

No:

**EXPORT OF BOVINE SEMEN TO PHILIPPINES**

**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 7107EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7107EHC.

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 7107EHC may be used for the export of bovine semen from the United Kingdom to Philippines.

**Important Note: Pending further confirmation from authorities in the Philippines, only bovine semen collected after 11 October 2024 should be exported.** We advise exporters 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 Centre for International Trade, Carlisle or DAERA Trade Exports in Northern Ireland.

**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. The import permit number should be given in the health certificate at paragraph III 5).

**4. Schedules**

Paragraph I 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 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. **Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)**

Paragraphs IV 10) and 11) refers: OV's may certify paragraphs IV 10) and 11) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle or the issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland.

6. **Approved Centres and Additional Support Assurances required to enable certain paragraphs to be signed by the Official Veterinarian**

The centre must be approved by the UK Competent Authority. See list on gov.uk below. Supporting certification/declaration from the authorised centre veterinarian is required confirming compliance to relevant requirements in the EHC (e.g. concerning isolation requirements, testing and collection/processing of the semen).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/livestock-and-equine-semen-collection-approved-premises/bovine-semen-collection-centres>

7. **Clinical Examination**

Paragraph IV 8 a) refers: in order to sign this paragraph, a clinical inspection of the donor ram(s) is required on the day of collection.

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 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, OV's are advised to check with the VLA or VSD to determine to which laboratories samples should be sent for testing. Samples should always be received in advance of the export date. 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, OV's should seek the advice of the relevant laboratory.

9. **Sealing of the transport container**

Paragraph IV 9) c) refers: The semen/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 3) 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 III 3) 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.