EXPORT OF IN-VIVO DERIVED BOVINE EMBRYOS TO NEW ZEALAND

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 722EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 722EHC.

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

The New Zealand Authorities (MPI – Ministry for Primary Industries)) have agreed with the UK that this certificate may be used for the import of in-vivo derived bovine embryos from the UK.

Please note, the certificate has been amended and agreed in April 2022 in accordance with the updated Import Health Standard for bovine germplasm published by MPI:
https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/46540-Bovine-Germplasm-Guidance

2. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)

This certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian authorised on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government, Welsh Government or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA), who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation, or who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate panel for export purposes.

OVs/AVIs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV/AVI stamp in a colour that must be different to the colour of the printing of the certificate

Instructions on certified copies, retention and returning of the same can be found in APHA Vet Gateway, please make sure you follow the latest government guidance.
OV Instructions (defra.gov.uk)

The OV/AVI should keep a copy for his/her own records.

3. Obtaining an import permit

The exporter/agent should be aware of the requirements of the importing country particularly with respect to the requirement for an import permit, which should be obtained by the New Zealand importer from Animal Imports, Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI

Contact MPI | MPI | NZ Government
animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz.

4. Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)

Specific notifiable diseases clearances are not stated in the certificate, however they are required in the MPI Import Health Standard.

Exports of bovine embryos may take place provided the following disease clearances have been met:

1) The donor was resident for at least 3 months before embryo collection

in a country or zone that was free from Foot and Mouth Disease without vaccination in accordance with WOAH Code;

2) The donor was resident for 6 months prior to embryo collection in a country or zone that was free of Lumpy Skin Disease;
3) The donor was resident for at least 30 days prior to embryo collection in a country or zone that was free of Rift Valley Fever;
4) The donor was born in and had been continuously resident in a country free from Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia.

OVs may recognise the above disease freedom requirements provided the Department has 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. Disease clearances can only be issued for the United Kingdom. If animals were imported during the residency periods mentioned above, then additional assurances maybe obtained from the Export Health certificate certified for the import of the donor animal into NI/GB.

5. Health Attestations – Part II

Paragraph II.1 may be certified on the basis of compliance with UK requirements which have been deemed equivalent to New Zealand standards.

Part II.2: This clause can be certified by the OV if the following applies:

For UK origin products - including those prepared containing EU products - directly exported to NZ;

I. The UK has not imposed any sanitary measures expressly to manage known animal health/food safety risks or hazards which would restrict the products sale or distribution within the UK.
II. The products were derived from animals and farms that are not subject to animal disease control measures being applied by the UK competent authority. Animal disease in this context means an exotic disease or a disease listed in Annex III of the UK/NZ Vet Agreement.
III. For EU product, the EU has not applied any sanitary measures which would prohibit the sale or distribution of the product within the EU. Sanitary measures in this context means a Commission Decision (or other legal instrument) authored/instigated by SANTE to expressly manage known animal health/food safety risks or hazards.

This clause includes EU exports to the UK that are subsequently re-exported – directly or after processing and/or mixing within UK origin product - to New Zealand.

Bovine embryos that are not subject to restrictions for movements within the United Kingdom internal market and is eligible for distribution within the United Kingdom, can be subject to trade with New Zealand if compliant with other conditions in the 722EHC and 722NFG. This clause can be signed by the OV if it meets the above requirements based on the OV's knowledge of the exporting business and documentary checks.

Paragraph II.3 can be certified on the basis that the test methods for non-regulated diseases by Defra/DAERA, have been conducted in accordance with World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) (formerly known as OIE) Terrestrial Manual or MPI standards, which can be found https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/2040/. Tests must be performed at officially approved laboratories by Defra or DAERA.

Paragraph II.4 (Q fever) refers to three options. The relevant attestation can be certified based on personal knowledge and supporting certification/evidence from the centre veterinarian.

6. **BVDV – Part II, Paragraph II.5 (four options)**
Requirement to hold animals in isolation for 6 months prior to embryo collection

Paragraph II.5 first option refers: If this option is selected, embryo collection cannot begin until 6 months have elapsed after the animals enter the embryo collection centre.

BVDV – Requirement to not hold animals in isolation for 6 months if the semen used is export eligible

Paragraph II.5 second and third options refers to either ELISA or Virus Isolation testing of the donor animals within a specified time before entry (for ELISA) OR before/after collection (for VI test). The animals are not required to be isolated for 6 months prior to collection. The semen used must comply with the agreed bovine semen certificate (EHC1129).

BVDV – Requirement to submit samples for BVDV testing
Paragraph II.5 fourth option refers: If this option is selected, the required sample(s) from each donor female must be submitted to the testing laboratory separately from samples from other donor females. The phrase "pooled sample" refers to the material from one donor female and pooling of samples from two or more donor females is not acceptable. The test of choice is the PCR, which has been validated and accredited for use on such samples; the sample submission form must make it clear that the PCR is required. MPI have confirmed the PCR test (and VI test) is approved for BVD virus testing in bovine germplasm.

7. **Mycoplasma bovis -Part II, paragraph II.6 (two options)**
Paragraph II.6 refers to two options: the first option refers to treatment for bovine embryos as specified in the MPI-STD-TVTL (https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/2040/). This includes:
The embryos must be subjected to the protocol described in the IETS Manual: tylosin (200 µg/mL) incubation at 37°C in the antibiotic treatment for a minimum of 4 hours after being washed 10 times.

For the second option (II.6.2), the bovine embryos were tested with an approved method listed in the MPI-STD-TVTL (https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/2040/ . At the date of publication of this guidance, there is no MPI approved antigen test for bovine embryos.

8. **Leptospirosis – Part II, paragraph II.7**
Paragraph II.7 (leptospirosis) refers to treatment in accordance with OIE code or the MPI-STD-TVTL:
https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/2040/. The MPI-STD-TVTL standards refer to:

Minimum doses for embryos from cattle, sheep, goats, deer, and camelids:
a) 100 IU/ml penicillin and 100 µg/ml streptomycin; or
b) 100 IU/ml penicillin and 50 µg/ml gentamicin
c) 200 µg/ml tylosin

This can be certified based on supporting certification and/or evidence from the centre veterinarian.

9. **Bluetongue requirements**
The UK-NZ agreement on sanitary measures refers to compliance to WOAH Code Bluetongue requirements for in-vivo derived bovine embryos, of which in-vivo derived bovine embryos are considered a safe commodity for bluetongue virus according to WOAH, thus bluetongue related conditions may not be required.

Although, the certifying OV must confirm with the team veterinarian prior to certification that the donor animals were free of clinical signs of bluetongue at the time of collection. Also, the semen used for artificial insemination must be from an APHA/DAERA approved semen collection centre.

WOAH Code: https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmfile=chapitre_bluetongue.htm

Gov.uk list of approved centres and teams: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/livestock-and-equine-embryo-collection-approved-premises

10. Laboratory tests

MPI approved test methods can be found here: https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/2040/

The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out pre-export testing is officially approved for this purpose by Defra or DAERA.

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 AHVLA 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 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.

Laboratory test results must be attached to the export health certificate.

11. Sealing of the transport container – Part I, box I.21 refers

The embryos 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 in this box.

12. 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 Specialist Service Centre – Exports - at Carlisle, via the link below:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/imports-exports/international-trade/