

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 5519EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 5519EHC. 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 equine semen to Brazil.

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**.

Each page should also be signed, dated and stamped, together with all associated documentation (e.g. laboratory reports, if applicable).

**** IMPORTANT ****

Brazil does not allow manual strikethroughs or alterations to final certificates. OVs / FCCOs must cross out electronically any sections not applicable before printing EHCs for Brazil.

For exports from Great Britain, this functionality will be added to the certificates produced by EHC Online. The editable certificate must be downloaded from EHC Online and opened in Adobe Reader to ensure the correct sections of the certificate are properly struck through.

For exports from Northern Ireland, guidance is available on the DAERA website at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/apvp-notes-guidance>.

Consignments arriving in Brazil with an EHC containing manual strikethroughs or alterations may be detained or refused entry into Brazil.

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 EHC 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 CIRC 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 DECOP 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 are correctly identified, and that the identity of each animal is confirmed whenever it is examined, collected from, sampled or treated.

3. Disease Clearance

Paragraph IV (a) 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. In cases where donor stallions have resided during this period in EC Member States other than UK, the OV should allow sufficient time for checks to be made with the appropriate veterinary authorities. The OV must confirm the period of time for which he is seeking disease clearance which will depend on the date that the sample was collected.

Paragraph IV(b)3 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 IV(b)3 did not occur on these premises during a specified time period.

4. Disease Testing

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 IV(e) refers. All CEM swabs must be sent to the APHA Animal Health laboratory at Penrith, Merrythought, Calthwaite, Penrith, CA11 9RR. [Tel:01768 885295](tel:01768885295) using [this form](#). 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.

b) EVA Testing

Paragraph IV (f) refers. Original laboratory reports must be presented to the OV.

All blood and semen testing shall be carried out by the APHA 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.

5. Processing and packing

Paragraph IV(g) refers. The container holding the semen must be sealed under the supervision of the OV, and arrive in Brazil 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.

6. 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