EXPORT OF IN VIVO DERIVED OVINE EMBRYOS TO PARAGUAY

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 8620EHC and its continuation 8620CON. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificates 8620EHC and 8620CON.

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 8620EHC may be used for the export of in vivo derived ovine embryos from the United Kingdom to Paraguay.

Please note that the export health certificate 8620EHC is in two parts, 8620 EHC PART A and 8620 CON PART B. There is also a supplementary certificate 8573SUP covering assurances for Schmallenberg virus, and a scrapie/tuberculosis support document SPT 8573 8620 covering assurances for scrapie, to facilitate certification of export of ovine semen and embryos to Paraguay. All parts must be signed, dated and stamped.

In 8573SUP, 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. Please note, paragraph 1(a) or 2(a) cannot be certified as cases of Schmallenberg virus have been recorded in the UK.

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

Paragraph IV refers: Separate schedules may be used to identify the animals certified. These schedules must contain the same information as that required in paragraph IV) and paragraph IV 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 paragraph IV must be deleted with diagonal lines.

4. Import permit

No. of authorisation / import permit 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 under No. of authorisation / import permit towards the top of page 1 of 8620EHC.

5. Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)

Paragraphs V.1.1, V.1.2.1, V.4.1.3 (Rift Valley Fever), V.4.1.6 (Bluetongue, Brucellosis, ovine epididymitis, contagious agalactia), V.4.1.7 and V.5.1.3 refer: OVs may certify these paragraphs 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 DAERA in Northern Ireland.

In addition where details of the donors parents & siblings have been provided using the scrapie clearance declaration attached to the application, additional scrapie clearances may be provided, for these identified animals, to cover V.1.3.1 3rd statement, on the 618

With reference to Paragraph V.4.1.6 - Tuberculosis clearance checks for the establishments the animals were resident in for 6 months prior to embryo collection shall be performed by APHA/DAERA by completion of the 8573 8620 SPT.

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

Paragraphs V.3.2, V.4.1 (all sub-sections), V.5.2, V.6.1, V.6.2, V.6.3 and V.6.4 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. The term "officially reported" used in paragraph V.4.1 can also include non-notifiable diseases specifically diagnosed by a veterinarian. If further guidance is required, CIT / DAERA should be contacted.

V.1.3.
With respect to Scrapie

Either paragraph V.1.3.1 may be certified on the basis of the UK (England and the other DAs) TSE Regulations, together with the necessary APHA Scrapie Notification Disease (SND) database checks (see below) which implement this paragraph.

To comply with the WOAH (formerly known as OIE) recommendations at V.1.3.1, 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

Or paragraph V.1.3.2 may be certified if donor animals are of ARR/ARR genotype with a National Scrapie Plan genotype certificate issued at official laboratories, such as SRUC and APHA laboratories. The laboratory report must be attached to the EHC.

SND checks to be performed even if V.1.3.1 or V.1.3.2 (genotyping) is certified:

If the Embryo Collection Veterinarian is not the veterinarian overseeing the holdings where the donors have resided since birth, due enquiries must be made to enable this sub-paragraph to be fully certified.

The owner/exporter **and** an authorised Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed to the appropriate panel for export purposes by Defra, the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government, or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation may need to liaise in order to complete paragraph V.1.3.1 or V.1.3.2.

Close liaison with the Embryo Collection Veterinarian is required to ensure that the movement of donor ewes to the Embryo Collection Establishment can be co-ordinated since an all-in / all-out procedure may be necessary; the OV may choose to use the Embryo Collection Veterinarian to submit requests for clearances, in which case the Embryo Collection Veterinarian must submit details for all the donors (from which embryos are intended for certification) to CIT. CIT would then arrange for the details (CPH, Name and address of holdings of birth and residence), and if necessary (e.g. if the dam of the donor is not available or it is dead), identity details of the parents of the donors to be sent to APHA, Weybridge, preferably collated and by e-mail. APHA, Weybridge will check for confirmed cases of Scrapie on the holdings which the donor ewes have resided in. If confirmed cases are identified, further searches will be made on the Scrapie Notification Database to determine if the Scrapie was confirmed during the time that the donors were resident on the holding and whether they are the progeny of any dam/sire confirmed with scrapie. If satisfactory, paragraph V.1.3.1 (and V.1.3.2) can then be fully certified by the OV. The submission of the search request to CIT must be made in good time to allow the search to be completed in time.

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

Besides being approved by Defra in accordance with retained EU legislation in GB (Directive 92/65) or Regulation 2020/686 in NI, the team – and the processing laboratory - must also comply with any additional conditions stipulated in Chapter 4.8 of the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code Appendix at:

https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code- online-access/

In practice, if the Team has been approved by APHA/DAERA, the WOAH requirements are deemed to have been complied with.

8. Semen used to inseminate donor animals (paragraph V.4.1.8 refers)

Please note that paragraph V.4.1.8 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 Paraguay". These are covered in 8573EHC, Export of Ovine Semen to Paraguay. 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 Paraguay 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 8573EHC.

9. Residency of the donor ewes in the UK

Paragraph V.3.1 refers: If necessary, details in the in the Livestock

Information Service or equivalent system in devolved administrations: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sheep-and-goat-keepers-how-to-report-animal-movements
may be checked to establish whether paragraphs V.3.1 can be signed.

For imported animals, the relevant import certificate may be checked to verify animals were imported legally from an approved third country.

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 (WOAH).

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 V.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 V.7.1 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 V.7.1 on the health certificate.

If it is necessary to top up the container, 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 V.7.1 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. 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.