INTERNAL MOVEMENT OF BOVINE / OVINE / CAPRINE / PORCINE OOCYTES/EMBRYOS WITHIN GREAT BRITAIN FOR THE EVENTUAL EXPORT TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR AUTHORISED CENTRE/TEAM VETERINARIANS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Centre/Team Veterinarians for the completion of the Internal Movement Certificate for transfer of oocytes/embryos within Great Britain from different approved Germinal Product Establishments (e.g. from an approved Embryo Collection team to an approved Germinal Product Storage Centre). These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with the Internal Movement Certificate and relevant Export Health Certificate to the Union.

Authorised Centre/Team Veterinarians must be familiar with the export requirements to the European Union which includes relevant conditions for collection, processing, and storage of germinal products, where applicable.

1. **Scope of the Certificate**

These notes are intended for authorised centre/team veterinarians in approved Germinal Product Establishments **where the consignment of oocytes/embryos collected after 20 April 2021** will be transferred to another approved Germinal Product Establishment in Great Britain for further storage and/or processing before export to the Union.

Centre/Team veterinarians in approved establishments are required to provide support documentation in the form of an Internal Movement Certificate (IMC), confirming that the oocytes/embryos collected, processed and/or stored after 20 April 2021 meets the relevant Animal Health Regulation (AHR) requirements, as specified in Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692. This support document enables the Official Veterinarian in the approved establishment of dispatch in Great Britain to sign the final Export Health Certificate (EHC). The IMC shall be attached to the final EHC as an 'accompanying document'.

The certificate applies to 'approved germinal product establishments' for collection, storage and/or processing of oocytes/embryos, which includes an embryo collection team, an embryo production team, a germinal product processing establishment and a germinal product storage centre, approved in accordance with Article 97 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429. Definitions of the types of approved establishments can be found in Article 2 to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/686.

2. **Certification by a Centre/Team Veterinarian**

The Centre/Team Veterinarian who is the lead veterinarian in the establishment and authorised by APHA and who is familiar with the operational procedures of the establishment may certify the IMC and must sign and stamp the certificate with the establishment stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**. The centre/team veterinarian does not have to hold OV qualification to certify this certificate.

Please note, if the lead Centre/Team veterinarian is not available at the centre (e.g. due to annual leave/sick leave) to certify the certificate, then the certificate may be certified by a listed deputy Centre/Team veterinarian provided they have been authorised by the lead Centre/Team veterinarian and are familiar with the operational procedures of the establishment. However, where possible, the lead Centre/Team veterinarian must the certify the certificate.

The certified certificate must accompany the consignment to its destination in GB. It shall then be an 'accompanying document' to the final EHC and consignment for final export to the Union, as required in the 'GP-STORAGE-ENTRY' and 'GP-PROCESSING-ENTRY' EHCs.

The certifying Official Veterinarian of the final Export Health Certificate should also stamp and initial each individual page of the IMC and accompanying schedules. This gives assurance to the EU BCPs that the IMC and schedules have been checked by the OV.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be kept by the Centre/Team veterinarian in the establishment of origin for his/her own records. The copy of the certificate should be made available to APHA during routine inspections of the establishment.

3. Schedules

Paragraph I refers:
Separate schedule(s) may be used to identify the consignment certified where there is too much detail to include in the paragraph 1 of the certificate. The schedule(s) must contain the same information as that required in paragraph I with the approval number of the establishment and paragraph I must be annotated "See attached schedules". Each page of the schedules must bear a page number and the Internal Movement Certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the Centre/Team Veterinarian.

The schedule(s) must be stapled inside the Internal Movement Certificate and the Centre/Team veterinarian should stamp each page 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 schedules or in paragraph I must be deleted with diagonal lines. The stamp used maybe an establishment stamp. The certifying OV of the final EHC should also stamp with an official OV/APHA stamp and initial each page of the IMC and schedules.

If using schedule(s), please write 'see attached schedule(s)' in paragraphs 1(3) and 1(4).

4. Approved establishments

The Centre/Team Veterinarian must check the establishment or origin and establishment of destination in Great Britain are approved by the UK and listed by the European Union. Please refer to the lists of approved establishments in the EU Website and Gov.uk.

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/semen-oocytes-embryos_en

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/livestock-and-equine-semen-collection-approved-premises

5. Animal Health Regulation requirements

The European Commission introduced new animal health requirements for export to the Union of germinal products in the new Animal Health Regulation (AHR) that came into force on 21 April 2021.
The establishment must therefore comply with the relevant AHR requirements for collecting, storing and/or processing oocytes/embryos of the species of concern for export to the Union from the 21 April 2021. The requirements are outlined in Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692. These regulations refer to detailed requirements in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/686. The Centre/Team veterinarian must also ensure the semen used was collected/stored/processed in accordance with the AHR requirements.

Please note, establishment(s) approved by the UK and listed by the European Union and exporting since 21 April 2021 must already be compliant with the relevant requirements in the aforementioned Regulations. If you require further advice on AHR requirements, please contact APHA CIT.

The model EU EHCs contain the relevant requirements for export to the

Union of oocytes/embryos and can be found in Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2021/404 and EHC Form Finder. The applicable model certificates maybe labelled as e.g. BOV-OOCYTES-EMB-A-ENTRY, BOV-GP-STORAGE-ENTRY, BOV-GP-PROCESSING-ENTRY.

If the oocytes/embryos are transferred from an EU Approved Embryo Collection Team to a EU Approved Storage Centre/Processing establishment, then the relevant certificate that needs to be complied with in the IMC from the Embryo Collection team is the 'BOV-OOCYTES-EMB-A-ENTRY' or 'OV/CAP-OOCYTES-EMB-A-ENTRY' or 'POR-OOCYTES-EMB-A-ENTRY' or 'EQUI-OOCYTES-EMB-A-ENTRY' EHCs (where appropriate for the species of concern).

6. Sealing of the transport container and Transport conditions

If the consignment of oocytes/embryos is frozen then paragraph IV.3(b) must be certified confirming the container has been filled with cryogenic agent which has not been previously used for other products of lesser health status. Otherwise, delete if the consignment is transported chilled.

The consignment of oocytes/embryos must be secured within the 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 III.4 on the health certificate.

If it is necessary to top up the container, topping up should be done by the centre veterinarian who must apply a new tamperproof seal. The Centre/Team veterinarian must write in paragraph III.4 on the health certificate the new seal number, giving name and signature and dating and stamping in the margin of the certificate in any ink colour **other than black.**

7. 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 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