

EXPORT OF PORCINE SEMEN TO GHANA - 7246EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

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**IMPORTANT NOTE**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7246EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7246EHC.

Exporters are 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.

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1. **SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 7246EHC may be used for the export of fresh or frozen porcine semen from the United Kingdom to Ghana.

2. **CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN**

This certificate may be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or a Local Veterinary Inspector (LVI) appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government Rural Directorate, the Welsh Assembly Government Department for Rural Affairs or by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland (DARD), who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate export panel for export purposes.

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 Health Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DARD, Dundonald House, Belfast.

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

3. **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. If applicable, the import permit number should be entered in paragraph IV(d) of the health certificate.

4. **SCHEDULES**

Paragraphs I and II of the certificate refer: If necessary, separate schedules may be used to identify the donor boars / porcine semen certified. Schedules must contain the same information as that required in Paragraphs I and II and must be annotated "See attached Schedule" as appropriate.

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 OV.

Schedules 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 Paragraphs I and II must be deleted with diagonal lines.

5. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE (FORM 618NDC)**

Paragraphs V(a), and V(k) refer: OVs may certify these paragraphs on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from Animal Health in Great Britain or equivalent in Northern Ireland.

6. **COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 90/429/EEC (as amended)**

The semen collection centre must be approved by Defra in accordance with Council Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended). The certifying OV must be fully conversant with the provisions of Council Directive 90/429/EEC and any subsequent amendments, laying down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-Community trade in and imports of semen of domestic animals of the porcine species.

Export health certificate 7246EHC has been drafted in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Directive for pre-entry quarantine, pre-entry testing and routine testing of donor boars, together with collection, processing and packaging of porcine semen.

With the exception of paragraphs V(h) regarding the required period of residency of donor boars on the semen collection centre, V(k) regarding teschovirus encaphalomyelitis and V(l) concerning transmissible gastroenteritis, all remaining paragraphs of 7246EHC may be certified on the basis that the centre operates in accordance with Council Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended).

7. **RESIDENCY PERIOD**

Paragraph V(h) refers: The certifying OV should check appropriate movement records to verify that the donor boars meet the residency requirement of this paragraph.

The OV may also wish the operator of the collection centre to provide a signed statement as additional verification of residency.

8. **OMISSION OF PARAGRAPH V '(i)'**

The omission of a paragraph V(i) is deliberate to avoid any confusion between the letter 'i' used alphabetically and 'i' used as a Roman numeral in sub-paragraphs.

9. **INCIDENCE OF TRANSMISSIBLE GASTROENTERITIS (TGE) IN THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Paragraph V(l) refers: While TGE is a notifiable disease in Northern Ireland (NI), TGE is not notifiable in Great Britain (GB). TGE has never been recorded in NI. TTGE was last diagnosed in GB in 2001. This information is correct as at the date of these NFG.

If the OV requires an update on the lack of occurrence of TGE in the UK in order to certify this paragraph the OV should contact DARD in NI or in GB the Animal Health Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle via the link below:

10. **SUBMISSION OF TESTS TO GOVERNMENT LABORATORIES**

The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out pre-export testing is officially approved for this purpose by Defra or DARD.

In Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) Laboratory, New Haw, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB, (Tel: 01932 341111). Some tests are carried out at VLA Lasswade, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0PZ, (Tel: 0131 445 6169). Certain specialist tests are carried out at regional VLA 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 VLA 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.

11. **SEALING OF THE TRANSPORT CONTAINER**

Paragraph V(p) refers: The semen must be secured within a container by a tamperproof 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 V(p) on the health certificate.

If it is necessary to top up the container with additional liquid nitrogen (in the case of frozen semen exports), topping up should be done in the presence of an Official Veterinarian (OV) who must apply a new tamperproof seal. The OV must endorse paragraph V(p) 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**.

12. **DISCLAIMER**

The DEFRA 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 Animal Health Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle via the link below:

