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EXPORT OF IN VIVO AND IN VITRO BOVINE EMBRYOS TO AZERBAIJAN

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 8767EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8767EHC.

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 8767EHC may be used for the export of both *in vivo* collected and *in vitro* produced bovine embryos from the United Kingdom to Azerbaijan.

2. **Official Signature**

This certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian (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. Obtaining an import permit

The exporter/agent should be aware of the requirements of the importing country particularly with respect to any requirement for an import permit, although there is no requirement for the import permit number to be recorded in the health certificate.

4. Schedules

Paragraph I.18 refers: A separate schedule may be used to identify the animals certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in paragraph I.18 and paragraph I.18 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. Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)

Paragraphs II.2 (foot and mouth disease, vesicular stomatitis, rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, brucellosis, enzootic bovine leukosis, anthrax) and II.6(a) 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.

Paragraph II.1 refers to animals kept in premises free from contagious notifiable diseases susceptible to the bovine species within 30 days prior to embryo collection/production. This maybe certified based on clearance provided by APHA CIT or DAERA. Address of premises should be provided to APHA/DAERA. If further guidance is required, APHA CIT / DAERA should be contacted.

6. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy

Paragraph II.2 – This shall be certified on the basis the United Kingdom is officially recognised as negligible or controlled BSE risk by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). Please check the WOAH website for the official disease status listing of the UK:
https://www.woah.org/en/disease/bovine-spongiform-encephalopathy/#ui-id-2

Paragraphs II.4 (feed of animal origin) and II.5 refer- The WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code recommend that surveillance and monitoring is in place to establish the BSE negligible/controlled risk status of a country – see Article 11.4.4 (negligible risk) and Article 11.4.5 (controlled risk) at:
https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmfile=chapitre_bse.htm

These paragraphs can be certified on the basis that BSE is notifiable in the UK and the UK TSE Regulation (including Regulation 999/2001) in the UK goes beyond WOAH in that it sets out requirements for the control and eradication of TSEs as well. This includes implementation of the feed ban and tracing and culling animals genetically linked to confirmed BSE cases (e.g. parents).

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

Paragraphs II.1, II.2 (IBR- 12 months freedom at premises, BVD, trichomoniasis, campylobacteriosis, leptospirosis), II.3, 11.6(b)/(c), II.7, II.8, 11.9 and 11.10 refer: OVs may certify these paragraphs based on supporting certification and/or evidence from the team veterinarian.

Paragraph II.3 - Note, vaccination against brucellosis is prohibited in the UK.

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, 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 I.11 refers: The semen must be secured within a cryogenic container by a tamper-evident 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 1.11 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 tamper-evident seal. The OV must endorse paragraph I.11 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 at Carlisle, via the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle

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