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EXPORT OF SEMEN FROM STUD RAMS AND MALE GOATS TO THE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION (EAEU)

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

Certificate 8884EHC has been agreed between the United Kingdom and the five member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) which reflects the requirements laid down in the legislation of the EAEU. The five member countries of the EAEU are the Russian Federation, Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Kyrgyz Republic (Kyrgyzstan) and the Republic of Kazakhstan.

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV's) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 8884EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8884EHC.

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 8884EHC may be used for the export of ovine and caprine semen from the United Kingdom to the customs territory of the Eurasian Economic Union, the member countries of which are the Russian Federation, Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Kyrgyz Republic (Kyrgyzstan) and the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Please note, there are currently no supplementary certificates for Schmallenberg virus to the EAEU member states, however they can be made available should the importing country demand one. The information should be obtained by the exporter when the application is made for an import permit and passed to APHA CIT/DAERA.

There is also an internal support certificate **8884SPT** covering assurances for notifiable disease clearance at establishment level to facilitate final certification of export of ovine semen and embryos to EAEU.

All parts of the certificates must be signed, dated and stamped.

2. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)

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:
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certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk.

For certificates that have been issued to the Certifying OV via the EHC 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 the requirement for an import permit.

General information (Sections 1-3 refer)

4. **Country of transit (Section 1.7)**: This refers to any country or countries, including European Union Member States, through which the consignment will pass.
5. **Certificate No: (Section 1.8)**: This MUST consist of the prefix 'GB' (ISO Country Code for the UK), followed by a unique number in CENTAUR format, i.e. year/AHDO number/sequential number. The prefix 'GB' is pre-printed on the certificate. The unique number MUST be printed on the certificate; if this number is entered in manuscript, the certificate will be INVALIDATED.
6. **Country of origin (Section 1.9)**: This is the country in which the semen was collected, ie the United Kingdom.
7. **Point of entering the customs territory (Section 1.12)**: The OV must ask the exporter for this information.

8. Schedules

Section 3 refers: A separate schedule may be used to identify the animals/semen certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in section 3 and section 3 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) in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

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 section 3 must be deleted with diagonal lines.

Veterinary certification (Section 4 refers)

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

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Paragraphs 4.1 1st (PPR) indent, 2nd (rinderpest) indent, 3rd (FMD) indent and paragraph 4.2(a) (BTV) refer: OV's 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 4.1 4th (sheep pox, contagious agalactia, brucellosis) indent, 5th (brucella ovis) indent, 6th (anthrax) indent, 8th indent (for tuberculosis), 10th (contagious/infectious agalactia) indent, 11th indent (contagious caprine pleuropneumonia) refer: OV's may certify these paragraphs provided the **8884SPT** is completed by the owner/centre vet and APHA/DAERA to ensure notifiable disease clearance checks are performed for the premises the animals were resident in. Please note that tuberculosis freedom applies to the whole premises, i.e. not limited to the sheep flock / goat herd level.

Note: contagious agalactia (4th indent) and infectious agalactia (10th indent) are considered to be the same disease.

Please note, for paragraph 4.2 (b), vector protected establishments (VPE) must be approved by APHA/DAERA and regularly supervised by an OV. For further information on VPEs please seek advice from APHA/DAERA.

10. Non-notifiable diseases

With regard to paragraphs 4.1 7th indent (maedi visna, caprine arthritis encephalitis and border disease) 8th indent (for tuberculosis and paratuberculosis), 9th indent (enzootic abortion of ewes) and 11th indent (leptospirosis) refer: OV's may certify these paragraphs based on his or her knowledge of the semen collection centre or from examination of the semen collection centre records or from supporting certification/evidence from the centre veterinarian.

Please note, paragraph 4.3 refers to listeriosis and pulmonary adenomatosis diseases.

11. Laboratory tests and completion of Sections 4.2 and 4.8

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 for paragraph 4.2, 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.

For **paragraph 4.8**- The date of sampling mentioned must be **within 12 months prior to the date of first collection** of semen intended for export. The date of sampling for the pre-entry tests may be used and mentioned.

For paratuberculosis, bespoke sampling and testing (e.g. using the ELISA) may be required.

Tuberculosis testing may include the comparative intradermal tuberculin test using avian and bovine PPD/tuberculins.

With regard to bluetongue testing in paragraph 4.8, if animals are not from a BTV free country or zone for at least 24 months, then tests may include PCR, Virus Isolation test for antigen testing or a serological test, such as ELISA, Virus Neutralisation or AGID tests. 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)

12. Sealing of the transport container

Section 1.5 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 section 1.5 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 section 1.5 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**.

13. Disclaimer

The 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>

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