

**EXPORT OF PORCINE SEMEN TO JAPAN - 2162EHC**

**NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF AUTHORISED VETERINARY SURGEONS AND EXPORTERS**

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**Important**

These notes provide guidance to Authorised Veterinary Surgeons, Official Veterinarians and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 2162EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 2162EHC.

Exporters are strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country in advance of each consignment.

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**1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 2162EHC may be used for the export of fresh or frozen porcine semen from the United Kingdom to Japan.

**2. IMPORT PERMIT & ADDITIONAL ZOOTECHNICAL CERTIFICATE**

Exporters are advised to contact the Japanese authorities for advice regarding any import permits that may be required for the export of porcine semen from the UK into Japan.

The import permit number must be entered at Section IV (d) of the certificate.

In addition to an import permit and the 2162EHC certificate, consignments of pig semen to Japan must also be accompanied by the relevant zootechnical certificates issued by the British Pig Association (see section 10 below).

**3. SIGNATURE AND COMPLETION OF CERTIFICATE**

Any Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed to the appropriate panel for export purposes by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Executive Environment, the Rural Affairs Department or the National Assembly for Wales and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland may sign the export health certificate as an OV.

The Centre Veterinarian may sign the certificate as an OV provided they have been appointed to the appropriate export panel. In order to be eligible for appointment to the export panel, the Centre Veterinarian must not be directly employed by, or derive their sole or principal income from, the company for which they are carrying out export health certification, nor have any major financial interest in connection with the company.

OVs should affix the 'Official Veterinarian' stamp to the certificate in the normal manner.

If the Centre Veterinarian is not eligible for appointment to sign the certificate as an OV, arrangements must be made to ensure that the certificate is signed by either:

- (a) an OV appointed to the appropriate panel; **or**
- (b) a Veterinary Officer of the State Veterinary Service.

In either case, the certifying OV must be provided with appropriate support documentation (pre-export certificate signed by the Centre Veterinarian) to enable signature of the final export certificate.

For the purposes of these notes for guidance, reference to the OV shall also apply to the Centre Veterinarian completing the appropriate pre-export certificate.

If not already done by the issuing authority, the OV must cross out the reference to the "Health Certificate Issuing Authority" which is not applicable. Certificates in GB are issued by APHA and the references to DAERA should therefore be crossed out, and vice versa.

The health certificate must be signed and stamped with an OV stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the issuing office: in GB to APHA Customer Service Centre for International Trade, Carlisle; and in Northern Ireland to the relevant issuing office of DAERA, within seven days of signature.

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

#### **4. OFFICIAL NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCES**

Paragraphs V (1), (2) and (3) refer. The OV may be certified these paragraphs on behalf of the Department provided the OV has received written authority (Form 618NDC) from APHA in Great Britain or by DARD in Northern Ireland.

#### **5. PREMISES FREEDOM FROM NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES**

Paragraph V(4) refers. Although some of the diseases in this paragraph are notifiable (in the whole of UK or in some of its administrative territories), this paragraph should be certified on the basis of a support certificate by the veterinarian responsible for the farms of origin of the donor pigs for the 6 month period prior to start of the pre-entry isolation period that donor boars have to undergo before being admitted into the Semen Collection Centre. The OV must check the movement records in order to confirm the relevant periods for certification.

Paragraph V (6) (xi) - Freedom of the diseases listed in this paragraph may be certified on the basis of the OV knowledge of the Semen Collection Centre and any evidence included in (health)records, laboratory reports and declarations by the Semen Collection Centre Veterinarian as he/she considers necessary.

#### **6. VACCINATION OF PIGS INTENDED FOR EXPORT TO JAPAN**

Paragraph V(3), & V (5) refer. Japan import conditions specify that donor boars producing semen for export to Japan must not be vaccinated against FMD, CSF, Rinderpest, Aujeszky's, Brucellosis, & PRRS. The OV can certify the absence of vaccination against all of these diseases (except PRRS) on the basis that such vaccinations are prohibited by law in the UK.

PRRS vaccination - The certifying veterinarian should use his/her own knowledge of the vaccination protocols at the semen collection centre

to certify that donor pigs have not been vaccinated against PRRS at the centre for the purpose of this paragraph.

With regard to lack of vaccination against PRRS of the donor boars at the premises/farms of origin, this statement can be supported with a veterinary declaration from the supervising farm veterinarian that the donor boars in question did not receive any prohibited vaccinations whilst resident at the premises of origin.

Paragraph V(16) refers. Any permitted vaccine administered to the donor boars in the 12 months prior to collection of their semen for export to Japan (at both the collection centre or at their farms of origin) must be entered at the table in this paragraph. If no authorised vaccinations have been administered the OV must enter "None" at the first row of the table and cross diagonally the rest of the rows at the table.

**7. COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 90/429/EEC**

Paragraphs V(6) refer. The Semen Collection Centre (SCC) must be approved by DEFRA or DAERA in accordance with Council Directive 90/429/EEC as amended. The certifying veterinarian must be fully conversant with the provisions of Council Directive 90/429/EEC (and any subsequent amendments), which lays down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-Community trade in the imports of semen of domestic animals of the porcine species.

All the requirements in this paragraph [except the freedom from diseases at indent (xi) which should be certified as described in Section 5 of this guidance notes] can be certified in general on the basis of continued approval of the SCC under the above Directive. The OV should be familiar with the standards and operations of the SCC as supported by any records, (official) inspections and declarations by the SCC Authorised Centre Veterinarian (if needed) in order to certify that the conditions of the Directive as included in this paragraph continue to be met.

**8. PERIOD OF PRE-ENTRY QUARANTINE AND RESIDENCY IN THE SEMEN COLLECTION CENTRE**

Paragraph V (8) and (9) refer. Within the period of pre-entry quarantine of thirty (30) days the boars must be tested for Brucellosis and PRRS with negative results.

Paragraph V (10) refers. The certifying veterinarian should check the appropriate movement records and confirm that the donor boars have been resident at the SCC for a minimum of four (4) months prior to the collection of semen for export to Japan.

Paragraph V (14) refers. Donor boars of semen for export to Japan must be segregated from other boars of different health status during their residency at the SCC.

**9. TESTING OF DONOR BOARS**

Paragraphs V (7) (ii), (9) (ii), (11) and (12) refer. The relevant tests must be carried out using the tests listed in these paragraphs and within the specified periods (sampling/testing). Where appropriate, routine testing for official purposes can be used for certification of these paragraphs as long as the method and timing of the sampling/testing required in the certificate are met.

**\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\*\*** - It is a requirement of the 2162EHC that all the testing included in it has been carried out at officially approved laboratories. Currently there are no private laboratories officially approved to carry out the tests required in the certificate. Testing must therefore be carried out at government laboratories, as below. Particular attention should be paid to diseases such as PRRS and TGE where testing may be routinely carried out at private laboratories. Testing reports from private laboratories must not be used for the purposes of certification of semen for export to Japan.

Paragraph V(13) refers. The certifying veterinarian 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 357335).

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).

For operational reasons however, the laboratories involved may change periodically. Accordingly, the AVS/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.

10. **MARKING, STORAGE, SEPARATION & SEALING OF THE TRANSPORT CONTAINER**

Paragraphs V (17), (18), (19) and (20) refer. Straws or ampoules must be permanently marked (including that the identification of the donor boar and the date of collection of the semen are clearly marked) to ensure their traceability. Until shipment to Japan, the semen for export must be stored separately at a location approved by DEFRA or DAERA under EU Directive 90/429 as amended.

Separate storage containers must be used for consignments of semen for export to Japan. These must be stored separately so that the semen for export to Japan does not have contact with semen of lower health status nor complying with the 2162EHC requirements.

The semen must be secured within its packaging or cryogenic container by a tamperproof / tamper evident seal applied in such a way that the container cannot be opened without breaking the seal. For cryogenic containers for frozen semen, a metal seal should be used. For transporting fresh semen, the semen samples should be placed in boxes such as polystyrene boxes and these should be sealed using special sealing tape including tamper evident numbered seals.

If it is necessary to top up a container of liquid nitrogen, the additional liquid nitrogen must meet the requirements of the certificate.

The seal number(s) must be clearly entered at paragraph V (19) of the certificate.

11. **APPENDIX 1. IMPORT SEMEN ZOOTECHNICAL CERTIFICATE**

Additional zootechnical certificates must accompany the main certificate. The authority appointed to sign such certificates is the British Pig Association (BPA) and Marcus Bates is the appointed person of that organisation to sign such certificates confirming the quality of the donor boar genetically and the source of the semen as trustworthy and compliant with the zootechnical import requirements.

To note that the procurement of the required certificates may take some time as it requires the English version to be submitted to the Japanese Pig Breeders Association so that they can provide the Japanese translated version of these certificates.

Therefore, Exporters/Official Veterinarians are strongly advised to contact BPA or UKECP ( [admin@ukecp.com](mailto:admin@ukecp.com) ) well in advance so that the required additional zootechnical certificates can be prepared and be ready for the export of the batch of semen.

12. **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#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>