EXPORT OF IN-VIVO DERIVED OVINE AND CAPRINE EMBRYOS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO NEW ZEALAND – 7855EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE CERTIFYING VETERINARIANS

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV's) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7855EHC and its continuation 7855CON. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7855EHC.

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

This certificate covers the export of ovine and caprine embryos from the United Kingdom to New Zealand. The embryos must be from *Ovis aries* and/or *Capra hircus* and must be *in-vivo* derived, frozen, non-cloned and non-genetically modified. It must be collected by an approved team which must meet the minimum EU requirements for approval of such a team (use of laboratory and the IETS processing etc) and (Team veterinarian) supervision of the whole process including storage. The list of EU approved centres/teams can be found at Ovine and caprine embryo collection and production teams - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). If the germinal product is moved from any other EU MS to the UK for ultimate export to New Zealand, confirmation of compliance with both the EU and NZ requirements is required before the certificate should be signed. The donor females have to comply with the health requirements in 7855EHC which are different to those for intra-EU trade. Therefore, unless the donor animals **also** meet the EU requirements, embryos collected for NZ will not be eligible for intra-EU trade; the team veterinarian is responsible for making sure procedures (temporal or spatial separation) are in place to prevent the status of the embryos collected for NZ exports and that collected for intra-EU trade is not compromised.

Please note that the export health certificate 7855EHC is in two parts, 7855EHC PART A and 7855CON PART B.

2. Signing of the certificate

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. Import Permit(Paragraph 1.2 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 must be stated here. The certificate should not be signed and the consignment must not be exported unless an import permit has been issued and (a copy) sighted by the certifying OV.

4. Approval number of Embryo Collection Team

Paragraph 1.7 refers: The EU approval number of the embryo collection team and its team leader should be entered here.

5. Embryo Collection Team veterinarian

Paragraph 1.8 refers: The name, qualifications and address of the embryo collection team veterinarian should be entered here.

6. Schedules

Information concerning the donor animals, the embryos to be exported and vaccines and products administered to the donors must be recorded on document 7855SCH, copy of which will have been issued with the export certificate and these Notes for Guidance.

7. Laboratory tests

The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out pre-export testing is officially approved for this purpose by Defra or DAERA or, if a test is carried out at a laboratory located outside the UK, that the laboratory has been approved by the New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries (NZ MPI).

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).

Samples for bluetongue must be sent to the Pirbright Institute: http://www.pirbright.ac.uk/files/quick_media/General_SAMPLE_SUBMISSION_FORM.pdf.

For operational reasons however, 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.

Tests performed by the APHA and the VSD laboratory, Stormont, can be deemed to comply with the methodologies set out in the OIE Terrestrial Manual. Only the tests mentioned on the certificate are acceptable eg the ELISA (antibody) for bluetongue.

MPI-STD-TVTL

When reference is made in the certificate to a test or vaccine being listed in the MPI-STD-TVTL, the latest version of this document, full title "Approved Diagnostic Tests, Vaccines, Treatments, and Post-Arrival Testing Laboratories for Animal Import Health Standards", can be found on the NZ MPI website at:

http://www.mpi.govt.nz/importing/live-animals/semen-and-embryos/steps-to-importing/

8. WOAH (formerly OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code

In order to complete this certificate, it is necessary to be familiar with the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, formerly OIE). The latest edition of the Code can be found on the WOAH website at: https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmfile=sommaire.htm

9. Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)

Paragraphs 22(a), 23(a), 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31 refer: The Official Veterinarian may certify these paragraphs on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

10. Support assurances from Centre Veterinary Surgeon to enable certain paragraphs to be signed by the Official Veterinarian

Paragraphs 23, 25, 24, 30, 32, 34, 35 and 36 refer: The Authorised Centre Veterinary Surgeon must provide the assurances required of the certificate to the Official Veterinarian to enable these paragraphs to be signed. He/she should take into account their personal knowledge of the disease status of the premises of origin, if necessary with the support of a written declaration from the person in charge of the animals or the attending veterinary surgeon concerned, confirming freedom from certain diseases and that the actions to be certified have been carried out as specified in the certificate.

Certifying Official Veterinarians can also carry out appropriate checks of the farm records including use of medicines, fertility and birth records to establish the veracity of any supporting documentation pertaining to the holdings of origin of the donors or the Semen Collection Centre (SCC) in relation to the activities.

In the case of scrapie (required for goats only), compliance with the OIE Code recommendations for a scrapie-free establishment will be met if all donors from which germinal product is intended for export to New Zealand 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 . In essence, the requirements for EU trade (to a MS with negligible risk) should be followed and further guidance on this aspect can be found at http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/documents/traces/sheep-goats/ovine-caprine-semen-NFG1.pdf.

11. Embryo collection from imported donors

Any embryo donors imported into the United Kingdom from an overseas territory must be resident in the UK for a minimum period of 60 days before embryo collection can commence. If necessary, details 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 the embryo donors comply.

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

12. Sealing of the transport container

Paragraph 20 refers: The semen must be secured within a cryogenic container by a tamper-evident 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 20 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 (see paragraph 15). Topping up should be done in the presence of a Veterinary Officer (VO) who must apply a new tamper-evident seal. The VO must endorse paragraph 20 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.