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EXPORT OF PORCINE SEMEN TO UKRAINE - 6091EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT NOTE

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 6091EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6091EHC.

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 6091EHC may be used for the export of fresh and frozen porcine semen from the United Kingdom to Ukraine.

2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

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.

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.

3. 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. Prior to making arrangements to export porcine semen, exporters are advised to contact the veterinary authorities of Ukraine for the latest advice regarding any import documentation that may be required.

4. SCHEDULES

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

The schedule 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 schedule and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule or in paragraph I must be deleted with diagonal lines.

5. CONTAINER SEAL NUMBER

Paragraph I(c) and Footnote 1 on page 4 of EHC6091 ('The semen is transported in special containers with liquid nitrogen') refer (note this does not refer to the footnote on page 3 of EHC 6091 nor to the final footnote on page 4 of EHC6091:

(a) In the case of export of frozen semen, the OV should enter the number of the tamperproof seal applied to the flask at paragraph I(c) and leave Footnote 1 unchanged.

(b) In the case of export of fresh semen the certificate should be completed as follows:

(i) If the containers/boxes of fresh semen have not been sealed with a tamperproof seal, the OV should write 'Not Applicable' at paragraph I(c) and delete Footnote 1.

(ii) If the containers/boxes of fresh semen have been sealed with a tamperproof seal, the OV should enter the number of the seal at paragraph I(c) and delete Footnote 1.

6. **COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 90/429/EEC (as amended)**

Paragraphs IV(a) and IV(c) refer. The semen collection centre must be approved by Defra or DAERA in accordance with Council Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended). The certifying Official Veterinarian must be fully conversant with the provisions of Council Directive 90/429/EEC and any subsequent amendments, laying down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-Community trade in and imports of semen of domestic animals of the porcine species.

7. **OFFICIAL DISEASE CLEARANCES**

Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland)

Paragraphs IV(b) (i), IV(b) (ii), IV(b) (iii), IV(b) (iv) and (with respect to tuberculosis and brucellosis) paragraph IV(b) (v) refer: In the case of porcine semen originating from Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), the certifying Official Veterinarian may certify freedom for the diseases listed in these paragraphs on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC issued by APHA Centre for International Trade - Carlisle.

In respect of tuberculosis, paragraph IV(b) (v) refers to *Mycobacterium bovis* infection. The confirmed existence of *M. bovis* infection is based on confirmed culture of *M. bovis*.

In respect of brucellosis, paragraph IV(b) (v) refers to infection with *Brucella suis*. The confirmed existence of *B. suis* infection is based on confirmed culture of *B. suis*.

Northern Ireland

Paragraphs IV(b) (i), IV(b) (ii), IV(b) (iii), IV(b) (iv) and (with respect to tuberculosis, brucellosis and porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) (which is also Notifiable in Northern Ireland)) paragraph IV(b) (v) refer: In the case of porcine semen originating from Northern Ireland, the certifying Official Veterinarian may certify freedom for the diseases listed in these paragraphs on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from DAERA.

In respect of tuberculosis paragraph IV(b) (v) refers to *Mycobacterium bovis* infection. The confirmed existence of *M. bovis* infection is based on confirmed culture of *M. bovis*.

In respect of brucellosis, paragraph IV(b) (v) refers to infection with *Brucella suis*. The confirmed existence of *B. suis* infection is based on confirmed culture of *B. suis*.

In respect of PRRS, lack of clinical occurrence of PRRS cannot be certified for a herd which contains pigs which have been vaccinated against PRRS, nor can this be certified for herds in which serological monitoring or other testing has indicated the presence of PRRS. Because of the many and often subtle clinical manifestations of PRRS it is not straightforward to certify an absence of occurrence of this disease. If clinical signs such as reduced appetite and pyrexia, incoordination, circling and falling to one side and sudden death have occurred in groups of boars and an alternative aetiology has not been established, then it should be suspected that PRRS is occurring on the centre (note that concurrent infections with other pathogens are also common in outbreaks of PRRS).

IMPORTANT NOTE: Official Veterinarians in Northern Ireland should note the inclusion of Aujeszky's disease in paragraph IV(b)(iv) of the certificate in accordance with Ukraine import conditions. It is therefore necessary for supplementary authorisation by DAERA of freedom from Aujeszky's disease in the administrative territory in which the approved centre is located. Official Veterinarians are advised to contact the local DAERA office for further advice when certifying this paragraph.

8. FREEDOM OF THE COLLECTION CENTRE FROM OTHER DISEASES

Paragraph IV(b)(v) refers. Official Veterinarians should take into account their personal knowledge of the disease status of the approved collection centre. If necessary, this may be supported by discussion with the local office of APHA/DAERA.

Certifying Official Veterinarians should also carry out appropriate checks of collection centre records including use of medicines and fertility records to verify freedom from the named diseases. If desired, these checks may also be supported by means of a written declaration from the operator of the collection centre attesting to freedom from the diseases mentioned in this paragraph.

For centres in Great Britain, see information on PRRS at paragraph 7 above.

The declaration in respect of leptospirosis is for absence of clinical signs of leptospirosis such as fever, anorexia and jaundice in groups of boars in the last 12 months or, if these clinical signs have occurred, if an alternative diagnosis has been obtained. A declaration for lack of clinical occurrence of leptospirosis cannot be certified for a pig herd which contains pigs which are vaccinated against leptospirosis¹.

9. VACCINATION OF PIGS AGAINST CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER

Paragraph IV(d) refers. Vaccination of pigs against classical swine fever (CSF) and importation of pigs that have been vaccinated against CSF is not permitted in the United Kingdom.

¹ Such a vaccine is not currently available in the UK

10. ORIGIN, RESIDENCY AND EXCLUSION FROM NATURAL SERVICE

Paragraph IV(d) refers. The certifying Official Veterinarian should check appropriate movement records to verify that the donor boars meet the residency requirement of this paragraph. It should be noted that the six month residency period includes the statutory pre-entry quarantine period as required under Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended). Under the conditions of Directive 90/429 as amended, boars at approved AI centres must not be allowed to serve naturally.

The Official Veterinarian may also wish the operator of the collection centre to provide a signed statement as additional verification of residency.

11. LABORATORY TESTS

The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out pre-export testing 6091NFG (Cleared 22/09/2010) (Revised 09/01/2024)

is officially approved for this purpose by Defra or DARD.

In Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) Laboratory, New Haw, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB, (Tel: 01932 341111). Some tests are carried out at VLA Lasswade, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0PZ, (Tel: 0131 445 6169). Certain specialist tests are carried out at regional VLA 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.

12. TIMING OF TESTING OF DONOR BOARS

Paragraphs IV(e), IV(f) and IV(g) refer. Official Veterinarians should note the requirement for the tests / treatments described in these paragraphs to be carried out within 30 days of the first collection of semen for export to Ukraine.

Paragraph IV(e) refers. Although the timing of the tests for brucellosis and classical swine fever is prescribed in the Ukraine import conditions, the testing methods are not. It may, therefore, be possible to synchronise pre-export testing with the compulsory annual testing regime required under Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended). Details of the testing method used and the other required information should be entered into the table in this paragraph. Periodicity is the normal frequency that these tests are carried out on individual boars in the AI centre.

13. TUBERCULIN TESTING OF DONOR BOARS FOR EXPORT PURPOSES

Paragraph IV(f) refers. In addition to the testing regime for certain diseases as laid down in Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended), Ukraine import conditions also require that donor boars producing semen for export to Ukraine are subjected to testing for tuberculosis. The comparative intradermal test using avian and bovine PPD tuberculin must be used and test read after 72 hours.

Exporters and Official Veterinarians should note that tuberculin testing should not be repeated within 45 days of a previous tuberculin test. Before a pre-export test is carried out, the Official Veterinarian should make due enquiries to ascertain that the animals to be tested have not had a previous test within that period.

Tuberculin Testing Method

The preferable site is the loose skin at the base of each ear. Each site should be cleaned, the loose skin at the base of the ear raised into a fold and the skin thickness measurement recorded. Standard

strength PPD, as issued for cattle, must be used and a dose of 0.1 ml injected intra-dermally into each raised fold taking care not to inject subcutaneously

A useful aid for subsequently reading the test is, after cleaning, to draw a circle on the skin at each selected site with a black felt-tip pen and the injections are made within the encircled areas.

Any increase in skin thickness of more than 2mm at the site of injection or any oedema, necrosis or swelling of associated lymph nodes, should be regarded as a positive reaction. If any animal has a reaction at the bovine site greater than at the avian site, the local office of APHA/DAERA must be informed.

14. 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