

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE CERTIFYING VETERINARIANS

1. **Scope of the certificate**

This certificate covers the export of frozen bovine semen to Canada.

2. **Certification by an Official Veterinarian**

Any Local Veterinary Inspector (LVI) appointed to the appropriate panel for export purposes by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, The Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department or the National Assembly for Wales may sign the export health certificate as an Official Veterinarian.

For Northern Ireland, any Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed to the appropriate export panel by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland may sign the certificate as an Official Veterinarian.

The Centre Veterinarian may sign the certificate as an Official Veterinarian provided they have been appointed to the appropriate export panel. In order to be eligible for appointment to the export panel, the Centre Veterinarian must not be directly employed by, or derive their sole or principal income from, the company for which they are carrying out export health certification, nor have any major financial interest in connection with the company.

LVIs should affix the 'Official Veterinarian' stamp to the certificate in the normal manner.

If the Centre Veterinarian is not eligible for appointment to sign the certificate as an Official Veterinarian, arrangements must be made to ensure that the certificate is signed by either:

- (a) an LVI appointed to the appropriate panel; **or**
- (b) a Veterinary Officer of the State Veterinary Service.

In either case, the certifying Official Veterinarian must be provided with appropriate support documentation (pre-export certificate signed by the Centre Veterinarian) to enable signature of the final export certificate.

For the purposes of these notes for guidance, reference to the Official Veterinarian shall also apply to the Centre Veterinarian completing the appropriate pre-export certificate.

The health certificate must be signed and stamped in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK.**

3. **Import permit**

It is the responsibility of the importer to obtain an import permit in advance from their local office of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The original of the import permit together with the export health certificate must be provided for inspection at the entry point to Canada.

4. **Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)**

Paragraph 13.3 (first option) and see section 6(a) below in the

5318NFG refer: OVs may certify this paragraph 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.

Other specific notifiable disease clearances are not specified in the 5318EHC but are required for pre-export checks to support certification of part of Paragraph 13.1. This includes:

- UK is free of Foot and Mouth Disease, Rinderpest, Rift Valley Fever, Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and lumpy skin disease.
- Donor animals are kept in semen collection centres which have been free from foot-and-mouth disease for at least three months prior to collection of the semen and 30 days after collection.

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.

5. **Directive 88/407 and support certification**

In order to complete this certificate it is necessary to be familiar with the relevant Directive 88/407 available on legislation.gov.uk.

Paragraphs 13.1 and 13.4 - This may be certified based on personal knowledge and/or evidence and/or support certification to confirm compliance to the relevant Directive requirements.

Paragraph 13.2- This may be certified based on supporting certification from the centre veterinarian.

6. **Bluetongue**

Paragraph 13.3 refers: The certifying OV must ensure the bovine semen complies with retained EU Regulation 1266/2007 which is applicable to both options in Paragraph 13.3 and is in line with the Bluetongue virus (BTV) WOAH Code standards:

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

Therefore, the semen must have been collected from donor animals complying with at least one of the following options:

- (a) the donor animals were kept in a Bluetongue free country or zone for a period of at least 60 days before commencement of, and during, collection of the semen;

Note: This may be recognised 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. Then the first option of Paragraph 13.3 maybe certified.

OR if BTV freedom (first option of Paragraph 13.3) cannot be certified, then the second option of Paragraph 13.3 must be certified if one

of the following options has been met:

- (b) the donor animals were subjected to a serological test according to the WOAHP Terrestrial Manual to detect antibodies to the BTV group, with negative results, at least every 60 days during the collection period and between 28 and 60 days after the final collection for this consignment; **OR**

Note: This option shall be recognised based on supporting centre vet certification and/or evidence. Then the second option of Paragraph 13.3 maybe certified.

- (c) the donor animals were subjected, with negative results, to an agent identification test for Bluetongue virus according to the WOAHP Terrestrial Manual carried out on blood samples collected:

(i) at commencement and final collection of the semen for this consignment, and

(ii) during the period of semen collection for this consignment:

i. at least every 7 days, in the case of a virus isolation test, or

ii. at least every 28 days, in the case of a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test; **OR**

Note: This option shall be recognised based on supporting centre vet certification and/or evidence. Then the second option of Paragraph 13.3 maybe certified.

- (d) the donor animals have been protected against attacks by vectors for a period of at least 60 days before commencement of, and during, collection of the semen in accordance with WOAHP standards;

Note: Chapter 8.3 to the WOAHP Code describes the vector protection requirements and the facility must be approved and inspected by APHA or DAERA. This option can be used if it is possible to construct a facility and manage it in such a way that vector attack can be mitigated according to WOAHP standards. The certifying official veterinarian may obtain a declaration from APHA CIT that the vector protected facility is approved - and any relevant declaration(s)/undertaking(s) that s/he considers necessary and recognise this option on such a basis and/or spot checks. Then the second option of Paragraph 13.3 maybe certified.

7. **Routing**

The semen described on this certificate must be shipped by the most direct and appropriate route from the point of export to the address of destination in Canada. Transshipment through another country requires written authorisation from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The carrier must be instructed to ensure the integrity of the sealed semen transport/shipping container(s) throughout the journey.

Written approval for routing of the shipment of semen through another country must be attached to the permit and accompany the shipment. With the exception of changing planes, semen must not be offloaded at any port of call en route.

8. **Record keeping**

A copy of the completed certificate should be retained by the certifying veterinarian for record keeping purposes and a further copy returned to the DVM (if appropriate).

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 at Carlisle, via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening>

or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast