EXPORT OF BOVINE SEMEN TO NEW ZEALAND – 1129NFG

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 1129EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 1129EHC.

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

The New Zealand Authorities (MPI – Ministry for Primary Industries)) have agreed with the UK that this certificate may be used for the import of bovine semen from the UK.

Please note, the certificate has been amended and agreed in September 2025 in accordance with the updated New Zealand's updated Import Health Standard: Bovine Germplasm, BOVIGERM.GEN: https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/46537-Bovine-Germplasm-2021-Import-Health-Standard/

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: 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

Authorised Private Veterinary Practioners (aPVPs) certifying DECOL (the online application system for Third Country Export Health Certificates in Northern Ireland) 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, which should be obtained by the New Zealand importer from Animal Imports, Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). The import permit number should be given in the health certificate at Part I.
Contact MPI | MPI | NZ Government
animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz.

4. Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)

Specific notifiable diseases clearances are not stated in the certificate, however they are required in the MPI Import Health Standard.

Exports of bovine semen may take place provided the following disease clearances have been met:

1) At the time of semen collection for export to New Zealand, the country was free from Enzootic Bovine Leukosis (EBL);
2) The donor was resident for at least 3 months before semen collection in a country or zone that was free from Foot and Mouth Disease without vaccination in accordance with WOAH Code;
3) The donor was resident for 6 months prior to semen collection in a country or zone that was free of Lumpy Skin Disease;
4) The donor was resident for at least 30 days prior to semen collection in a country or zone that was free of Rift Valley Fever;
5) The donor was kept since birth in a country or zone that is free from Brucellosis (B.abortus, B.melitensis, B.suis);
6) The donor was born in and had been continuously resident in a country free from Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia;
7) The donor was resident in a country or zone free of bluetongue virus for at least 60 days prior to and during collection of semen. If this is not granted by APHA/DAERA then alternative options may be recognised, see Annex I.

OVs may recognise the above disease freedom requirements provided the Department has 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. Disease clearances can only be issued for the United Kingdom. If animals were imported during the residency periods mentioned above, then additional assurances may be obtained from the Export Health certificate certified for the import of the donor animal into NI/GB.

5. Health attestations – Part II:

Paragraph II.1 may be certified on the basis of compliance with UK requirements which have been deemed equivalent to New Zealand standards.

Part II.2: This clause can be certified by the OV if the following applies:

For UK origin products - including those prepared containing EU products - directly exported to NZ;

I. The UK has not imposed any sanitary measures expressly to manage known animal health/food safety risks or hazards which would restrict the products sale or distribution within the UK.

II. The products were derived from animals and farms that are not subject to animal disease control measures being applied by the UK competent authority. Animal disease in this context means an exotic disease or a disease listed in Annex III of the UK/NZ Vet Agreement.

III. For EU product the EU has not applied any sanitary measures which would prohibit the sale or distribution of the product within the EU. Sanitary measures in this context means a Commission Decision (or other legal instrument) authored/instigated by SANTE to expressly manage known animal health/food safety risks or hazards.

This clause includes EU exports to the UK that are subsequently re-exported – directly or after processing and/or mixing within UK origin product - to New Zealand.

Any bovine semen that is not subject to restrictions for movements within the United Kingdom internal market and is eligible for distribution within the United Kingdom, can be subject to trade with New Zealand if compliant with other conditions in the 1129EHC and 1129NFG. This clause can be signed by the OV if it meets the above requirements based on the OV's knowledge of the exporting business and documentary checks.

Paragraph II.3 can be certified on the basis that the test methods for non-regulated diseases by Defra/DAERA, like *Mycoplasma bovis* in bovine semen samples, have been conducted in accordance with the World Organisation of Animal Health (WOAH)(formerly known as OIE) Terrestrial Manual or MPI standards, which can be found at, https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/2040/. Tests must be performed at officially approved laboratories by Defra or DAERA. However, for *Mycoplasma bovis* testing in bovine semen samples, the test maybe performed by a non-UK laboratory that performs the approved MPI test method and is officially approved by the competent authority. See section 6 of guidance for further information.

Paragraph II.4 (Q fever) refers to two options. The relevant attestation can be certified based on personal knowledge and supporting certification/evidence from the centre veterinarian.

Paragraph II.5 (bovine herpes virus 5) - The attestation can be certified based on personal knowledge, and/or supporting certification from the private vet responsible or centre veterinarian responsible for the holdings of residence the donor animal was resident in for the last year prior to semen collection. The supporting certification must confirm that no confirmed case of BHV-5 was reported in the holdings during this period.

Paragraph II.6 refers to MPI approved brucellosis test methods. This can be certified based on supporting certification and/or evidence from the centre veterinarian.

Paragraph II.7 (leptospirosis) refers to treatment in accordance with WOAH code or the MPI-STD-SAA: https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/2040/, as stated below:

Minimum doses for pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, deer, and camelids in each ml of frozen semen:
a) 50 µg tylosin, 250 µg gentamicin, 150 µg lincomycin, 300 µg spectinomycin; or
b) 500 IU penicillin, 500 µg streptomycin, 150 µg lincomycin, 300 µg spectinomycin; or
c) 25 µg dibekacin, 75 µg amikacin

This can be certified based on supporting certification and/or evidence from the centre veterinarian.

Paragraph II.8 refers to antigen testing of the bovine semen with the approved DNA extraction and PCR test methods as listed in the MPI-STD-SAA (https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/2040/). See section 6 of guidance for information on laboratories.

Bluetongue refers -
The UK-NZ agreement on sanitary measures for bovine semen refers to compliance to World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Code Bluetongue requirements. Please see Annex I for further information on the requirements that must be complied with that should be checked by the certifying OV prior to certification.

6. Laboratory tests

MPI approved test methods can be found here:
https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/2040/

Please note, in September 2022 MPI have added the Immunofluorescent Antibody test to the list of approved tests for bovine genital campylobacteriosis.

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, Penicuick, Midlothian, EH26 0PZ, (Tel: 0131 445 6169). Certain specialist tests are carried out at regional AHVLA 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

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.

Antigen testing for ***Mycoplasma bovis*** may be conducted at a non-UK laboratory. This is on the condition that the third country the laboratory is located in has an agreed certificate with New Zealand, which is the case for the European Union. Also, the laboratory must be officially approved by the competent authority of the third country, and the test must meet MPI requirements. This is permitted until APHA develop a validated test for Mycoplasma bovis in accordance with MPI requirements.

If applicable, the laboratory PCR test on semen for Q fever can be outsourced to an EU-approved laboratory, as long as the approval is given by an EU country that is approved to export bovine semen and embryos to New Zealand.

Laboratory test results must be attached to the export health certificate.

MPI have confirmed to Defra that laboratory reports must accompany the certified certificate to New Zealand (please see section 1.12 of the Import Health Standard). They note that the standard provides three ways in which the information can be provided (please see section 1.12.2), this includes:

- original laboratory reports;
- copies of laboratory reports endorsed by the Official Veterinarian; or
- a tabulated summary of laboratory results endorsed by the Official Veterinarian.

7. Sealing of the transport container – Part I, box I.21 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 in this box.

8. 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.

Annex I- Bluetongue requirements

The certifying OV must ensure the bovine semen complies with the Bluetongue WOAH Code standards:

https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmfile=chapitre_bluetongue.htm

The semen must have been collected from donor animals complying with at least one of the following options:

(a) the donor animals were kept in a Bluetongue free country or zone for a period of at least 60 days before commencement of, and during, collection of the semen;

Note: This may be recognised 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; OR

(b) the donor animals were subjected to a serological test according to the WOAH Terrestrial Manual to detect antibodies to the BTV group, with negative results, at least every 60 days during the collection period and between 28 and 60 days after the final collection for this consignment; OR

Note: This option shall be recognised based on supporting centre vet certification and/or evidence.

(c) the donor animals were subjected, with negative results, to an agent identification test for Bluetongue virus according to the WOAH Terrestrial Manual carried out on blood samples collected:

(i) at commencement and final collection of the semen for this consignment, and
(ii) during the period of semen collection for this consignment:

i. at least every 7 days, in the case of a virus isolation test, or
ii. at least every 28 days, in the case of a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test; OR

Note: This option shall be recognised based on supporting centre vet certification and/or evidence.

(d) the donor animals have been protected against attacks by vectors for a period of at least 60 days before commencement of, and during, collection of the semen in accordance with WOAH standards;

Note: Chapter 8.3 to the WOAH Code describes the vector protection requirements and the facility must be approved and inspected by APHA or DAERA. This option can be used if it is possible to construct a facility and manage it in such a way that vector attack can be mitigated according to WOAH standards. The certifying official veterinarian may obtain a declaration from APHA CIT that the vector protected facility is approved – and any relevant declaration(s)/undertaking(s) that s/he considers necessary and certify this option on such a basis and/or spot checks.