Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance: Export Health Certificate for entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of consignments of stocks of semen of bovine animals collected, processed and stored after 31 December 2004 and before 21 April 2021 in accordance with Council Directive 88/407/EEC, and dispatched from the semen collection centre 8418

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Contents

No: 8418 NFG

Export health certificate for entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of consignments of stocks of semen of bovine animals collected, processed and stored after 31 December 2004 and before 21 April 2021 in accordance with Council Directive 88/407/EEC, as amended by Council Directive 2003/43/EC, and dispatched from a semen collection centre where the semen was collected

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICERS AND EXPORTERS

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Commission Implementing Decision 2011/630/EU as amended.

Council Directive 88/407/EEC as amended by Council Directive 2003/43/EC

Further guidance for completion of this certificate can be found in Chapter 4 of Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404.

Any EU legislation referenced in the EHC must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

Consolidated legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of European Union legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents taken into account for its construction.

You can search for consolidated texts by using the 'find results by document number' option on the European Commission website. Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click 'document information', and then scroll down to 'all consolidated versions' and select the most recent version.

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

Please note that the consolidated text may not contain the latest amendment to the legislation, as it takes several weeks for this to be updated.

Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in the 'Official Journal of the European Union'.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Certifying Officers and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export for entry into the European Union of consignments of stocks of semen of bovine animals collected, processed and stored after 31 December 2004 and before 21 April 2021 in accordance with Council Directive 88/407/EEC, as amended by Council Directive 2003/43/EC, and

entered into the European Union after 20 April 2021, and dispatched from a semen collection centre where the semen was collected.

The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the health certificate.

We strongly suggest that exporters obtain full details of the importing country's requirements from the veterinary authorities in the country concerned, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

[Please note, policies are being reviewed. NFG will be further amended to provide specific guidance. Traders should look at NFGs regularly for any updates]

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This export health certificate may be used for dispatch to and transit through the EU or NI of semen of domestic animals of the bovine species collected, processed, and stored in accordance with Council Directive 88/407/EEC, as amended by Council Directive 2003/43/EC.

This certificate is to be completed according to the notes for the completion of certificates provided for in Chapter 4 of Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235

Exports of bovine semen dispatched from a semen collection where the semen was collected must be in accordance with the relevant conditions in Chapters (I) and (II) of Annex A of Directive 88/407/EEC

The bovine animals from which the semen is collected must meet the conditions in Chapter (I) and (II) of Annex B and Annex C of Directive 88/407/EEC.

In the UK this certificate may only be used for semen collected **after December 2008** and dispatched from the semen collection centre where it was collected. This is due to the requirement for country freedom from Foot and Mouth Disease during the 12 months immediately prior to collection and until its date of dispatch (see health information section of certificate and Section 4 Notifiable Disease Clearance below).

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer (e.g. APHA, FSA or FSS employed veterinary officers) or by an Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed by the Animal and Plant Health Agency on behalf of Ministers in Defra, the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government and who hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ (V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp, with the OV stamp, the health certificate in ink of a different colour to that of the printing of the Export Health Certificate (EHC). There is no requirement to sign and stamp in a specific colour.

The OV should keep a copy of the signed certificate and any supporting documents for at least two years after signature or receipt/dispatch of the consignment, whichever is later. These can be electronic copies.

The RCVS Certification principles must be complied with.

https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/

EHC in foreign language/s of the EU Member States (MSs).

EHC should be in English and the foreign language of the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry in the EU. The original copy of the required EHC must accompany the consignment to the BCP of entry.

Listing of the EU MS BCPs can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en

The foreign language certificate as received from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or via the Export Heath Certificates Online system (EHCO) and bearing the same unique reference number as the English certificate, should be considered an official and accurate translations of the English, as published in EU legislation.

The (sub-) paragraphs / options and how they are numbered and formatted is identical in the English and foreign language editions and to the legislation published by the European Commission. Therefore, the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions as in the English version should be struck through and these deletions should be stamped and initialled in both versions. Both versions must also be signed (as opposed to being initialled) and stamped by the OV, the foreign language certificate is deemed to be a genuine and properly authorised translation of the English version.

This also applies to any instructions in the guidance notes to strike out certain paragraphs or to certify statements that the country is free of certain notifiable diseases etc.

Additional information can be found in APHA Vet Gateway:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

SIGNING AND STAMPING

When signing a certificate, the CO should ensure that the certificate contains no deletions or alterations, other than those which are indicated on the certificate to be permissible and any corrections to permitted entries, subject to such changes being initialled and stamped (in the margin) by the CO. Permissible deletions are normally indicated in the 'Notes' section at the end of the certificate, with the instruction 'Keep as appropriate' or 'delete if not applicable'.

- Where the certificate contains optional or contextual statements, the statements which are not relevant shall be crossed out, individually initialled, and stamped by the CO, or completely removed from the certificate.

- Permitted paragraphs and sections may be crossed out by applying a ‘Z’ across the section or paragraph rather than crossing out line by line.

- There is no requirement for a date and time to accompany each stamp. The date is only entered at the required entry field in Part I of the certificate, and at the end where the CO signs, stamps and dates that action.

- We are aware of some BCPs demanding that all handwritten information in Part 1 of the EHC is initialled and stamped, including handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes. There is no legal requirement in EU legislation that all the hand-written information entered in the certificate must be signed and stamped. It is only in the case of correction, in any part of the certificate, or in the case of statements to be crossed out, that the certifier must add signature (or initials) and stamp. This has been confirmed by the European Commission. The Commission noted however, in the case of a hand-written certificate, it is expected that the same one person completes the document. If not, the BCP might suspect that empty boxes were completed by another person after the certificate has been signed by the official.

You should consider checking with the specific BCP regarding their preference when it comes to the stamping and initialling of handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes in Part I of the EHC.

- **Clarification from the European Commission means that all pages (as opposed to sheets of paper) are signed and stamped once individually in place of fan stamping and in addition to any permitted alterations. There is no requirement to fan stamp.**

- COs are reminded to consult the Notes for Guidance prior to the certification of each EHC. NFG will be updated with this new information in due course.

Further Information COs should make sure they are familiar with all relevant guidance and other documents relating to EHCs and that they discuss requirements with exporters in advance.

See http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm

You can also contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency’s Centre for International Trade (CIT) on 03000 200 301.

PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

All boxes in Part I of the certificate must be completed. When a box is not applicable/optional, and not filled, please score it through.

Please use schedule to be attached to the certificate if there is not enough space to fill the information. See Section ‘Addition of Schedules’ below.

Please complete all the boxes in Part I of the certificate in accordance with the guidance laid down in Chapter 4 of Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235 that can be accessed via this link:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32020R2235

The Harmonised System (HS) Code is a commodity classification system used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics.

It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure that the HS code is entered correctly and accurately reflects the product(s) being consigned.

Further information on HS Codes can be found online at:

https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff/sections and

http://madb.europa.eu/madb/euTariffs.htm

PART II: CERTIFICATION

The Official Veterinarian signing the export health certificate must ensure they are aware of the provisions of Council Directive 88/407/EEC (and any subsequent amendments), which lays down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-Community trade in and imports of semen of domestic animals of the bovine species.

The Official Veterinarian may also require, where appropriate, support certification and/or evidence from the authorised centre veterinarian due to their knowledge of the operations of the establishment, to facilitate certification of the certificate.

II.1 - Enter the territory code. GB is listed for all of the relevant commodities. The relevant regulation is Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404. This regulation has been amended by Implementing Regulation 2021/634, adding the GB and the Crown Dependencies to the relevant lists.

Note the FMD restriction which prohibits export of semen collected prior to, or in the 12 months after, an FMD outbreak (see scope Section 2) and disease notification (Section 4 below). Absence of vaccination may be certified on the basis that vaccination against FMD and Rinderpest is prohibited in the UK in the absence of a disease outbreak.

II.2, II.3 and II.4 - Can be certified on the basis of approval of the semen collection centre (Directive 88/407/EEC) and supporting certification/evidence from the centre veterinarian. Please refer to listing of approved establishments on the GOV.UK website: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/livestock-and-equine-semen-collection-approved-premises and EU Website: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/semen/bovine_en

II.5.1 and II.5.2 - Can be certified on the basis of approval of the semen collection centre combined with traceability information for the bull. Note that bulls used for collection must have been resident in the UK for either six months prior to collection or for 30 days if imported during this six-month period from a listed country.

II.5.3 and II.5.4 - May be certified for the time periods specified following the disease notification guidance below (Section 4 Notifiable Disease Clearance). II.5.4.2 may be struck through as in the absence of EHD it only applies to exports from Australia, Canada and the United States.

II.6 and II.7 - May be certified on the basis of approval of the semen collection centre and supporting certification/evidence from the centre veterinarian. Note that semen must be stored for a minimum of 30 days prior to dispatch.

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

For guidance on certifying paragraphs relating to Avian Influenza see APHA guidance for "Certifying Officers Obtaining Clearance for Avian Influenza" available here:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm

Certifying Officers (Official Veterinarians (OV) and Environmental Health Officers (EHO)) can certify certain disease clearances paragraphs within this EHC, on behalf of the Department, provided written authority to do so has been provided/obtained on form 618NDC from APHA's Centre for International Trade – Carlisle (CITC).

The clearance will be provided by CITC on form 618NDC. It will specify the statements on the certificate that it covers, and is only in relation to the official GB disease status specified in the relevant paragraphs. All other matters such as residency, vaccination status, status of premises in respect of other diseases not covered by the 618NDC and disease status of countries, areas, premises outside the UK, are for the Certifying Officer to check and verify, obtaining support certification where necessary including support certification for products of animal origin that have originated in Northern Ireland.

- **FMD was reported in the UK in February 2001 and then again in August 2007. Its freedom was restored in January 2002 and December 2007, respectively, by the OIE.**
- **Bluetongue was reported in Great Britain on 3 August 2007. It was declared free again on 5 July 2011.**

5. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

Certification Support Officers may not be utilised for gathering evidence relating to this certificate.

6. UK APPROVED ESTABLISHMENTS ELIGIBLE TO EXPORT TO THE EU

The exporting establishment must be listed as a 'UK approved establishment' and a list of UK approved establishments for import of germinal products to the EU, can be found on the European Commission's list of approved establishments' link below:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/semen-oocytes-embryos_en

Please note that the list is updated regularly and ONLY establishments on the list are approved to export to the EU, and this does not include establishments with pending applications for approval.

If the final product contains germinal products from other establishments, then these establishments should also be listed as UK and/or EU approved establishments.

7. ADDITION OF SCHEDULES

When the space in Part I or Part II of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate full details of the consignment a schedule may be used. In the relevant section of the certificate the CO should annotate the certificate 'see attached schedule'. A new schedule should be created (typed or clearly written) containing the same information as that required in the certificate. The schedule must include the certificate reference number on each page and must be signed, dated and stamped by the CO in a colour other than the printed text on each page and under the last entry. The schedule forms part of the certificate. All pages of the certificate, including the schedule, must be sequentially numbered. Any blank spaces in the schedule or the certificate should be struck through with diagonal lines.

Further guidance is available here: http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

8. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATES

When completing export certification, the CO and, if applicable, FCCO must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify. OVs must retain copies of certification documents in accordance with RCVS Certification principles.

https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/

COs must retain copies of all export documentation for a period of two years. A certified copy of this EHC does not need to be returned to the APHA CITC. For the purposes of completing routine Quality Assurance checks on export certification, CITC may request certified copies of certification from COs.

Further details on Post Certifying Procedures, ‘certified copies’ of certification and the types of documents that should be retained by COs can be found on the APHA Vet Gateway.

9. LEGAL STATEMENT

The existing EU legislation that the UK complied with prior to the end of the Transition Period has been incorporated into our domestic law as “retained EU law” under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. References in our guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this “retained EU law”. The EU standards that this legislation includes continue to remain in force, without substantive amendment, as part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable.

10. DISCLAIMER

This certificate and NFG are 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 and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in Carlisle.

This publication is available at Search - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at farmandgermcarlisle@apha.gov.uk

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