EXPORT OF OVINE AND CAPRINE SEMEN TO CHILE – 8023NFG

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 8023EHC These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8023EHC.

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 Chilean Veterinary Authority (SAG) has agreed with the UK that this certificate may be used for the import of ovine and caprine semen from the UK.

As a minimum, the semen must be collected in a centre officially approved by the UK's competent authority (paragraph II.2.1 refers) and listed on the UK website:

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

The centre must also be listed on the SAG website:

https://www.sag.gob.cl/ambitos-de-accion/importaciones-0/registros

The relevant list is Livestock establishments authorized for import - United Kingdom

If it is not, CIT, Carlisle must be contacted to enquire about the process for getting the centre listed on the SAG website.

2. Official Signature

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

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. Certification of a foreign language

Principle 3 from the 10 Principles of Certification states:

A veterinarian should only sign certificates that are written in a language they understand.

https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/

For this certificate, the Chilean authorities have requested also that the Chilean certificate also needs a signature by an OV. The foreign text in this certificate is an official translation of the English text and as the Official Veterinarian, you are accordingly authorized to complete the export health certificate, even if you are unable to read and understand the meaning of the foreign text.

4. 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. If required, the import permit number should be entered in the health certificate at Part I, point 1.2.a

5. Schedules

Paragraph I.25 refers: A separate schedule may be used to identify the semen certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in paragraph I.25 and paragraph I.25 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.25 must be deleted with diagonal lines.

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/official-veterinarians-ovs-and-ov-practices-forms-and-guidance

6. Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)

Paragraphs II.1 II.3.4 (first statement) and II.3.7 (first statement, refer: In respect of the United Kingdom, 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.

7. Additional Support Assurances required to enable certain paragraphs to be signed by the Official Veterinarian.

Paragraphs II.2, II.3, II.4 and II.5 refer: OVs may certify these paragraphs and the sub-paragraphs based on personal knowledge of the semen collection centre or supporting certification from the centre veterinarian. If further guidance is required, CIT / DAERA should be contacted.

II.3.1
Brucellosis in sheep and goats is notifiable, so if the holding of origin is not under any official restrictions, it can be assumed the holding is free.

Enzootic abortion is not notifiable. One of the WOAH (formerly known as OIE) criteria for establishing freedom is that there must be no clinical evidence for the disease on the holding during the past 2 years. This recommendation must be followed to certify freedom from the disease

In the case of scrapie, SAG requires the donor animals to comply with the WOAH Code recommendations which are the following:

The donor animals:
a. are permanently identified to enable trace back to their establishment of origin;
b. showed no clinical sign of scrapie at the time of semen collection

SAG does not require the donor animals to originate from a scrapie-free establishment. Therefore, the donors do not have to originate from holdings which have a classical scrapie negligible risk status (i.e. have undergone active monitoring for at least 7 years) as listed in the Scottish Rural College (SRUC) Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (SMS) or DAERA Scrapie Monitored Flock Scheme (SMFS).

https://www.sruc.ac.uk/business-services/veterinary-laboratory-services/other-health-schemes/scrapie-monitoring-for-export/?page=37

https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/scrapie

However, as UK requirements have to be complied with, the donors must originate from holdings which have a classical scrapie controlled risk status (i.e. have undergone active monitoring for at least 3 years) and listed in the SRUC SMS scheme or the DAERA SMFS scheme.

Another option is to ensure donor rams only are ARR/ARR scrapie resistant genotypes. If the genotyping option is being used, the test must be carried out in an officially recognised laboratory (APHA or SRUC).

II.3.2
Epizootic diseases which are notifiable in sheep and goat are the following: FMD, rinderpest, bluetongue, Rift Valley fever, sheep and

goat pox, peste des petite ruminant, contagious agalactia, contagious caprine pleuropneumonia, contagious epididymitis and brucellosis. Please check document ET171-Notifiable Disease Occurrence List, that the diseases stated above have not been present in the UK in the past 24 months.
https://improve-ov.com/instructions/instructions-file.php?unique_id=6724f0d9f0067&file_type=Form&action=view

II.3.3. Testing in isolation.
The tests to be done after 21 days in isolation are simply referred to in the EHC as "the routine diagnostic tests that are performed at the centre, which are in line with those set out in the most recent version of the terrestrial animal health code of OIE (now WOAH)". This protocol is described at:
https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmfile=chapitre_coll_semen.htm and requires:

The animals should be tested as described below a minimum of 21 days after entering the pre-entry isolation facility, with negative results.
a. Brucellosis and ovine epididymitis – serological tests for B. Melitensis and B.Ovis.
b. Maedi-visna and caprine arthritis/encephalitis – serological test.

II.3.4
The first option (country freedom) must be certified. **Chile accepts the principle of regional freedom.**

II.3.5 (ovine epididymitis)
This is only required for sheep.

II.3.5 (MV/CAE)
It is advisable to source the donors from SRUC MV/CAE accredited holdings. Tests available at APHA, Weybridge include AGIDT and ELISA.

II.3.6 (M. bovis / M caprae – otherwise referred to as M. tuberculosis complex)
This is only required for goats. Donor animals must be subjected to a single intradermal test using bovine tuberculin, with negative results (negative means no increase in skin thickness and no oedema when the test is read at 72 hours), the test being performed by injecting the PPD tuberculin into the skin at the posterior aspect of the base of the ear.

Instructions/guidance for carrying out the test can be found at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/official-veterinarians-ovs-and-ov-practices-forms-and-guidance
It must be noted that any positive bovine reaction in accordance with the UK interpretation (i.e. a reaction of more than 2mm) must be reported to APHA/DAERA unless a comparative (using both bovine and avian PPD / tuberculins) test has been carried out and the positive bovine reaction is equal to or less than the avian reaction.

II.3.7 Bluetongue (second statement)

If the animals come from a holding under a surveillance programme for the control of Bluetongue, they must be tested as follows:

They must give negative results to an agar-gel immunodiffusion test (AGID) or ELISA test between twenty-eight (28) and sixty (60) days after each collection of semen for export.

or /

They were subjected to an agent identification test on blood samples collected at commencement and conclusion of, and at least every seven

(7) days (virus isolation test) or at least every twenty-eight (28) days (PCR test) during, semen collection intended for export, with negative results.

Bluetongue requirements are described in Article 8.3 of the WOAH Code: https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmfile=chapitre_bluetongue.htm

8. Laboratory and tuberculosis 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). 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).

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.

Annual tests are required for a number of diseases, but most sheep and goat semen collection centres operate on a seasonal basis and the donors do not remain there from one season to the next. So, **donors must be tested for the specified diseases during the 28 day pre-entry quarantine period, at least 21 days after the start of quarantine**. It is advisable to screen the donors for some of these diseases (e.g. those which are endemic e.g. tuberculosis and MV/CAE) before they are put into quarantine.

APHA laboratory test submissions and price lists - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

9. Sealing of the transport container

Paragraph I.21 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 I.21 on the health certificate.

If it is necessary to top up the container, the additional liquid nitrogen used must meet the requirements of the certificate - see paragraph II.5.3. 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 I.21 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