

EXPORT OF EQUINE SEMEN TO MOROCCO

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 4677EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 4677EHC. 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.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 4677EHC may be used for the export of equine semen from the United Kingdom to Morocco.

2. 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 (EHCO) 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 EHCO 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.

3. **Identification of horses - Registration with a Breed Society**

Paragraph I refers. It is essential that all stallions and teaser mares are correctly identified, and that the identity of each animal is confirmed whenever it is examined, collected from, sampled, or treated. The donor stallion should be identified by reference to the silhouette in a horse passport. Teaser mares should be identified from a passport as above or the OV should prepare a silhouette for reference while the animal is in the collection centre.

4. **Approval of the Semen Collection Centre**

Paragraph V (c) (i) refers. The semen collection centre must be a centre registered by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs supervised by an OV approved in accordance with Annex D of 92/65/EEC for the purpose of intra-Community trade in equine semen. To apply for approval of a semen collection centre, exporters should contact the local APHA Office.

Copies of this directive can be obtained at the Eulex website at: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/RECH_menu.do?ihmlang=en

5. **Disease clearance**

Paragraphs V (a), (b) and (c)(ii) and (iii) may be signed on behalf of the Department by the OV provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle.

Paragraph V(d) refers. Before signing this paragraph the OV should obtain a written declaration from the owner or the owner's representative stating each country the stallion has visited during the 3 months prior to semen collection. The declaration should also specify the premises at which the horse has been kept during the period specified at paragraph V(d) (i) prior to semen collection. APHA Centre for International Trade will provide written authority on form 618NDC to certify paragraph V(d) (i) with respect to residence in Great Britain. If the horse has visited other countries within the period specified, it will be necessary to obtain official confirmation from the authorities in those other countries in order to certify this paragraph. It is the responsibility of the owner or the owner's representative to obtain the necessary certification from those other countries.

Paragraphs V(d) (ii) and (e) (ii) to (vi) refer. In order to certify these paragraphs the OV should obtain supporting statements from veterinarians responsible for premises at which the horse has resided during the specified periods prior to entering the collection centre.

6. **Submission of samples (except CEM)**

Paragraphs V(f) and (g) refer. Blood and semen samples must be submitted for testing to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency laboratory, Weybridge. Before submitting semen samples for the virus isolation test (EVA), the OV should contact the Virology Department at VLA Weybridge to discuss the procedures for submission of samples.

7. **CEM testing**

Paragraph V (f) (iii) refers. Moistened mini swabs should be used for swabbing for the contagious equine metritis organism. A separate swab must be used for each swabbing site. Swabs should be packed with a cool pack to be transported chilled (not frozen), and should arrive at the laboratory in time to be set

up for culture within 48 hours of swabbing. All swabs for CEM testing must be submitted to the VLA laboratory Bury St Edmunds.

8. Identification of the semen ampoules/straws

Each individual ampoule/straw of semen must be individually marked to identify the date(s) of collection, species, breed and identification of the donor and the approval number of the collection centre where the semen was stored. The identification marks should be entered at paragraph II (c). If a code is used to give this information, its decipher should be entered at paragraph II (c).

9. Collection, processing, storage and transport

Paragraph V(h) refers. This paragraph may be certified on the basis of chapters II and III of Annex D of Directive 92/65/EEC.

10. 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>