EXPORT OF IN VIVO DERIVED OVINE EMBRYOS TO BRAZIL

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 7291 EHC and its continuation 7291 CON. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificates 7291 EHC and 7291 CON.

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 7291 EHC may be used for the export of in vivo derived ovine embryos from the United Kingdom to Brazil.

Please note that the export health certificate 8169 EHC is in two parts, 7291 EHC PART A and 7291 CON PART B. Both parts must be signed, dated and stamped on the day of shipment.

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. **Schedules**

Paragraphs I(a) and I(b) refer: Separate schedules may be used to identify the animals certified. These schedules must contain the same information as that required in paragraphs I(a) and I(b) and paragraphs I(a) and I(b) must be annotated "See attached schedules". Each page of the schedules must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the Official Veterinarian (OV).

The 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 schedules and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedules or in paragraphs I(a) and I(b) must be deleted with diagonal lines.

4. **Import permit**

Paragraph III.(d) refers: 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.(d).

5. **Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)**

Paragraph IV.1 refers: OVs may certify paragraphs IV.1.1, IV.1.2, IV.1.3, IV.4.3.4 (except for border disease and Q fever), IV.4.3.5, and IV.4.3.6 on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Specialist Service Centre – Exports - at Carlisle or the issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland.

6. **Additional Support Assurances required to enable certain paragraphs to be signed by the Official Veterinarian**

Paragraphs IV.3, IV.4.1, IV.4.2, IV.4.3, IV.4.4, IV.4.5, IV.4.6, IV.5.1 and IV.5.2 refer. OVs may certify these paragraphs based on personal knowledge of the embryo collection team and centre, or supporting certification from the ET team veterinarian. If further guidance is required, CIT / DAERA should be contacted.

IV.4.5.
With respect to Scrapie

To comply with IV.4.5) including the OIE recommendations at IV.4.5.a) and c), the donors have to originate from holdings which have a classical scrapie negligible risk status (ie have undergone active monitoring for at least 7 years) as listed in the Scottish Rural College (SRUC) Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (SMS) –

http://www.sruc.ac.uk/info/120113/premium_sheep_and_goat_health_schemes/511/diseases_covered/5

Scrapie Support Certificate 7291SPT for completion by the owner of the donors, the official / centre veterinarian and the APHA/DAERA veterinarian should be used to complete the certification of IV.4.5).

7. **Embryo collection and processing team (Paragraph IV.2 refers)**

Besides being approved by Defra in accordance with EU legislation, the team – and the processing laboratory - must also comply with any additional conditions stipulated in Chapter 4.7 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code Appendix at:

http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_coll_embryo_equid.htm

In practice, if the Team has been approved by Defra, the OIE requirements are deemed to have been complied with.

8. **Embryo donors (Section IV.4.refers)**

Paragraph IV.4.3.1 stipulates that the embryo donors were located in areas "... into which there was no entry of animals susceptible to sheep diseases ..." during the period specified in paragraph IV.4.3, ie for at least 30 days prior to the first collection and for 30 days after the last collection of embryos to be exported. Because there are so many sheep diseases in IETS categories, many of them non-notifiable, which could be transmitted via embryos, it will be necessary for the embryo donors to be housed within a dedicated isolation unit for Brazil. This may be achieved by ensuring that they are adequately and effectively isolated from any other animals on the premises not of a similar health status e.g. by housing them in separate buildings during the required period, and ensuring that their management, including before, during and after collection, follows good biosecurity practice.

The isolation unit, whether on farm or within an embryo collection centre, must be approved by an Official Veterinarian. It is the joint responsibility of the OV approving the isolation unit and the OV signing the export health certificate (if different) to ensure that adequate supervision and record keeping is in place to enable the export health certificate to be signed.

9. Semen used to inseminate donor animals (paragraph IV.4.6 refers)

Please note that paragraph IV.4.6 of the certificate requires the semen with which the donor animals are inseminated to "meet the health conditions laid down by MERCOSUR for the importation of ovine semen into Brazil". These are covered in 6506EHC, Export of Bovine Semen to Brazil. Therefore, if it is intended to use fresh semen to inseminate the donor animals, it follows that the isolation unit within which the animals are being held for collection of embryos for Brazil cannot be located on a farm and must be within an officially recognised semen collection centre which qualifies semen from donor rams according to the conditions set out in 6506EHC.

10. Laboratory tests

The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out pre-export testing is officially approved for this purpose by DEFRA or DAERA. Such approval is given on the basis that these tests are carried out in accordance with the Terrestrial Manual of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

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, Penicuick, 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 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. Testing for Enzootic Abortion of Ewes (EAE)

Paragraph IV.5.2.2 refers: The result of a Complement Fixation Test (CFT) for EAE should be regarded as negative at a titre of less than 1 in 32.

12. Sealing of the transport container

Paragraph IV.6 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 and the date of sealing must be entered at paragraph IV.6.1 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. 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 IV.6.1 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**.

13. Supplementary certification in respect of Schmallenberg virus (SBV)

Supplementary certificate 7616SUP (Agreed 07/11/2017), which should have been issued together with 7291EHC, 7291CON and these Notes for Guidance, must be completed. In 7616SUP, the relevant SBV attestation in point 1 must be certified for the semen used to produce the embryos to be exported in addition to point 2 with regard to the embryos. However, the certificate number spaces in the first sentence of point 1 should be left blank.

14. 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.

ANNEX

CONDITIONS FOR APPROVING ON FARM ISOLATION UNITS

1) Management of the unit

a) Buildings used for the on farm isolation premises must be dedicated for the on farm isolation and be physically separate from any buildings used for other livestock.

b) Pastures used for on-farm isolation premises must be dedicated for on farm isolation and be physically separate from any pastures or buildings used for other livestock on the premises. A minimum distance of 5 metres is required between the perimeter of the isolation fields and any other livestock. This 5 metre separation would be satisfied with stockproof double fencing.

c) Animals may only be moved between isolation premises on the same farm.

2) Construction for buildings

a) Any buildings used in the isolation unit must be designed such that contact with other livestock is prevented.

b) A dedicated loading/off loading facility must be provided for each isolation unit. This facility shall be fully cleansed and disinfected after each use.

3) Operating Procedures

a) Dedicated protective clothing for staff must be provided for the isolation unit.

b) Protective clothing to be provided for visitors.

c) Disinfectant footbaths to be provided and used at the entrance(s) to the isolation units.

d) Any person entering the isolation unit must wear protective clothing and footwear and use the disinfectant footbaths at the entrance(s).

e) Any unused feedingstuffs, fodder, bedding etc. intended for animals in the isolation unit must remain there while animals are present.

f) All equipment, pens, hurdles, etc in the isolation premises must remain there until the 30 day period has been satisfactorily completed.