

EXPORT OF BOVINE 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 629EHC, the schedules providing details of the donor animals and laboratory test results 629SCH and a supplementary certificate covering Schmallenberg virus (SBV) requirements 629SUP. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 629EHC and these associated documents.

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 629EHC may be used for the export of Bovine embryos from the United Kingdom to Australia. All pages must be signed, dated and stamped on the day of shipment.

Paragraph V. a) iii. refers to embryos collected in the **United Kingdom between 1 January 2001 and 15 January 2002, or between 1 July 2007 and 18 February 2008** (inclusive of these dates).

If the embryos were collected in **France, Netherlands or Republic of Ireland**, APHA CIT in Great Britain or DAERA in Northern Ireland must be contacted for advice as The Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will only accept embryos collected outside the Foot and Mouth Disease period as below:

France: Only Embryos collected **prior to 5th February 2001 or after 23rd June 2001** may be imported into Australia;

Netherlands: Only Embryos collected **prior to 12 February 2001 and after 25 August 2001** may be imported into Australia;

Republic Of Ireland: Only Embryos collected **prior to 1st February 2001 and after 22 June 2001** may be imported to Australia.

2. **Completion of Certificate**

Section II.b) "approved embryo collection unit". We do not approve embryo collection units, however the details entered in this section should be the address of the premises where embryo collection took place. A farm premises may be considered "approved"; providing it has a valid CPH number, owing to the fact that it is a premises registered by the Competent Authority.

3. **Import Permit requirement**

A valid import permit is required prior to import of the embryos into Australia. Enquiries should be directed to Live Animal Imports - DAFF, Canberra. Contact details are: Tel.: +61 2 6272 4454 Fax.: +61 2 6272 3110 E-mail: animalimp@daff.gov.au.

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

4. **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.

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.

If necessary, the OV must obtain the required assurances from the Approved Embryo Collection Team Veterinarian before the health information on the certificate at section V. is signed.

DAFF requires each and every page of the certificates and schedules of donor animals and laboratory test results to bear the health certificate number of the certificate and be stamped, dated and signed by the Official Veterinarian.

Countersignature Requirements

This certificate must be countersigned by an APHA Veterinarian.

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:

- as an attachment, at the same time you complete an online application for certification, on the Export Health Certificates (EHC) Online service, or
- 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.

It is the Official Veterinarian's responsibility to present to the countersigning Veterinarian the relevant premise approval document signed by the Centre Veterinarian in order for the Countersigning Veterinarian to sign the 629SUP.

5. Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)

Paragraphs V. a) i) and ii) refer: OV's may certify paragraphs V. a) i) and ii) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the CIT in Carlisle (or equivalent in Northern Ireland).

6. 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).

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](http://www.pirbright.ac.uk/files/quick%20media/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.

Schedule B of 629SCH and the table in 629SUP must be completed to summarise the results of the tests that are required and have been carried out.

7. UK legislation

Paragraph V. d) refers: The certifying OV as well as the Approved Embryo Collection Team Veterinarian must be conversant with the requirements of UK legislation, meaning Chapter II of Directive 89/556 (as amended) in Great Britain which relates to the requirements for trade in bovine embryos and Regulation (EU) 2020/686 in Northern Ireland which relates to the requirements for intra-EU trade.

Paragraphs V. f) g) and h) refer: The laboratories and containers/centres used for processing, aggregation and/or storing the embryos must have been approved as part of the approval of the Team under the Directive 89/556 (as amended) in Great Britain or Regulation (EU) 2020/686 in Northern Ireland. It is unlikely that the embryos will be subjected to further processing (e.g. sex sorting) once sealed in a straw/vial/ampoule, but regardless of this, the cryogenic containers used to move the embryos internally (e.g. for aggregation) must be sealed with a tamperproof, individually numbered seal. The correct option under paragraph V. h) needs to be certified.

8. **Transport container and official seals**

Paragraphs V. i) and j) refer: The embryos 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 III. g) on the health certificate as well as under paragraph V. j).

The final check on identity and the placement of the embryos into new, unused liquid nitrogen in a new or properly disinfected container prior to export of the embryos to Australia must be performed **under the supervision of an Official Veterinarian.**

If it is necessary to top up the container, the additional liquid nitrogen used must meet the requirements of the certificate (see paragraph g). 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 III. g) 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.**

9. **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.