semen being certified.

Option 3: the donor animals have been resident in a bluetongue **seasonally-free zone** during that zone's *seasonally vector-free period* for at least **60 days** both before and during the collection of the semen being certified;
AND

the validity of the *seasonally vector-free period* has been substantiated by favourable epidemiological data obtained from the implementation of a bluetongue monitoring programme for the last 3 years.

NOTE: No seasonally-free zones have been established in Great Britain, therefore this Option cannot currently be used.

Option 4: the donor animals have been subjected to a serological test (according to the OIE Terrestrial Manual) to detect **antibodies** to the bluetongue virus group, with negative results, at least every **60 days** during the collection period and between **21** and **60 days** following the final collection;

Option 5: the donor animals have been subjected, with negative results, to an **agent identification test** (according to the OIE Terrestrial Manual) carried out on blood samples collected:

(i) at the time of the first and final collection;

and

(ii) during the period of semen collection:

- at least **every 7 days**, in the case of a **virus isolation** test,

or

- at least **every 28 days**, in the case of a **polymerase chain reaction** test.

8. **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

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.

9. **Retention of copy of health certificates**

A copy of the relevant health certificate 6931EHC must be retained by the Certifying Officer for record keeping purposes.

10. **Transportation**

During transport, and on arrival in Guernsey, the semen must not come into contact with semen not certified to the same health status.

11. **Disclaimer**

The Department disclaimer (Form 372DMR) will be issued to the exporter with this certificate for his/her information.

The 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 Divisional Veterinary Manager at their local Animal Health Office.