

HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR EQUINE SEMEN EXPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES FROM THE UK - 1852NFG

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE CENTRE/OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

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**IMPORTANT**

These notes provide guidance to the Centre Veterinarians (CVs), countersigning Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 1852EHC.

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**

The US Authority (USDA APHIS) has agreed with the Authorities for Great Britain and Northern Ireland that this certificate may be used for the import of equine semen from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The semen must be collected in a Semen collection centre officially approved by the competent authority and listed on the UK website:

[Livestock and equine semen collection: approved premises - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

The team has to comply with In The Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011 (England) and equivalent legislations in Scotland, Wales, and the Northern Ireland which reflect the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of OIE requirements.

For information on imports into USA, see:

[USDA APHIS | Bring Horses into the U.S. from United Kingdom](#)

**2. 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 following information is for guidance only and must be verified by the exporter in advance of any exports.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires all imports of equine semen from Great Britain and Northern Ireland into the US to be accompanied by an Import Permit.

The USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) will continue to offer a manual process to users, however use of the The National Center for Import and Export (NCIE) [ePermits](#) system is now encouraged. This is a web-based system that allows users to submit permit applications, track applications, apply for renewals and amendments, and receive a copy of the permit - all while online. Users are required to sign up for an account to access ePermits:

[USDA APHIS | Register for ePermits](#)

Use of the ePermits system will help to expedite the entire permitting process and enable users to track the status of their permits, confirm receipt, and easily renew existing permits.

Import permits for equine semen are available from the following address:

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)  
Veterinary Services (VS)  
4700 River Road, Unit 38  
Riverdale, MD 20737

Tel: +(301)-851-3300, option 4

Email: [VS.Live.Animals.Import.Permits@usda.gov](mailto:VS.Live.Animals.Import.Permits@usda.gov)

Application form, **VS Form 17-129, "Application for Import or in Transit Permit (Animals, Animal Semen, Animal Embryos, Birds, Poultry or Hatching Eggs)** can be obtained by writing or telephoning NCIE, or by downloading it from the APHIS web site via the following link:

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/library/forms/pdf/vs17\\_129.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/library/forms/pdf/vs17_129.pdf)

Applications for import permits may be submitted by mail to the National Import and Export Services at the following address:

Live Animal Import Permits  
USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services  
National Import Export Services  
4700 River Rd. Unit 39  
Riverdale, MD 20737

Applications may be submitted to the National Import and Export Services via the dedicated email address [VS.Live.Animals.Import.Permits@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:VS.Live.Animals.Import.Permits@aphis.usda.gov)

Guidance for the online submission of the application form:

[Microsoft Word - Online Application Instructions VS 17-129 in ePermits.docx \(usda.gov\)](#)

3. **Certification by a Centre Veterinarian (CV) and an Official Veterinarian (OV)**

This certificate may be signed by a Centre Veterinarian and an Official Veterinarian authorised on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government, Welsh Government or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA), who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation, or who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate panel for export purposes.

OVs/AVIs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV/AVI stamp in a colour that must be different to the colour of the printing of the certificate

Instructions on certified copies, retention and returning of the same can be found in APHA Vet Gateway, please make sure you follow the latest government guidance.

[OV Instructions \(defra.gov.uk\)](http://defra.gov.uk)

The OV/AVI should keep a copy for his/her own records.

**4. Format of the certificate**

Exporters are advised that the format of 1852EHC has been recently agreed between Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the USDA.

**5. Completion of Part I - Details of dispatched consignment**

**Veterinary Authority**

This will be pre-populated as either DEFRA or DAERA as applicable.

**I.3. - Country ISO Codes**

ISO 826 is the commonly accepted International Standard for country codes. The two letter ISO Code for the whole of the United Kingdom is 'GB'

**I.4. -** Please insert the country where the product is dispatched from.

**I.8 - Means of transport**

The registration number of transport vehicles, flight number or name of the vessel must be provided.

**Completion of Part II, Sections A and B of Certification (Health Information) - by the CV and OV**

**6. Official Disease Clearance (Form 618NDC)**

Paragraphs II.1. refer: The certifying Veterinarian may certify this paragraph on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle, or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland. The UK is recognised by the USDA as free of AHS: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport?ldmy&uril=wcm%3apath%3a%2Faphis%20content%20library%2Fsa%20our%20focus%2Fsa%20animal%20health%2Fsa%20import%20into%20us%2Fsa%20entry%20requirements%2Fct%20african%20horse%20sickness>

The Veterinarian should note that official clearance should cover the dates of collection of semen.

**7. Countries recognised by APHIS as free from certain diseases as indicated in 9CFR Part 94**

Paragraph II.1 refers. Clearance is required at time of semen collection, therefore should be taken the day the semen is collected and retained for future certification. Certifying Veterinarians are advised that the list of countries can be found by

consulting/navigating the website below for the diseases in question (milk - FMD; egg - Newcastle Disease and Avian Influenza):

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/animals/animal\\_disease\\_status.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_disease_status.shtml)  
or

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions>

The website provides up to date information on the disease status of countries from the APHIS perspective, which must be respected for all exports to the US. Certifying Veterinarians are advised to consult this website for each consignment certified, as the information therein is liable to change without notice.

## **8. Laboratory tests**

The CV 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). Cultures for CEM are carried out at the regional laboratory at Penrith.

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 CV 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 CV should seek the advice of the relevant laboratory.

[APHA laboratory test submissions and price lists - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Dourine**

Paragraph II.14 refers. The donor stallion should be blood tested for Dourine, in a laboratory approved by the competent authority of either Great Britain or Northern Ireland. Samples must be tested using the complement fixation test (CFT), at a dilution of 1:5 on samples taken waiting 30 days after donor stallion's entry into isolation and at 180 day intervals if the donor remains isolated under the supervision of the centre veterinarian in charge.

### **CEM**

Paragraph II.15 refers. This test must be carried out following the procedure given in paragraphs II.16 and II.17. **All** swabs must be submitted to the APHA regional laboratory in Penrith.

All swabs from an individual animal must arrive at the laboratory within 48 hours of sampling. If more than 10 swabs are to be submitted, prior notice should be given to the laboratory. A separate laboratory submission form must accompany each sample.

9. **Sealing of transport containers**

Paragraphs II.8 refer. These paragraphs require the shipping container to be sealed with an official seal (to reflect the USDA requirement that the seal has to be a 'government seal'). As the UK (Defra) does not have any government seals for Animal Health purposes, this should be taken to mean a seal with a unique identification number/code which when applied will ensure the integrity of the contents in the shipping container. The seals intended for shipments to the US must be discussed with, and approved by, the OV. Such seals can then be accepted as 'official' seals. The seals must be applied by, or under the supervision of, the certifying OV. The seal number entered at paragraph I.10. under the Quantity/number of straws.

10. **Transport**

Paragraph II.9 refer. The semen must be exported directly to the US with no stops en route other than those permitted on the import permit.

11. **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.