

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 2349EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 2349EHC. 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.

Scope of the certificate

This certificate covers the export of fresh/chilled or frozen equine semen to Australia.

1. 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, Welsh Government or the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Northern Ireland, 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.

DAERA Export Health Certificates: Provision of certified copies

aPVPs certifying DECOL produced Export Health Certificates must return a legible, scanned copy of the final EHC to the relevant DAERA Processing Office within 1 working day of signing.

Good quality photographic copies will be accepted by the department, where obtaining a scanned copy is not feasible - for example, where 'on site' certification is undertaken and scanning facilities are not available.

For record purposes, a copy of the final Export Health Certificate and associated Support documents should be retained by the aPVP for a period of 2 years from the date of certification.

The Department will carry out periodic audits of all aspects of export certification to ensure that a high standard of certification is being maintained.

2. Identification of horses

Paragraph I refers. It is vital 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. In the absence of a passport, and no other identification such as a tattoo or microchip, the OV should prepare a silhouette for use while the animal is on the collection centre. This silhouette should be retained by the OV and filed with a copy of each semen export health certificate which is issued for that animal.

3. Paragraph II a) refers

Where semen collection centres hold their stallions on their premises permanently, an

arbitrary "entry" date should be assigned every six months around the time where the testing is based. Testing is only valid for 180 days from the day of entry which allows enough time for a breeding season.

4. **Approval of the semen collection centre**

A. NOTES FOR THE VETERINARY OFFICER - ANNUAL APPROVAL

a) Paragraph V (c) refers. The collection centre must be **annually** approved by a full time Veterinary Officer (VO) of Defra. The owner or manager of a premises who wishes to have the premises approved for semen collection for export to Australia must contact his/her regional APHA office or the Artificial Breeding Controls Team at the CIT in Carlisle to request that a VO visits the premises to assess its suitability. A charge may be made for this service.

When a centre is approved by Defra, APHA will allocate a unique number to identify the centre and notify the owner by letter. Such letter must be copied to Defra headquarters.

B. NOTES FOR THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN - APPROVAL FOR EVERY CONSIGNMENT

SUPPLEMENTARY CERTIFICATION 2349SUP - APPROVAL OF EQUINE SEMEN COLLECTION CENTRE FOR EXPORT TO AUSTRALIA

b) In addition to 4. a) above, **for every consignment of semen to be exported to Australia**, the centre must be approved by the OV responsible for the site, by way of completion of certificate 2349SUP. However, if the centre operates throughout the year, the latest visit for maintaining on-going approval must have been carried out within 12 months prior to the first collection of the semen intended for export.

The OV must ensure that all staff working on the site are fully aware of the requirements of approval and operation of the Centre.

Notes concerning the approval of semen collection centres

a) The centre may be located on an established equine enterprise but should be so sited that, for the duration of the period of collection of semen for export to Australia, direct contact between horses on the centre and other equines is prevented;

b) The centre must be conveniently located for supervision by an official veterinarian. An official veterinarian is a veterinarian employed by the government of the member state of the European Union;

c) The centre must be approved by an official veterinarian prior to the commencement of each period of collection of semen for export to Australia, or where the centre is used continuously, on an annual basis;

d) If a horse shows signs of contagious or infectious disease, all horses must be removed from the centre and the official veterinarian must be advised. The centre must be re-approved by the official veterinarian before horses re-enter the centre and all horses must be re-tested.

5. **Residency in Member States of the European Union**

Paragraph V (a) and (b) refer. Prior to admitting the stallion to the semen collection centre, the owner of the donor stallion should give to the veterinary surgeon responsible for the semen collection centre a declaration detailing all countries in which the stallion has resided during the 90 days prior to entering the collection centre.

6. **Disease Clearance**

Paragraph V (b) refers. African horse sickness, glanders, dourine and vesicular stomatitis are notifiable diseases in all European Community states. In order to give this assurance the OV must obtain a written declaration from the owner or owner's agent concerning the residency of the stallion during the period of at least 90 days prior to semen collection. After checking the validity of the declaration, the OV should submit a copy to the Centre for International Trade (CIT), Carlisle who will provide confirmation of disease clearance for UK residence only. In cases where donor stallions have resided during this period in EC Member States other than UK, the OV must receive disease clearance from the authorities in the member state/(s) in which the stallion also resided giving disease freedom for the period of two years previous to the first semen collection.

If it is not possible for the OV to determine this disease freedom, the OV must confirm the period of time of that disease freedom is required and forward the request to Centre for International Trade, Carlisle well in advance of the export.

Paragraph V (e) refers. The OV should seek an owner's declaration which includes details of all premises on which the animal resided during the 30 days prior to the collection of semen. He may then seek a written declaration from the owner or manager of these premises, and from the veterinary surgeon responsible for those premises,

that the diseases listed at Paragraph V (e) did not occur on these premises during a specified time period.

7. **Disease Testing**

Disease testing is valid for a maximum of **180 days** after the date on which the stallion entered the collection centre or the date of the last approval visit of a full time Veterinary Officer of Defra in the case of permanently resident stallions, i.e. stallions resident on the centre for more than one breeding season, **provided:**

1. the stallion subsequently remains continuously on the collection centre;
2. the centre remains under the supervision of the OV;
3. all horses at the collection centre remain clinically healthy;
4. the stallion has no contact with horses not of tested equivalent health status for the entire period;
5. the stallion is not mated by natural service from the time of entering the collection centre.

If any of the above provisions ceases to apply, the stallion and any in-contact horses must be re-tested in accordance with the directions of the DVM, in order to re-establish its status.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Copies of the official laboratory reports must be received and endorsed by the OV before the export may take place and accompany the shipment to its final destination as part of the certification.

a) CEM Testing

Paragraph V (g) refers. All CEM swabs must be sent to the APHA Animal Health laboratory at Penrith (in Great Britain) or AFBI (in Northern Ireland). They must be refrigerated (NOT frozen) with a cool pack included in the parcel, and arrive at the laboratory within 48 hours of sampling. If more than 10 swabs are to be submitted, prior notice should be given to the laboratory. A separate laboratory report form must accompany each sample.

A separate swab must be taken at each of the specified swabbing sites. It is not sufficient to use one swab applied to several sites.

Any teaser mare on the semen collection centre which may have had physical contact with the donor stallion, or which was used to tease the donor stallion, must have been swabbed according to the regime at Paragraph V (g) and satisfactory results received by the OV prior to the export taking place. Swabs should be moistened to facilitate entry and full penetration into the sinuses.

Please ensure that you write the names of the swabbing sites (e.g. clitoral **sinuses**) accurately, as they should be read on the laboratory submission form.

The OV may choose to complete the CEM swabbing regime prior to commencing semen collection to avoid the risk of a positive result which may compromise other exports from the collection centre.

b) EIA Testing

Paragraph V (h) refers. Sampling for equine infectious anaemia must take place only when at least 21 days have elapsed from the date of entry to the collection centre. This sampling may take place on the collection centre, or in the case of frozen semen and a stallion which remains on the site for only a few days, then sampling may take place after the stallion has returned home.

c) EVA Testing

Paragraph V (j) refers. Original laboratory reports must be presented to the OV.

Blood testing or collecting semen from the donor stallion and inseminating two EVA seronegative mares requires that all samples were submitted to the VLA laboratory, Weybridge at least 21 days after entering the approved collection centre.

The semen virus isolation or PCR test should be done on two samples. The samples can be collected either on two different occasions, within the timeframe, or on the same day on two different ejaculates.

Before submitting semen samples for the virus isolation test for EVA, official veterinarians are advised to contact APHA, Weybridge prior to semen collection to give advance notice of the submission and to confirm the requirements for semen packaging, transport and delivery to Weybridge.

8. **Processing and packing**

Paragraph VI (h) refers. The container holding the semen must be sealed under the supervision of the OV, and arrive in Australia with the seal intact.

All semen collections destined for export, and all servicing of containers prior to export, must be supervised by the OV.

Used semen/embryo containers may be imported provided they have been disinfected and the product is transported in clean new packages which are to be destroyed on arrival.

Dry shippers are not able to be disinfected (whilst remaining functional). Therefore empty dry shippers are not permitted entry unless they are new.

The following disinfectants will be accepted by DAF: 2% available chlorine (e.g. chlorine bleach), 2% Virkon, or irradiation at 50kGy.

9. **Notification of import for consignments of unfrozen semen**

For every consignment of UNFROZEN (fresh or chilled) semen, the importer must notify AQIS office in the state of import in writing at least 3 days prior to import. Notification should be sent to the AQIS office at the port of entry for the semen (see your import permit).

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 or DAERA, via the link or e-mail address below:

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

DAERA - Email: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk