

**EXPORT OF BOVINE SEMEN TO UKRAINE**

**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 6455EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6455EHC.

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 6455EHC may be used for the export of bovine semen from the United Kingdom to Ukraine.

**2. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)**

In Great Britain, this certificate may be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or by an authorised Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed to the appropriate panel for export purposes by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government, or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

In Northern Ireland, this certificate may be signed by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed as an OV to the appropriate export panel for export purposes by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade at Carlisle within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DAERA, Dundonald House, Belfast.

The OV should keep a copy for his/her own records.

**3. Obtaining an 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.

Please note, the exporter must be listed on the Ukraine authorities register for approved exporting establishments:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xi6lFlUn3gpkr9zjgtm8Z40G1bm5Ie4me-9t7YQBZs/edit?gid=0#gid=0>

**4. Schedules**

Paragraph 6 refers: A separate schedule may be used to identify the animals certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in paragraph 6 and paragraph 6 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 6 must be deleted with diagonal lines.

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

Paragraphs 8(b)(i), 8(b)(ii), 8(b)(iii), 8(b)(vii), 8(b)(ix) and 8(b)(x) (1st option) 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.

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_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.

7. **Blue tongue (BTV)**

Paragraph 8(b)(x) refers:

If the first option (country or zone freedom from BTV) cannot be signed, the alternative option is to certify that the artificial insemination centre "is located in a territory where BTV was not registered". The word "territory" should be interpreted as the country where the centre is located and directly neighbouring counties and where there has been no case of BTV for at least 60 days prior to and during the date(s) of semen collection.

With regard to the second testing option, the phrase "serological agent identification test" should be taken to mean a recognised agent identification test carried out on a blood sample.

8. **Leptospirosis**

Paragraphs 8(b)(xi) and 8(c) refer: Although leptospirosis is not an officially notifiable disease in the UK within the normal meaning of that phrase, for export purposes, ie "in the framework of bilateral trade", testing for leptospirosis is required. The centre must notify the certifying OV of relevant results, therefore making it "notifiable" in this context.

To certify the first section of paragraph 8(b)(xi), the certifying OV must check the centre's leptospirosis test results for the 12 months prior to the first date of collection of the semen to be exported. If a bull has given a positive serological result during that period, it should only be regarded as a new case if it had previously tested

negative, ie it has recently seroconverted. If the bull has tested positive on previous occasions, it should not be regarded as a new case.

9. **Sealing of the transport container**

Paragraph 8(j) 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 must be entered at paragraph 7 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 tamperproof seal. The OV must endorse paragraph 7 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.