

EXPORT OF BOVINE EMBRYOS TO ZIMBABWE

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV's) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 8134EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8134EHC.

CERTIFICATE 8134EHC HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY AGREED WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN THE IMPORTING COUNTRY.

Exporters are therefore strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment. They should obtain an import permit and check this certificate against the requirements of the import permit.

If the health requirements do not match, the exporter may choose to proceed with the export using certificate 8134EHC BUT STRICTLY AT EXPORTERS RISK.

1. Scope of the Certificate

Export health certificate 8134EHC may be used for the export of *in vivo*- and *in vitro*-derived bovine embryos from the United Kingdom to Zimbabwe.

Exporters and certifying official veterinarians must take particular note of the information on disclaimers at paragraph 10.

Exporters must also take particular account of paragraph 5 of these notes concerning the origin of the semen used.

2. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)

In Great Britain, this certificate may be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or by an authorised Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed to the appropriate panel for export purposes by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government, or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

In Northern Ireland, this certificate may be signed by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed as an OV to the appropriate export panel for export purposes by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade at Carlisle within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DAERA, Dundonald House, Belfast.

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

3. Obtaining an import permit

The exporter/agent should be aware of the requirements of the importing country particularly with respect to the requirement for an import permit. The import permit number should be given in the health certificate at paragraph III.e).

4. Schedules

Paragraph I refers: A separate schedule may be used to identify the animals certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in paragraph I and paragraph I must be annotated "See attached schedule". Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate

reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the Official Veterinarian (OV).

The schedule must be stapled inside the health certificate and the OV should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedule and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule or in paragraph I must be deleted with diagonal lines.

5. **Origin of semen used**

Paragraph V.c) refers: the semen used to generate the embryos to be exported, either by artificial insemination of the donor dam or by *in-vitro* fertilisation, must have been collected from a donor bull continuously resident for a period of at least two (2) months at a semen collection centre officially approved by the veterinary authorities of the United Kingdom. It is the responsibility of the exporter to check that the semen to be used meets this requirement before the semen is used and to provide documentary evidence of this to the certifying Official Veterinarian.

6. **Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)**

Paragraphs V.d) and e) refer: OVs may certify paragraphs V.d) and V.e) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

7. **OTF (TUBERCULOSIS FREE) STATUS**

Paragraph V.g) refers: The herd must be officially free of tuberculosis. This means that the herds, and individual animals in the herds, must not be under any official tuberculosis related restrictions at the time of collection. This includes, whole herd restrictions (TB2) served e.g. following the discovery of reactors, or individual animal restrictions (TB34) served e.g. following the discovery of inconclusive reactors, or any other TB-related restrictions served e.g. because routine herd tests are overdue or because of zero tolerance. Official Veterinarians should contact their local APHA office to confirm the herd status with respect to this disease.

8. **Laboratory tests**

The OV 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 341111). Some tests are carried out at APHA Lasswade, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0PZ, (Tel: 0131 445 6169). Certain specialist tests are carried out at regional APHA laboratories.

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 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.

9. **Sealing of the transport container**

Paragraph V.r) refers: The embryos must be secured within a cryogenic container by a tamper-evident seal applied in such a way that the container cannot be opened without breaking the seal. The number on the seal must be entered at paragraph III.f) on the health certificate.

If it is necessary to top up the container, the additional liquid nitrogen used must meet the requirements of the certificate (see paragraph V.q). Topping up should be done in the presence of an Official Veterinarian (OV) who must apply a new tamper-evident seal. The OV must endorse paragraph III.f) on the health certificate with the new seal number, giving name and signature and dating and stamping the endorsement in the margin of the certificate in any ink colour **other than black**.

10. **Disclaimer**

Exporters and certifying Official Veterinarians must be aware that this export health certificate, 8134EHC, takes into account the important recommendations by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) for trade in this commodity. Exporters and certifying Official Veterinarians must be aware that 8134EHC has not been officially agreed with Zimbabwe. Accordingly the exporter and the certifying Official Veterinarian must note that use of 8134EHC for export of bovine embryos to Zimbabwe is used at the exporter's risk. Certifying Official Veterinarians should ensure that the exporter is aware of this.

The exporter should therefore be aware that 8134EHC does not necessarily take the requirements of the importing country into account. 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 are available. If official advice is provided by authorities in the importing country or if an import permit is provided, the exporter must copy these to the APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle. If the advice or the permit do not match the assurances provided on 8134EHC, the exporter should contact the APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>

or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.