No: .....

EXPORT OF IN-VIVO DERIVED BOVID EMBRYOS [SPECIFICALLY BOVINE (*Bos taurus*, *Bos indicus*, *Bison bison*), WATER BUFFALO (*Bubalus bubalis*), YAK (*Bos grunniens*)] FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF TEAM VETERINARIANS, OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

1. **Scope**

Certificate 8616EHC must be used to accompany in-vivo derived bovid embryos [specifically bovine (Bos taurus, Bos indicus, Bison bison), Water buffalo (Bubalus bubalis), Yak (Bos grunniens) from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United States of America. The certificate refers to exports from either Great Britain or Northern Ireland. In-vivo derived Bovid embryos collected in both Northern Ireland and Great Britain and exported under one certificate is not permitted. The Bovid embryos must be collected in the same region of export (either Great Britain or Northern Ireland). This includes bovine semen used for in vivo embryo production.

As a minimum, for exports from Great Britain the requirements in Directive 89/556/EEC need to be complied with. In the certificate, legislation applicable in Great Britain refers to this legislation. For exports from Northern Ireland, the requirements in Regulation (EU) 2020/686 need to be complied with. In the certificate, legislation applicable in Northern Ireland refers to this legislation.

The requirements in Directive 89/556/EEC or Regulation (EU) 2020/686 will have been met if the embryo team is currently approved by APHA/DAERA.

USDA APHIS Veterinary Services have confirmed that this certificate CANNOT be used to accompany in-vitro derived bovid embryos to the USA.

A separate certificate must be issued for each consignment of embryos.

The original of this certificate must accompany the shipment.

2. **Signing of the certificate**

The health certificate must be signed at paragraph 12, Section A of Part D, by the Team Veterinarian of the Embryo Collection Team. An APHA/DAERA veterinarian must sign the certificate at paragraph 14, Section B of Part D.

Please note: Section B of Part D of 8616EHC suggests it can be signed by an Official Veterinarian. However, in the case of exports to USA, an Official Veterinarian is considered to be a veterinarian employed by the Department, so you must approach the local office of the Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA) or, in the case of Northern Ireland, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), Dundonald House, Belfast, to arrange countersignature.

APHA/DAERA veterinarian should affix their SP stamp to the

certificate in the normal manner. The VO should retain a copy for record keeping purposes, and, if not based at the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle, should also forward a copy to them, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DAERA, Dundonald House, Belfast, within seven days of signing.

Countersignature Requirements
This certificate must be countersigned by an APHA/DAERA Veterinarian.

All requests for countersignature must be submitted to the Centre for International Trade – Carlisle (CITC) at least two working days in advance of the requested date/time of countersignature using 'Request for APHA Veterinarian Countersignature of an Export Health Certificate' (ET145) application.

The ET145 application can be submitted to CITC:

- as an attachment, at the same time you complete an online application for certification, on the Export Health Certificates (EHC) Online Service, or
- by email to processingteam@apha.gov.uk

Upon receipt of your ET145 application CITC will liaise with an APHA Veterinarian at your preferred countersigning office/area to make arrangements for countersignature to take place and notify you of the arrangements made.

The health certificate must be signed and stamped in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

Section A

3. **Tuberculosis/Brucellosis**
Paragraphs 11.1 and 11.5 refer. Paragraph 11.1 refers to clinical or pathological evidence, but not test evidence either in the donor dams or on the premises. If there is clinical or pathological evidence of either disease on a holding, it is unlikely that restrictions on the holding will be lifted within 12 months of the slaughter of the animal. If the donor has not been resident during the 12 months prior to collection on the holding from which the embryos were collected, the Team Veterinarian must ensure that such evidence was not found in all other holdings on which the donor was resident during this period prior to collection by contacting APHA/DAERA offices. APHA/DAERA will then carry out the official checks on the eligibility of the donor regarding TB and Brucellosis.

Officially free at paragraph 11.5 means officially tuberculosis free (OTF) in accordance with Directive 64/432/EEC in Great Britain and Regulation (EU) 2020/689 in Northern Ireland, i.e. there must be no unresolved IR to the tuberculin test present on the holding at the time of collection.

4. **Inspection during the 60 days prior to the collection of embryos**
Paragraph 11.3 refers. To ensure that the requirements are met, the Team Veterinarian or an OV must inspect the animals at the beginning of the 60 day period, and advise the owner/keeper on the isolation/separation required.

5. **Semen used to fertilise the embryos**

Paragraph 11.7 refers. The semen used for in vivo embryo production must be collected in the same region as that in which the embryos were conceived (except for semen imported from United States and/or Canada). APHIS has confirmed that for this purpose, Great Britain (England, Scotland Wales) must be regarded as a separate region to Northern Ireland and to all European Union (EU) Member States. This means that semen collected in Northern Ireland cannot be moved to Great Britain to inseminate donor cows for production of embryos for export to the USA and vice versa.

With the exception of semen imported from the USA or Canada, the semen used to fertilise the embryos to be exported to the USA must have been collected in an approved semen collection centre (SCC), in accordance with applicable legislation in force in either Great Britain (Directive 89/556/EEC) or Northern Ireland (Regulation EU 2020/686), and in accordance with the model health certificate for the import of bovid semen from the UK (of GB/NI) to the USA.

Countries considered by the USDA as being free from FMD and rinderpest are listed in Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations Part 94.1 on the USDA website – see below. Semen collected during 15/01/2001 to 17/12/2002 in Great Britain, or during 10/02/2001 to 05/11/2001 in Northern Ireland, (dates inclusive) cannot be used for fertilisation of the embryos intended for export to the U.S.A. This is because the USDA had suspended the FMD free status of GB/NI during these periods.

Use of sexed semen – paragraph 11.7.1 refers:

If sexed semen was used to fertilize the embryos to be exported to the USA, paragraphs 11.7.1.1 and 11.7.1.2 must be certified. To enable this to be done, the Team Veterinarian must seek assurances from the Centre Veterinarian at the semen collection centre that supplied the sexed semen. For sex-sorted semen, a 'Cleaning and Disinfection' protocol needs to be in place to ensure there is no cross contamination between semen from SBV seropositive and SBV seronegative bulls when these batches are sex-sorted using the same machines. Any piece of the processing equipment that is not disposable must be cleansed and disinfected in situ, with cleansing agents, bleach and viricidal, alternating with purified water. APHIS studies these protocols and if satisfied, publish the names of the sex-sorting semen collection laboratories on their website:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/entry-requirements/ct_approvedeu-bovine-semen-sexsorting-facilities/!ut/p/z0/fYxBCsIwEABfFDaGor0HVKKleGv3UmJN62LdhCQGn29e4GVgYBhAGADZFlptJs92qz7ifjrIq1TtRfZtI3fydtZ9Y7RRp6MCA_g_qAcVO92tgMHmpyBePAxznmwI0Rf3cB9x94XYieTejiu_ycdMvIrFzrRRJpcgvHD8AXal2NQ!!/

Import permits will only be issued for semen sex-sorted in these laboratories, provided:

- The semen sex-sorting facility must be located in the same region as the semen collection centre where the semen was collected. USDA APHIS has confirmed that for this purpose, Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) must be regarded as being a separate region to Northern Ireland. This means that semen collected in Northern Ireland cannot be moved to

Great Britain to be sex-sorted before being used to inseminate donor cows producing embryos for export to the USA, whether the donor cows are located in Great Britain or Northern Ireland. As there is no licensed sex-sorting facility in Northern Ireland, this means that donor bulls must be moved to a licensed semen collection centre in Great Britain, where the semen can be collected and sex-sorted and the donor cows must also be located in Great Britain.

- There is effective supervision of the process by:
  - The Centre Veterinarian
  - The APHA/DAERA veterinarian responsible for auditing the centre/laboratory

Section B

6. **Freedom from Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Rinderpest and CBPP**

Paragraph 13.1 refers. Those countries considered by the USDA as being free from FMD and rinderpest are listed in Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations Part 94.1 on the USDA website: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions
Note, Rinderpest was officially declared eradicated globally in 2011.

Embryos collected during 15/01/2001 to 17/12/2002 in Great Britain, or during 10/02/2001 to 05/11/2001 in Northern Ireland, (dates inclusive) are not eligible for export, or for use for export, to the U.S.A. This is because the USDA had suspended the FMD free status of GB/NI during these periods.

Paragraph 13.2 refers to Great Britain or Northern Ireland freedom of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and can be certified based on 618NDC authorisation issued by APHA CIT at Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

7. **Freedom from Classical Swine Fever and African Swine Fever**

Paragraph 13.6 refers - with regards to Trypsin of porcine origin. Those countries considered by the USDA as being free from CSF but affected with ASF are similarly listed in Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations on the USDA website.
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions

8. **Embryo Collection Team Veterinarians**

Paragraph 13.4 refers - the rules for trade in bovine embryos are laid down in Directive 89/556/EC (as amended) in Great Britain and Regulation (EU) 2020/686 in Northern Ireland. Team Veterinarians responsible for approved embryo collection teams must be fully conversant with the rules laid down in this Directive/Regulation.

For embryo collection teams in Great Britain, the team must be approved in accordance with Directive 89/556/EC (as amended) and listed on the gov.uk website:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/livestock-and-equine-embryo-collection-approved-premises/bovine-embryo-collection-and-production-team

For embryo collection teams in Northern Ireland, the team must be approved in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2020/686 and listed on the EU website/TRACES:
https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/semen-oocytes-embryos/bovine_mt#movement-to-other-member-states

9. **Support assurances from Team Veterinarian to enable certain paragraphs in Section B to be signed by the Official Veterinarian**

The Team Veterinarian must provide the assurances required at Paragraphs 13.3 to 13.7 of Section B to the APHA/DAERA veterinarian to enable these paragraphs to be signed. Trypsin collected during 15/01/2001 to 17/12/2002 in Great Britain, or during 10/02/2001 to 05/11/2001 in Northern Ireland, (dates inclusive) cannot be used for washing embryos intended for export to the USA. This is because the USDA had suspended the FMD free status of GB/NI during these periods.

With regard to Paragraph 13.6, the list of countries considered by the USDA to free from FMD and rinderpest can be found by following the link provided on the certificate or see:
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions
Note, Rinderpest was officially declared eradicated globally in 2011.

10. **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, DARD at Dundonald House, Belfast.