Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance: Export Health Certificate for entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of ovine and caprine animal semen collected before 21 April 2021, and dispatched from a collection centre 8423

July 2024

Contents

No: 8423NFG

EHC for entry into the EU or NI of consignments of stocks of semen of ovine and caprine animals collected, processed and stored in accordance with Directive 92/65/EEC before 21 April 2021, and dispatched from a semen collection centre where the semen was collected.

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICER (CO) AND EXPORTER

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Commission Decision 2010/472/EU as amended

Council Directive 92/65/EEC as amended

Council Directive 91/68/EEC

Regulation (EU) No 2016/429

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/351 - Model EHC amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403

Further guidance for completion of this certificate can be found in Chapter 4 of Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235.

Any EU legislation referenced in the EHC must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

Consolidated legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of EU legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents taken into account for its construction.

You can search for consolidated texts by using the ‘find results by document number’ option on the European Commission website. Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click ’document information’, and then scroll down to ‘all consolidated versions’ and select the most recent version.

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

Please note that the consolidated text may not contain the latest amendment to the legislation, as it takes several weeks for this to be updated.

Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in the ‘Official Journal of the EU’.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to COs and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export for entry into the EU of consignments

of stocks of semen of ovine and caprine animals collected, processed and stored in accordance with Directive 92/65/EEC before 21 April 2021, and entered into the EU after 20 April 2021, and dispatched from a semen collection centre where the semen was collected.

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.

[Please note, policies are being reviewed. NFG will be further amended to provide specific guidance. Traders should look at NFGs regularly for any updates]

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This EHC may be used for entry into (and transit through) the EU or NI of consignments of stocks of semen of ovine and caprine animals collected, processed and stored in accordance with Directive 92/65/EEC before 21 April 2021, and entered into the EU after 20 April 2021, and dispatched from a semen collection centre where the semen was collected. Exports of ovine and caprine semen dispatched from approved semen collection centres of origin of the semen must be in accordance with the relevant conditions in Chapter I of Annex D of Council Directive 92/65/EEC (as amended). Certifying veterinarians must be familiar with the provisions of the Directive

The semen must be collected from ovine and caprine animals from holdings that meet the requirements of Council Directive 91/68/EEC.

This certificate is for semen exported from a semen collection centre at which it was collected and is for semen collected both before and after 31 August 2010, including in accordance with the revised scrapie requirements which apply from 1 July 2013. 8010EHC is for semen collected after 31 August 2010 and being dispatched from a storage centre, having been moved there from another centre in the UK, the EU or third country. This guidance focuses on semen collected after 31 August 2010 and assumes that semen collected before 1 September 2010 complied with the requirements of Directive 92/65/EC, before the amendments introduced by Decision 2010/472/EC came into force on 1 September 2010.

From 1 July 2013, the scrapie requirements for trade in breeding sheep/goats as set out in Annex VIII of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 were aligned more closely with the recommendations of WOAH. However, for semen and embryos, they were essentially the same i.e. the donors could either be ARR/ARR sheep or belong to a holding with at least a Controlled Risk status for classical scrapie.

This certificate is to be completed according to the notes for the completion of certificates provided for in Chapter 4 of Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OV

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer (e.g. APHA, FSA or FSS employed veterinary officers) or by an OV appointed by APHA on behalf of Ministers in Defra, the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government and who hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ (V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp, with the OV stamp, the health certificate in ink of a different colour to that of the printing of the EHC. There is no requirement to sign and stamp in a specific colour.

The OV should keep a copy of the signed certificate and any supporting documents for at least two years after signature or receipt/dispatch of the consignment, whichever is later. These can be electronic copies.

The RCVS Certification principles must be complied with.

https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/

EHC in foreign language/s of the EU Member States (MSs).

EHC should be in English and the foreign language of the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry in the EU. The original copy of the required EHC must accompany the consignment to the BCP of entry.

Listing of the EU MS BCPs can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en

The foreign language certificate as received from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or via the Export Heath Certificates Online system (EHCO) and bearing the same unique reference number as the English certificate, should be considered an official and accurate translations of the English, as published in EU legislation.

The (sub-) paragraphs / options and how they are numbered and formatted is identical in the English and foreign language editions and to the legislation published by the European Commission. Therefore, the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions as in the English version should be struck through and these deletions should be stamped and initialled in both versions. Both versions must also be signed (as opposed to being initialled) and stamped by the OV, the foreign language certificate is deemed to be a genuine and properly authorised translation of the English version.

This also applies to any instructions in the guidance notes to strike out certain paragraphs or to certify statements that the country is free of certain notifiable diseases etc.

Additional information can be found in APHA Vet Gateway: http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

SIGNING AND STAMPING

When signing a certificate, the CO should ensure that the certificate contains no deletions or alterations, other than those which are indicated on the certificate to be permissible and any corrections to permitted entries, subject to such changes being initialled and stamped (in the margin) by the CO. Permissible deletions are normally indicated in the 'Notes' section at the end of the certificate, with the instruction 'Keep as appropriate' or 'delete if not applicable'.

- Where the certificate contains optional or contextual statements, the statements which are not relevant shall be crossed out, individually initialled, and stamped by the CO, or completely removed from the certificate.

- Permitted paragraphs and sections may be crossed out by applying a ‘Z’ across the section or paragraph rather than crossing out line by line.

- There is no requirement for a date and time to accompany each stamp. The date is only entered at the required entry field in Part I of the certificate, and at the end where the CO signs, stamps and dates that action.

- We are aware of some BCPs demanding that all handwritten information in Part 1 of the EHC is initialled and stamped, including handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes. There is no legal requirement in EU legislation that all the hand-written information entered in the certificate must be signed and stamped. It is only in the case of correction, in any part of the certificate, or in the case of statements to be crossed out, that the certifier must add signature (or initials) and stamp. This has been confirmed by the European Commission. The Commission noted however, in the case of a hand-written certificate, it is expected that the same one person completes the document. If not, the BCP might suspect that empty boxes were completed by another person after the certificate has been signed by the official.

You should consider checking with the specific BCP regarding their preference when it comes to the stamping and initialling of handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes in Part I of the EHC.

- **Clarification from the European Commission means that all pages (as opposed to sheets of paper) are signed and stamped once individually in place of fan stamping and in addition to any permitted alterations. There is no requirement to fan stamp.**

- COs are reminded to consult the NFG prior to the certification of each EHC. NFG will be updated with this new information in due course.

Further Information COs should make sure they are familiar with all relevant guidance and other documents relating to EHCs and that they discuss requirements with exporters in advance.

See http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm

You can also contact APHA’s Centre for International Trade (CIT) on 03000 200 301.

PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

All boxes in Part I of the certificate must be completed. When a box is not applicable/optional, and not filled, please score it through.

Please use schedule to be attached to the certificate if there is not enough space to fill the information. See Section ‘Addition of Schedules’ below.

Please complete all the boxes in Part I of the certificate in accordance with the guidance laid down in Chapter 4 of Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235, Amended by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2744.

The Harmonised System (HS) Code is a commodity classification system used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics.

It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure that the HS code is entered correctly and accurately reflects the product(s) being consigned.

Further information on HS Codes can be found online at:

https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff/sections and http://madb.europa.eu/madb/euTariffs.htm

PART II: CERTIFICATION

II.1 Health information

The OV signing the EHC must ensure that they are aware of the provisions of Council Directive 92/65/EEC.

Ovine and caprine semen dispatched from an approved collection centre of origin of the semen must meet the conditions in Chapter (I) of Annex D to Directive 92/65/EEC.

The donor animals must comply with the conditions in Directive 91/68/EEC, as amended and have been kept on holdings meeting the requirements for classical scrapie (see above).

The OV may also require, where appropriate, support certification and/or evidence from the authorised centre veterinarian due to their knowledge of the operations of the establishment, to facilitate certification of the certificate.

II.1 – Enter the territory code. The semen must be obtained from donor animals originating from a third country, territory or zone which is listed in Annex X to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 (as amended).

II.1.1 – This can be certified on the basis of disease status as per Section 4 Notifiable Disease Clearance below and considering that routine vaccination against rinderpest, peste des petits ruminants, sheep and goat pox, contagious caprine pleuropneumonia and Rift Valley fever are not permitted in the UK in the absence of outbreak of these diseases.

II.1.2 – This can be certified based on disease notification (as per Section 4 Notifiable Disease Clearance below) for the specific time period, which is from 12 months immediately prior to collection until the date of dispatch and on the basis that routine vaccination against FMD in the absence of FMD occurrence is not permitted in the UK. Export of semen is not permitted where there has been an outbreak of FMD in the specified time period. The UK last regained EU recognition of FMD freedom status on 01 January 2008. Exports of semen obtained prior to 01 January 2009 is therefore not permitted.

II.2.1 and II.2.2 - Can be certified on the basis of approval of the semen collection centre (Directive 92/65/EEC) and, support certification from the centre veterinarian. Please refer to listing of approved establishments on the GOV.UK website: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/livestock-and-equine-semen-collection-approved-premises

and EU website: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/semen-oocytes-embryos/ovine-caprine_en

II.3.1.1 – As stated in footnote (4), the first attestation in this section can be certified provided that the UK appears with the entry "V" in column 6 of Part I of Annex I to Commission Regulation (EU) No 206/2010. The remaining attestations in the section can be deleted.

II.3.1.2 – This may be certified based on the owner's declaration and veterinary certification in the ovine / caprine semen / embryo SUP along with a 618 NDC issued by the Centre for International Trade, obtained at the time of the donor animal's entry into quarantine or during the quarantine period.

II.3.1.3 - In Great Britain, some of these diseases are not officially notifiable at the time of writing. Contagious agalactia is a notifiable disease in GB so premises freedom can be obtained by undertaking the checks as described in Section 4 Notifiable Disease Clearance below. Also, premises freedom for the other non-notifiable diseases can be certified based on the owner's declaration and veterinary certification in the ovine / caprine semen / embryo SUP along with a 618 NDC issued by the Centre for International Trade. The SUP and 618 NDC should be obtained at the time of the donor animal's entry into quarantine or during the quarantine period. NOTE – this 618NDC only confirms that no diagnosis of these diseases has been made by an APHA or SRUC lab, following submission of samples from suspect cases, during the period specified. It does NOT confirm that the disease has not been clinically diagnosed on the premises.

If animals originate from a holding in NI, the attestations (point (a) and (d)) regarding MV/CAE and Contagious agalactia freedom can be certified as NI was free of MV/CAE and Contagious agalactia (Contagious agalactia is a notifiable disease in NI) prior to the donor animal's entry into quarantine. The OV may seek further assurances if required.

http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/maedi-visna-mv

II.3.2 and II.3.3, II.3.4 - Can be certified on the basis of support certification from centre veterinarian or examination of the centre's records.

II.4.1 and II.4.2 - Delete rams / bucks according to species being certified. The attestation can be certified on the basis of support certification from the centre veterinarian.

II.4.3 – The first attestation in this section may be certified based on the disease status as per Section 4 below. Vaccination against foot-and-mouth disease may not be carried out, except as a supplement to control measures taken when the disease in question broke out.

II.4.4 and II.4.5 - The attestation can be certified on the basis of support certification from the centre veterinarian examination of the centre's records.

II.4.6 – This can be certified based on the disease status as per Section 4 below and on the basis of traceability information.

II.4.7 – This can be certified on the basis of support certification from centre veterinarian. As states in footnote (1), only third countries or parts thereof listed in Annex I to Decision 2010/472/EU (currently Australia, Canada, Switzerland, Chile, Greenland, Iceland, New Zealand, St Pierre et Miquelon and US) are considered eligible to enable the second attestation to be certified. In such cases, the donor animals must be in the UK for at least 30 days prior to collection of semen. The pre-entry quarantine may take place in the listed third countries, but official certification covering compliance with all the pre-entry quarantine requirements in the certificate must be obtained by the centre veterinarian before the animals are admitted onto the centre.

II.4.8 and II.4.9 – For residency in the UK, the relevant section may be deleted based on checking the disease status for the relevant period, as per Section 4 below. Note outbreaks of Bluetongue have occurred so care should be taken when checking the dates. There have been no vector-protected collection centres approved in GB prior to 21 April 2021.

II.4.10 – This section can be certified by the OV on the basis of the scrapie related controls in place in the UK, and in the EU MSs and in the other eligible third countries (II.4.7 refers).

II.4.10.2 – *Classical scrapie*

The first attestation in this section may be certified if the animals are at least 3 years old and originate from holdings with Negligible or Controlled Risk of Classical Scrapie and are listed as such through membership of the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (SMS) (see Section 7). If the animals originate from NI then this can be certified if the animals are at least 3 years old and originate from holdings with Negligible or Controlled Risk of Classical Scrapie and are listed as such through membership of the DAERA Scrapie Monitored Flock Scheme (SMFS):

https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/scrapie

The second attestation in this section may be certified if the *sheep* are of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype as defined in Annex I to Commission Decision 2002/1003/EC and their holding of origin is not subject to any official (e.g. CSFS) - restrictions for scrapie. If such restrictions are in place, movement of such sheep, including for trade, will not be allowed (see section UK Animal Health Scheme below).

II.5 and II.6 –The relevant attestations can be certified and, for II.6 the other option deleted. This can be certified based on support certification from the centre veterinarian.

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Some export certificates for animals and animal products will include statements that will require the OV to certify that specified zones or the entire country of origin are free from certain diseases.

COs must check the following sources of disease information for the United Kingdom immediately prior to certification, to ensure disease freedom statements can be certified:

- the Notifiable Disease Occurrence List for Great Britain (ET171) available on the Exports > Certification Procedures page of the APHA Vet Gateway

- the UK Status for Non-Notifiable Diseases Relevant to Export Certification (ET152) available on the Exports > Certification Procedures page of the APHA Vet Gateway.

For Great Britain:

In the absence of a specific Notifiable Disease Clearance (618NDC) from CITC: COs may certify that GB has disease free status or region free status for those diseases mentioned in the health certificate, once they have checked the disease list(s) for the last occurrence of the disease and have ensured it complies with the time frames in the certificate.

In the event of a disease outbreak that affects a CO being able to obtain their own disease clearance, CITC will notify COs to make it clear which disease freedom statements should not be certified and where necessary, will issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance if the EHC can continue to be issued for certain regions that retain free status.

In the event of a disease outbreak after the EHC has been issued that affects the disease clearance, COs must not certify the EHC and must contact CITC immediately for advice on whether certification can still take place. If a disease outbreak affects the disease clearance procedures for this EHC, a 618NDC will be reinstated by CITC which will be issued with the EHC until a time when disease clearance can be reinstated.

NOTE: This does not apply to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) or Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) freedom statements.

5. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

Certification Support Officers may not be utilised for gathering evidence relating to this certificate.

6. UK APPROVED ESTABLISHMENTS ELIGIBLE TO EXPORT TO THE EU

The exporting establishment must be listed as a 'UK approved establishment' and a list of UK approved establishments for import of germinal products to the EU, can be found on the European Commission's list of approved establishments' link below:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/semen-oocytes-embryos_en

Please note that the list is updated regularly and ONLY establishments on the list are approved to export to the EU, and this does not include establishments with pending applications for approval.

If the final product contains germinal products from other establishments, then these establishments should also be listed as UK and/or EU approved establishments.

7. ANIMAL HEALTH SCHEME

Scrapie Statement

Relevant Scrapie text can be certified on the basis that the UK implements a Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (SMS), provided by the SAC Consulting: Premium Sheep and Goat Health Schemes (part of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC). Scrapie is a notifiable disease in the UK and Scrapie control is enforced under the TSE Regulation 2018 (England and Wales) and the TSE Regulation 2010 (Scotland).

Holdings with Controlled or Negligible Risk of Classical Scrapie are listed on the SAC website and provides robust evidence that the holding complies with the requirements at point 1.2 of Section A of Chapter A of Annex VIII to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001. Certificates showing membership of such Schemes should also be requested and checked to ensure they are valid.

ARR/ARR genotype sheep, can be certified if the sheep are of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype as defined in Annex I to Commission Decision 2002/1003/EC and their holding of origin is not subject to any official e.g. CSFS restrictions for classical scrapie. If such restrictions are in place, certification of ARR/ARR sheep for trade is not allowed. If unsure as to whether the holding is under such restrictions, the OV may contact the local APHA office or CIT Carlisle.

The genotyping must be either carried out at a APHA laboratory or SAC / SRUC or any officially approved EU laboratory with ISO17025 accreditation 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 EHC; 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.

8. ADDITION OF SCHEDULES

When the space in Part I or Part II of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate full details of the consignment a schedule may be used. In the relevant section of the certificate the CO should annotate the certificate 'see attached schedule'. A new schedule should be created (typed or clearly written) containing the same information as that required in the certificate. The schedule must include the certificate reference number on each page and must be signed, dated and stamped by the CO in a colour other than the printed text on each page and under the last entry. The schedule forms part of the certificate. All pages of the certificate, including the schedule, must be sequentially numbered. Any blank spaces in the schedule or the certificate should be struck through with diagonal lines.

Further guidance is available here: http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

9. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EHCs

When completing export certification, the CO and, if applicable, FCCO must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify. OVs must retain copies of certification documents in accordance with RCVS Certification principles.

https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/

COs must retain copies of all export documentation for a period of two years. A certified copy of this EHC does not need to be returned to the APHA CITC. For the purposes of completing

routine Quality Assurance checks on export certification, CITC may request certified copies of certification from COs.

Further details on Post Certifying Procedures, 'certified copies' of certification and the types of documents that should be retained by COs can be found on the APHA Vet Gateway.

10. LEGAL STATEMENT

The existing EU legislation that the UK complied with prior to the end of the Transition Period has been incorporated into our domestic law as "assimilated EU law" under the EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018. References in our guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this "assimilated EU law". The EU standards that this legislation includes continue to remain in force, without substantive amendment, as part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable.

11. DISCLAIMER

This certificate and NFG are 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 APHA in Carlisle.

This publication is available at Search - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at farmandgermcarlisle@apha.gov.uk

PB 8423 NFG

Version History:

EHC

Notes -
Box I.6, I.21 and **I.22** removed
Reference I.11: further detail added
Reference I.27: further detail added

NFG

Version 4: Published 31 July 2024
Applicable Legislation: Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/351 added
Part I: Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235, amended by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2744 added

Version 3 Published November 2023
Notifiable Disease Clearance: This paragraph is updated to align with other NFGs.