

EXPORT OF IN-VIVO BOVINE EMBRYOS TO UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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 8582EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8582EHC.

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.

1. Scope of the Certificate

Export health certificate 8582EHC may be used for the export of bovine embryos from the United Kingdom to the United Arab Emirates.

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. Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)

Paragraphs V.a) and V.d) refer: OVs may certify paragraph V.a) and paragraph V.d) (1) if appropriate 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.

6. **Veterinary prohibition or quarantine measures**

Paragraph V.b) refers: to certify that the embryo collection premises at paragraph II c) was not subject to veterinary prohibition or quarantine measures with regard to animal disease on the day(s) of collection of the embryos, the certifying OV must obtain assurances from the private veterinarian responsible for the premises.

7. **Blue Tongue Virus (BTV)**

Paragraph V.d) refers: if subparagraph V.d.(1) cannot be signed (see paragraph 5 of these Notes above), in order to certify the options in subparagraph V.d).(2), the certifying OV must seek assurances from the Authorised Veterinarian at the semen collection centre where the semen used to generate the embryos to be exported was collected.

With regard to vector protection methods, it is generally accepted that 100% protection of the animals resident at a bovine semen collection centre against vector attack is not practicable. Nevertheless, for the purposes of this certificate, centre operators must have procedures in place that provide some degree of protection. These procedures should be discussed and agreed with the Official Veterinarian before collection of the semen to be used to generate the embryos to be exported is started. Examples of such measures include regular (but responsible) use of insecticides with residual effect, maintaining an environment that prevents breeding of the vectors and use of vector traps must be part of the measures.

8. **Official Tuberculosis, Brucellosis and Enzootic Bovine Leukosis Free status**

Paragraph V.e) refers: in Great Britain, OVs may certify paragraph V.e) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form ABC56 which should be requested from the embryo team veterinarian who undertook the collection of the embryos. In Northern Ireland, OVs must seek appropriate authority from DAERA.

9. **Herd disease freedom**

Paragraph V.f) refers: to certify this clause, the certifying OV must make due enquiries from the owner of the herd and the attending veterinary surgeon and examine the farm records for evidence of any clinical cases of the diseases in question and positive results of any health tests carried out for those diseases.

10. **Laboratory tests**

Paragraph V.g) refers: although no time interval is specified for the listed health tests, they should be carried out within 12 months prior to collection of the embryos for export.

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.

11. Sealing of the transport container

Paragraph V.p) refers: The embryos must be secured within a cryogenic 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 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.o). 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 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**.

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 APHA Centre for International Trade at 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.