EXPORT OF OVINE EMBRYOS TO AUSTRALIA

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 8552EHC and its continuation 8552CON. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8552EHC.

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**

Export health certificate 8552EHC may be used for the export of ovine embryos from the United Kingdom to Australia.

Please note that export health certificate 8552EHC is in two parts, 8552EHC PART A and 8552CON PART B, and there is also a supplementary certificate 8552SUP covering additional health information relating to the donors and embryos. All parts must be signed, dated and stamped.

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, 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.

The Authorised Embryo Transfer Team Veterinary Surgeon must also sign where indicated. ETTVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with a stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK.**

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.

Countersignature Requirements

This certificate must be countersigned by a salaried Veterinary Official of the National Government in the Department of Environmental Food Rural Affairs in Great Britain or Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland.

All requests for countersignature must be submitted to the Centre for International Trade – Carlisle (CITC) at least two working days in advance of the requested date/time of countersignature using Request for APHA Veterinarian Countersignature of an Export Health Certificate (ET145) application.

The ET145 application can be submitted to CITC by email to processingteam@apha.gov.uk

Upon receipt of your ET145 application CITC will liaise with an APHA Veterinarian* at your preferred countersigning office/area to make arrangements for countersignature to take place and notify you of the arrangements made.

*In Northern Ireland, a DAERA salaried Official Veterinarian/certifying officer is authorised to countersign this certificate.

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. The import permit number should be given in the health certificate at paragraph III.d).

4. Schedules

Paragraph I refers: Separate schedules may be used to provide the information required. The schedules must contain the same information as that required in paragraph I and paragraph I must be annotated "See attached schedule". Each page of the schedules must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the Official Veterinarian (OV).

The schedules must be stapled inside the health certificate and the OV should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedules and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedules and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedules or in paragraphs I and II must be deleted with diagonal lines.

5. Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)

Paragraphs VI. a), b) and k.i) refer: OVs may certify these paragraphs 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.

6. Scrapie

Paragraphs VI.c), d), e) and r) refer:

Paragraph VI.c)and e):

To comply with the respective recommendations, Defra recommend the donors originate from holdings which have a classical scrapie negligible risk status (ie have undergone active monitoring for at least 7 years) as listed in the Scottish Rural College (SRUC) Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (SMS) –

http://www.sruc.ac.uk/info/120113/premium_sheep_and_goat_health_schemes/511/diseases_covered/5

Please note, that membership of the negligible risk category of SMS will facilitate compliance with the requirements in the EHC. Membership of the controlled risk category (3 years monitoring) will also be of benefit, if it is possible for the OV and centre veterinarian/farm to manually check the status of any introduced donor animals in the remaining 2 years.

If an establishment is not accredited under the scheme, then they must demonstrate compliance of the scrapie requirements to the certifying OV who should be satisfied with the evidence, movement records and information provided by the farm and/or centre veterinarian.

Paragraph VI.d):

The genotyping must be either carried out at a government laboratory (AHVLA), or the Scottish Agriculture College (SAC) or Cellmark (where the certificate is issued by Innovis AND it clearly states in the top right hand corner that a veterinarian took the sample and mentions the address) OR the individual sheep must have a genotyping certificate issued under the National Scrapie Plan (NSP) or the Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme (CSFS) by a laboratory which is*/was authorised by the government to carry out genotyping under the plan/scheme. Any such genotyping certificates issued under the scheme/plan before it/they closed remain valid, but the OV must ensure that the identification of the animal as recorded on the genotyping certificate correlates with the official ear tag on the animal as recorded on the certificate; if only the electronic identification number is recorded on the genotyping certificate, then the OV must scan and check the electronic identification of the sheep to confirm correlation between the certificate, the sheep and the official ear tag number on the certificate. Unless genotyping was carried out officially under the NSP or CSFS, all blood samples for genotyping must be taken by a veterinary surgeon.

Paragraph VI.r):

Procedure

Sheep should preferably be submitted live to the nearest VIC. It is essential that this is coordinated between the VIOs and Private Veterinary Surgeon (PVS) beforehand to ensure that there is adequate time, equipment and personnel to carry out the task.

Each sheep submitted should be accompanied by a submission form APHA 3 Small Ruminant which has complete information of the owner and business name if appropriate, farm, including CPH and animal details, age and breed. A submission number should be created for each animal.

If submitted live to the VIC prior to euthanasia by barbiturate injection the ear tags must be checked and recorded on the GRP55 to ensure they match that supplied on the paperwork. At this time clotted and EDTA blood samples should be collected.

If the animals are submitted dead following euthanasia by barbiturate injection by the PVS then an ear tip should be collected and frozen for each animal. The serum or eartip should be retained frozen and the EDTA blood refrigerated for 3 months at the VIC. This is purely for back up in case further examination is required.

The following samples must be collected from each sheep.

- Entire Brain fixed separately
- Three areas of spinal cord (cervical, thoracic and lumbar)
- Palatine tonsils x 2
- Medial retropharyngeal lymph nodes x2
- Spleen
- Mesenteric lymph nodes x 2
- Distal ileum

Sterile instruments must be used for tissue collection, with a new set or disposable, instruments for each animal. Care should be taken to avoid cross-contamination with other PM material.

Place the brain and the spinal cord in at least 10 volumes of formal saline (FSA). The other tissues should be fixed in at least 10 volumes of neutral

buffered formalin (BF). After 24 hours replace the fixative with fresh one. After 14 days fixation the samples can be shipped to Pathology Department, APHA Weybridge following standard procedure.

Testing at Weybridge

- Obex
- Medulla oblongata at the level just caudal to the obex
- Cerebellum
- Rostral medulla at the level of the caudal cerebellar peduncles
- Midbrain at the level of rostral colliculi
- Thalamus
- Basal ganglia
- Cerebral Cortex
- Three areas of spinal cord (cervical, thoracic and lumbar)
- Palatine tonsils x 2
- Medial retropharyngeal lymph nodes x2
- Spleen
- Mesenteric lymph nodes x 2
- Distal ileum

Australia's domestic TSE surveillance sampling requirements include the midbrain through the rostral colliculi, medulla through the caudal cerebellar peduncles, medulla caudal to the obex and the cerebellum, with other areas such as cervical spinal cord, thalamus, basal ganglia and cerebral cortex being tested as required.

Dispatch of samples
Samples should be dispatched 15 days after collection to Weybridge.
If samples from more than one case are being sent in the same container, put the samples from each individual animal together in a plastic bag with clear identification details.

Send the samples to: TSE Diagnostic Team, Building 96, APHA Weybridge, Addlestone, KT15 3NB

Reporting
Once all results are available a single report should be produced by the VIC and a signed paper copy sent to PVS.

Any queries please contact - John Spiropoulos, john.spiropoulos@apha.gov.uk

7. Laboratory tests

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 APHA 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).

If tests for bluetongue are required, samples must be sent to the Pirbright Institute. Guidance on submission of samples, including the submission forms to use, can be found at:
http://www.pirbright.ac.uk/files/quick media/Diagnostic%20Price%20List.pdf

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.

9. Sealing of the transport container

Paragraph VI. y) refers: The semen must be secured within a cryogenic container by a tamperproof seal applied in such a way that the container cannot be opened without breaking the seal. The number on the seal must be entered at paragraph VI. y) on the health certificate.

If it is necessary to top up the container, topping up should be done in the presence of an Official Veterinarian (OV) who must apply a new tamperproof seal. The OV must endorse paragraph VI. y) on the health certificate with the new seal number, giving name and signature and dating and stamping the endorsement in the margin of the certificate in any ink colour **other than black.**

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