

EXPORT OF FROZEN PORCINE SEMEN TO VENEZUELA - 8765EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued together with export certificate 8765EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8765EHC.

OVs AND EXPORTERS ARE ADVISED THAT CERTIFICATE 8765EHC HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY AGREED WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN THE IMPORTING COUNTRY.

Exporters are therefore 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. They should attempt to obtain an import permit and check this certificate against the requirements of the import permit.

If the health requirements do not match or no import permit is available, the exporter may choose to proceed with the export using certificate 8765EHC, however this decision and any consequences thereof are taken strictly at the exporter's own risk.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 8765EHC may be used for the export from the United Kingdom to Venezuela of frozen porcine semen originating from donor boars resident in approved semen collection centres in the UK that have been resident in the collection centre for at least three months prior to the date of collection of the exported semen.

Exporters and certifying OVs must take particular note of the disclaimer at paragraph 10.

2. SCHEDULES

Part I refers. Separate schedules may be used to identify the donor boars and porcine semen certified. Schedules must contain the same information as that required in Part I. Part I must be annotated 'See attached schedule' as appropriate. Each page of the schedule(s) must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the OV.

The schedule(s) must be stapled inside the health certificate and the OV should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule(s) and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedule(s) and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule(s) or in Part I must be deleted with diagonal lines.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or by an Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government, and

holding the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ (V)) authorisation.

In **Northern Ireland** (NI), this certificate must be signed by a Veterinary Officer/Inspector (VO/VI) of the Department or 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). For the purposes of these notes VOs, VIs and AVIs shall be referred to as OVs unless a specific reference is required.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in ink of a different colour to that of the printing.

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, a certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the APHA Centre for International Trade (CIT) at Carlisle within seven days of signing.

The OV should also keep a copy of the signed certificate and any supporting documents for at least three years after signature or receipt/dispatch of the consignment, whichever is later.

4. NOTIFIABLE/REPORTABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

OVs may certify paragraphs V(a), V(b), V(c), V(d) (without vaccination), V(e) (ii) and V(o) of the certificate on behalf of the Department, provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA CIT at Carlisle or via disease clearance procedures in DAERA.

5. LEGAL STATEMENT - RETAINED EU LAW

Existing EU legislation, with which the UK already complies, is incorporated into UK domestic law as 'retained EU law' under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

References in guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this retained EU law. Under the Withdrawal Act, the UK ensures that current EU standards remain in force, without amendment, as part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable).

6. COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 90/429/EEC (as amended)

Paragraph V(e) refers. The semen collection centre must be approved by the Department in accordance with retained Council Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended). The certifying Official Veterinarian must be fully conversant with the provisions of retained Council Directive 90/429/EEC and any subsequent amendments, laying down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-Community trade in and imports of semen of domestic animals of the porcine species.

OVs may certify paragraphs V(e) subparagraphs (i) - (iii), V(f), V(i), V(n) subparagraphs (i) and (ii), V(p) and V(q) on the basis that the semen collection centre from which the exported semen originates is approved and operating in accordance with retained Directive 90/429/EEC.

7. **FREEDOM OF THE COLLECTION CENTRE FROM OTHER DISEASES**

Paragraph V(g) refers. OV's should take into account their personal knowledge of the disease status of the approved collection centre. If necessary, this may be supported by discussion with the local office of APHA or DAERA.

Certifying OV's should also carry out appropriate checks of collection centre records including results of specific disease monitoring programmes, use of medicines and fertility records to verify freedom from the named diseases. These checks may also be supported by means of a written declaration from the operator of the collection centre attesting to freedom from the diseases mentioned in these paragraphs.

8. **LABORATORY TESTS**

Paragraphs V(k), V(m) and V(n) refer. The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out routine and pre-export testing and monitoring 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. 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

For operational reasons the laboratories involved may change periodically. Accordingly, the OV 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 OV should seek the advice of the relevant laboratory.

OV's should pay particular attention to the timing of the required tests as laid down in paragraphs V(m) and V(n) of the certificate.

9. **SEALING OF THE TRANSPORT CONTAINER**

Paragraph V(v) refers. The semen must be secured within its packaging or 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 must be entered at paragraph V(v) of the health certificate.

If it is necessary to top up the container, the additional liquid nitrogen used must meet the requirements of the certificate (see paragraph V(s)). Topping up should be done in the presence of an OV who must apply a new tamperproof seal upon completion.

The OV must endorse paragraph V(v) of 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.

10. **DISCLAIMER**

OVs and exporters are advised that 8765EHC has not been officially agreed with the authorities of Venezuela.

Accordingly, use of 8765EHC for export of fresh and/or frozen porcine semen to Venezuela is at the exporter's risk.

It is the responsibility of the exporter to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country, if these are available. If the permit or advice do not match the assurances provided on 8765EHC, in the case of export from Great Britain, the exporter should contact the APHA CIT at Carlisle at product.exports@apha.gov.uk or by phone at 03000 200 301.

For export from Northern Ireland, exporters should contact the DAERA Trade Administration Team for live animals and animal products by email at TradeAdminPost@daera-ni.gov.uk or by telephone 028 77442 141.