

**EXPORT TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OF ANIMAL DERIVED MATERIALS INTENDED FOR IN-VITRO AND/OR LABORATORY USE ONLY - 5716 EHC**

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

This certificate may be signed by a Veterinary Officer appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, The Scottish Government, or the Welsh Government, or by an Official Veterinarian of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland.

1. This certificate may be signed on the basis of a declaration from an authorised signatory of the manufacturer or exporter and by reference to a valid United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) import permit.

On occasion, the USDA may deem as unnecessary the issue of a specific import permit for certain products. In such cases, the requirements for veterinary certification may be laid out/specified in standard APHIS guidelines or contained within correspondence directed specifically to the importer. Reference should therefore be made to this information when no USDA import permit is available, and a copy attached to the certificate.

2. Paragraph **IV** should begin with the details of the source of the import conditions. Possible entries could read: "USDA import permit numbered x" or "APHIS communication dated x, copy attached".

The certifying veterinarian must ensure that the health conditions to be certified are in accordance with the import conditions referred to above.

The import permit will be headed "United States Veterinary Permit for Importation and Transportation of Controlled Materials and Organisms and Vectors". Under the section "Restrictions and precautions for transporting and handling materials and all derivatives" should appear one or more paragraphs in the following form. If not, then an EHC is probably not required.

*'Each shipment must be accompanied by an ORIGINAL certificate endorsed by a full time salaried veterinarian of the agency responsible for animal health of the GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM certifying that {matters to be certified}. [This certification must CLEARLY correspond to the shipment by means of an invoice number, shipping marks, lot number or other identification method.]'*

The exporter must supply a declaration including exactly the same wording as the matters to be certified. This must be signed by someone who has knowledge of and responsibility for the relevant parts of the production process. The managing director (or equivalent) of the company should provide a letter giving the name(s) and job title(s) of those authorised to give the declaration and the basis on which the declaration is made. The declaration should include a clause indicating that the signatory is aware that making a false declaration is an offence. Where possible, supporting evidence (for example, health certificates for raw materials showing their country of origin) should be called for and put on file. Assurances required by the import permit should be inserted at paragraph **IV** (b). If there are no additional assurances the VO must cross through paragraph **IV** (b).

The RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct 2000 states that [Veterinary Surgeons] "must not recklessly confirm what other people have stated".

3. If there is not enough room for all the necessary information relating to the consignment on the 5716 EHC, please continue on additional sheets. In such cases, the paragraphs in question should then be annotated "Continued on the attached additional schedule(s)". Each page of the additional schedule should bear a page number and the health certificate number, and must be stamped, signed and dated. The schedule(s) must be stapled with the certificate and the certifying official should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule(s) and certificate. One corner of the schedule(s) and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any unused/blank spaces at these paragraphs and/or on the schedules should be deleted with diagonal lines.