

EXPORT OF EQUINE SEMEN TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

These Notes for Guidance should be read in conjunction with Check List 4044CKL.

1. **Scope**
Export health certificate 4044EHC may be used to accompany fresh, chilled or frozen equine semen from Great Britain to the United Arab Emirates.
2. **Import permit**
Permission to import must be obtained from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Animal Welfare Department (MAF/AWD). In order to obtain an Import Permit, an application form (available on request Tel: 00971 4 3313311 or Fax:00971 4 3313322) must be submitted to the UAE MAF/AWD. Fax: 00971 43313322 or 00971 4 237 281.
3. **Identification of horses**
Paragraph I refers. It is essential that all stallions and teaser mares are correctly identified and that the identity of each animal is confirmed whenever it is examined, collected from, sampled or treated. In the absence of a passport and if there is no other means of identification such as a tattoo or microchip, the Official Veterinarian should prepare a silhouette for use while the animal is on the collection centre. This silhouette should be retained by the Official Veterinarian and filed with a copy of each semen export health certificate which is issued for that animal.
4. **Approval of the Semen Collection Centre**
Paragraph V (a) refers. The centre must be registered by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs supervised by an Official Veterinarian and approved by the Centre for International Trade - Carlisle (CITC). The exporter should apply to CITC for approval of a centre. Official Veterinarians should check at the time of certification that the semen collection centre complies with the requirements for approval. See Check List 4044CKL.
5. **Check List 4044CKL**
Paragraphs V (a) and (o) refer. Paragraphs V (a) and (o) of export health certificate 4044EHC refer to requirements laid down in Chapters I and III of Annex D to Council Directive 92/65/EEC. Paragraphs V (a) and (o) may be signed provided that all the questions in the Check List 4044CKL can be answered in the affirmative.
6. **Council Directive 90/426/EEC**
Paragraph IV of the Check List 4044CKL refers. The requirements for equidae entering the centre are laid down in Articles 4 and 5 of Council Directive 90/426/EEC (see Annex A - 4044ANA). For holdings in GB, the Official Veterinarian should check the status of the holding of origin as necessary with the veterinary surgeon responsible for these premises and the local DVM. All equidae legally imported directly into the centre from another EU Member State or approved third country must meet the requirements of Directive 90/426/EEC. The Official Veterinarian should see the health certificate which accompanied the animal on importation or in the case of imports from third countries, the border crossing certificate issued at the Border Inspection Post of entry into the Community. In case of doubt, CITC should be consulted.
7. **Disease clearance**
Paragraph V (b) refers.

Where it is possible for the Official Veterinarian (OV) in Great Britain to obtain disease clearance themselves, the Centre for international Trade - Carlisle (CITC) will not issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance.

OVs must check the following sources of disease information for the United Kingdom immediately prior to certification, to ensure disease freedom statements can be certified:

- the Notifiable Disease Occurrence List for Great Britain (ET171) available on the Exports > Certification Procedures page of the APHA Vet Gateway
- the UK Status for Non-Notifiable Diseases Relevant to Export Certification (ET152) available on the Exports > Certification Procedures page of the APHA Vet Gateway.

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

For Great Britain:

In the absence of a specific Notifiable Disease Clearance (618NDC) from CITC: OVs may certify that the UK has disease free status or region free status for those diseases mentioned in the health certificate, once they have checked the disease list(s) for the last occurrence of the disease and have ensured it complies with the time frames in the certificate.

In the event of a disease outbreak that affects an OV being able to obtain their own disease clearance, CITC will notify OVs to make it clear which disease freedom statements should not be certified and where necessary, will issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance if the EHC can continue to be issued for certain regions that retain free status.

In the event of a disease outbreak after the EHC has been issued that affects the disease clearance, OVs must not certify the EHC and must contact CITC immediately for advice on whether certification can still take place. If a disease outbreak affects the OV disease clearance procedures for this EHC, a 618NDC will be reinstated by CITC which will be issued with the EHC until a time when OV disease clearance can be reinstated.

Paragraphs V (c) and (d) refer. These paragraphs should be certified after due enquiry and on the basis of the authorised veterinary surgeon's knowledge of the health history of horses on the collection centre. In case of doubt over official prohibition for notifiable disease reasons, CITC should be consulted.

8. **Status of the donor stallion prior to entering the collection centre**
Paragraph V (e) refers. The Official Veterinarian should receive a written declaration from the owner stating the premises where the horse has been resident during the 60 days prior to semen collection and that the horse had not been exposed to equidae suffering from an infectious or contagious disease both in the 15 days prior to admission to the centre and in the 15 days prior to semen collection. The declaration should also confirm that the horse has not been used for natural service during at least the 30 days prior to semen collection and during the collection period. The Official Veterinarian should make due enquiry as to the validity of the declaration and to the disease status of the holdings where the horse has been kept.
9. **Storage of semen**
Paragraph V (f) refers. Semen must be stored either in approved facilities on the approved centre the semen was collected or on another DEFRA approved storage facility. In case of doubt, the Official Veterinarian or exporter should consult CITC.
10. **Laboratory testing (except CEM)**
Paragraph V (h), (i), (l) and (m) refer. Samples for testing for equine infectious anaemia and equine viral arteritis should be sent to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency laboratory (VLA), Weybridge.

Before sending semen samples for the virus isolation test at paragraph IV (h) (ii) or (m) (ii), Official Veterinarians are advised to contact the Veterinary Laboratories Agency prior to semen collection to give advance notice of the submission and to confirm the requirements for semen packaging, transport and delivery to the VLA.
11. **CEM Testing**
Paragraphs V (j) and (n) refer. All swabs for CEM testing must be sent to the Veterinary Laboratory Agency laboratory at Penrith Regional AHVLA laboratory.

All swabs from an individual animal must be sent to the same laboratory, and must arrive at the laboratory within 48 hours of sampling. If more than 10 swabs are to be sent, prior notice should be given to the laboratory. A separate laboratory report form must accompany each sample.
12. **Sealing of the transport container**
Paragraph IV (e) refers. The exporter is responsible for provision of the tamper-proof seal used to seal the transport container under the Official Veterinarian's supervision. The seal number should be entered at paragraph IV (e).
13. **Completion of the health certificate**
The export health certificate must be signed and stamped with the Official Veterinarian stamp in ink of any colour other than black.
14. **Retention of copy certificate and check list**
A certified copy of this EHC and CKL are no longer required to be returned to the Centre for International Trade - Carlisle (CITC), but the OV must retain a copy for their own records for two years.