

## EXPORT OF OVINE AND CAPRINE EMBRYOS TO MEXICO

### NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

#### IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 6578EHC and its continuation 6578CON. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificates 6578EHC and 6578CON.

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 6578EHC may be used for the export of ovine and caprine embryos from the United Kingdom to Mexico.

Please note that the export health certificate 6578EHC is in two parts, 6578EHC PART A and 6578CON PART B. Both parts must be signed, dated and stamped on the day of shipment.

#### 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.

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](mailto: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**

Authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs) certifying DAERA Export Certification On-Line (DECOL) produced EHCs 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.

In the case of exports to USA, an Official Veterinarian (OV) is an Authorized veterinarian of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) or of the Department of Agriculture, Environmental and Rural Affairs (DAERA) \*.

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](mailto: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. Schedules**

Paragraph I. refers: Separate schedules may be used to identify the animals certified. These schedules must contain the same information as that required in paragraph I. and paragraph I. must be annotated "See attached schedules". 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 schedule 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 paragraph I. must be deleted with diagonal lines.

### **4. Import permit**

Paragraph III.(e) refers: 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.(e).

### **5. Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)**

Paragraphs IV.1 and IV 5a refer: OVs may certify paragraphs IV.1. and IV 5a on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Customer Service Centre at Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

### **6. Embryo collection and processing team (Paragraph IV.17 refers)**

Besides being approved by Defra, the team - and the processing laboratory - must also comply with any additional conditions stipulated in Chapter 4.7 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code Appendix at:

[http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre\\_coll\\_embryo\\_equid.htm](http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_coll_embryo_equid.htm)

In practice, if the Team has been approved by DEFRA or DAERA, the OIE requirements are deemed to have been complied with.

The manual of the International Embryo Transfer Society is available to IETS members at [https://www.iets.org/pub\\_manual.asp?autotry=true&ULnotkn=true](https://www.iets.org/pub_manual.asp?autotry=true&ULnotkn=true)  
The embryo transfer team leader is responsible for complying with the

relevant collection and processing conditions in this manual.

7. **Additional Support Assurances required to enable certain paragraphs to be signed by the Official Veterinarian.**

Paragraphs IV.2), IV.3), IV.4), IV.6), IV.7), IV.9), IV.10), IV.11), IV.12), IV.13), IV.14), IV.15), IV.16) and IV.18 to IV.26) refer. OVs may certify these paragraphs based on personal knowledge of the embryo collection centre, or supporting certification from the embryo team veterinarian. If further guidance is required, CIT / DAERA should be contacted.

IV.6) "That the donor animals were kept in an establishment where vector control measures have been in place for at least 60 days before commencement of, and during, collection of the embryos."

Centre operators must have procedures in place that provide protection. These procedures should be discussed and agreed with the Official Veterinarian before collection of the semen to be exported is started. They should be reviewed at least every six months and a signed record of this review must be kept. Examples of such measures include regular (but responsible) use of insecticides with residual effect, maintaining an environment that prevents breeding of the vectors, and use of vector traps must be part of the measures.

IV.8)

With respect to Scrapie

To comply with IV.8) including the OIE recommendations at IV.8.b), the donors have to 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](http://www.sruc.ac.uk/info/120113/premium_sheep_and_goat_health_schemes/511/diseases_covered/5)

Scrapie Support Certificate 6578SPT for completion by the owner of the donors, the official / centre veterinarian and the APHA/DAERA veterinarian should be used to complete the certification of IV.8).

IV.10)

With respect to Schmallenberg Virus

Where natural service or fresh semen is used for the production of the embryos, the semen used from male donors must comply with paragraph IV.10)

IV.16).c).

The production of semen in accordance with the provisions of the OIE Animal Health Code.

The semen used in the production of the embryos must also comply with the provisions of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code Appendix at:

[http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre\\_coll\\_semen.htm](http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_coll_semen.htm)

In practice, if the semen has been collected in a DEFRA or DAERA approved ovine or caprine semen collection centre, the OIE requirements are deemed to have been complied with.

In completing this section therefore, parts IV.a) and IV.c) must be complied with in all cases and part IV.b) should only be deleted if natural service or fresh semen has not been used.

8. **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, Penicuik, 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).

For operational reasons however, the laboratories involved may change periodically. Accordingly, the OV is advised to check with the VLA 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 IV.27) 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 and the date of sealing must be entered at paragraph IV.27) on the health certificate.

If it is necessary to top up the container, the additional liquid nitrogen used must meet the requirements of the certificate (see paragraph IV.27). 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 IV.27) 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](mailto:vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk)