

No:

EXPORT OF SEMEN AND EMBRYOS FROM LABORATORY RATS AND MICE FROM GREAT BRITAIN TO AUSTRALIA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND THE EXPORTER

1. **IMPORTANT**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 6988EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6988EHC. We strongly suggest that exporters obtain full details of the importing country's requirements from the veterinary authorities in the country concerned, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

2. **SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 6988EHC may be used to accompany semen and embryos from laboratory rats and mice from Great Britain to Australia.

3. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The original import permit must accompany the animals to Australia. At the time of application for the import permit the importer must nominate an AQIS approved quarantine premise to which the animals can be directed if necessary.

A copy of the Animal Health Certificate must be received (by fax is acceptable) by the AQIS officer in charge at the port of entry prior to shipment of the animal(s).

The exporter/agent must obtain permission from the Department of the Environment and Heritage, Australia, to import under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, at the following address:

The Director, International Wildlife Trade, Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, GPO Box 787, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia -

Tel. No: +61 2 6274 1900.

Fax No: +61 2 6274 1921.

E-mail: wildlifetrade@environment.gov.au

In the event of a consignment arriving in Australia without the correct certification or in any other way not meeting these requirements, the consignment may be detained in quarantine, returned to the country of origin or destroyed without recompense.

4. **CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)**

This certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government or Welsh Government, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

Certified Copy Requirements - England, Wales and Scotland

Guidance concerning return of certified copies of EHCs has changed and only specific certified copies are required to be returned to the APHA. Certifying OVs must return a certified copy of EHCs only for the following EHC types:

- if the exported commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids;
- if the certificate was applied for manually and the application documents have been emailed to APHA and not applied for via the Exports Health Certificates Online (EHCOnline) system.

Certified copies should be emailed on the day of signature to the Centre for International Trade Carlisle (CITC) at the following address: certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk.

For certificates that have been issued to the Certifying OV via the EHCOnline system, the Certifying OV must complete the certifier portal with the status of the certificate and the date of signature.

A copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified must be retained for two years.

Certifying OVs are not required to return certified copies of other EHCs issued, however CITC may request certified copies of EHCs and supporting documentation in order to complete Quality Assurance checks or if an issue arises with the consignment after certification.

5. **DEFINITIONS**

The term "date of export" means the date on which live animals were transported to the point of export.

The term "colony" refers to the entire group of animals that is in contact with the animals to be exported. In contact animals are those that share airspace, handlers and/or equipment and are not separated by air filter or any similar physical barrier.

6. **SEALING OF THE TRANSPORT CONTAINER**

Individual doses of semen/embryos must be contained in straws.

All straws must be permanently marked with the identification of the donor animal/s and the date of collection. If a code is used for this information, its decipher must accompany the consignment.

The container holding the semen/embryos must be sealed by the Official Veterinarian and the seal number entered at paragraph **V.**(1).

7. **HANTAVIRUSES TESTING**

Currently, testing at official laboratories for the Hantaviruses is not available at VLA. However, hantavirus testing can be performed at private laboratories. The laboratory report must be attached to the export health certificate.

8. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Official Veterinarians may certify paragraph **V.** (g) 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.

The criteria for rabies disease clearance can be accessed through using the following weblink to the World Organisation for Animal Health (O.I.E.):-

http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_chapitre_1.8.11.htm

9. **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, Carlisle, via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>