

EXPORT OF IN-VIVO OR IN-VITRO BOVINE EMBRYOS TO ARGENTINA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE FOR THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 6687EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6687EHC. We strongly suggest that exporters obtain full details of the importing country's requirements from the veterinary authorities in the country concerned, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

The certificate 6687EHC may be used for the export of in-vivo or in-vitro bovine embryos from the United Kingdom to Argentina.

Please note that, in addition to export health certificate 6687EHC, there is a supplementary certificates 6687SUP covering assurances for Schmallenberg virus for the embryos and the semen used to conceive the embryos. All parts must be signed, dated and stamped.

In addition, there is a 6687SPT, which is a veterinary support certificate providing confirmation of the disease status of the holding and donor females, prior to and after the collection of the embryos, as required at Paragraphs V.3.1, V.3.2V.5.1 on the EHC.

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 (Defra), the Scottish Government, Welsh Government or the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland (DAERA), who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

OVs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any 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. 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 IV d).

4. SCHEDULES

Paragraphs I and II refer: Separate schedules may be used to provide the information required. The schedules must contain the same information as that required in paragraphs I and II and paragraphs I and II must be annotated "See attached schedule". Each page of the schedules must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the Official Veterinarian (OV).

The schedules must be stapled inside the health certificate and the OV should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedules and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedules and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedules or in paragraphs II and III and must be deleted with diagonal lines.

5. RESIDENCY OF THE DONOR COW

Paragraph V.3.2 and V.3.4 refer: If necessary, details in the cattle passport may be checked to establish whether paragraphs V.3.2 and V.3.4 can be signed.

6. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE (FORM 618NDC)

Paragraphs V 1.1, V 1.2 and V.3.3 (in case of in-vitro produced embryos) 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. Clearance will only be in regard to Official freedom of the UK with respect to the stated notifiable diseases, and for the collection periods stated in the application.

Paragraph IV 3.1.1 (tuberculosis) may be certified for the semen donor by evidence that the semen used was collected in an approved export semen collection centre, and for the donor female by sight of the "Official Herd Clearance for Collection of Bovine In-Vivo Embryos/Ova Intended for Export/In-Vitro Production" (ABC56) provided by APHA/DAERA, applicable for the specific collection period. The official clearance must demonstrate that the donor cows were eligible for export collection - this is shown by the clearance at Part 2 on the form.

Paragraph V.3.2 (bovine viral diarrhoea) may be certified for the semen donor by evidence that the semen used was collected in an approved export semen collection centre, and for the female donor, may be certified based on the 6687SPT completed by an Official Veterinarian with knowledge of the holding of origin, for the period of 30 days prior and 30 days after collection of the embryos.

Paragraph V.5.1 (other transmissible diseases) refers to the donor females and their holding of origin, and may be certified based on the completed 6687SPT.

NOTE: as the SPT is required to be certified prior to the cow's embryo collection, then it is important for this to have been planned well in advance.

Paragraph V.3.4 requires in the case of imported donors that they come from countries free from contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP). This may be certified based on evidence of certification of CBPP freedom of the country of origin (e.g. copy of the Health Certificate for import into Great Britain or Northern Ireland). and relevant assurances will be required from the competent authorities in the country of origin. Relevant assurances in Paragraphs 1.1. and 1.2 are also required from the competent authority of the country of origin.

If foetal bovine serum, serum albumin or any other product of ruminant origin has been used in the processing of the embryo (Paragraph V.4.4 refers), the exporter must provide details of the supplier(s) of the product to the OV to enable the OV to certify that it originates from countries recognized by WOAAH as negligible or controlled BSE risk.
<https://wahis.woah.org/#/home>

7. OTF (TUBERCULOSIS FREE) STATUS

Paragraph V.3.1.1 refers: The herd must be officially free of tuberculosis. This means that the herds, and individual animals in the herds, must not be under any official tuberculosis related restrictions at the time of collection. This includes, whole herd restrictions (TB2) served e.g. following the discovery of reactors, or individual animal restrictions (TB34) served e.g. following the discovery of inconclusive reactors, or any other TB-related restrictions served e.g. because routine herd tests are overdue or because of zero tolerance. Official Veterinarians should contact their

DVM to confirm the herd status with respect to these disease.

8. **SCHMALLENBERG VIRUS (SBV)**

6687SUP provides additional assurances for the donor females and the semen donors, with regards to Schmallenberg virus, for at least 30 days prior to the first collection and 30 days after the last collection of embryos/semen for export.

Additionally, embryo/semen donors must be SBV tested on two occasions, the first on day of collection or within the previous 30 days, and the second between 21 days and 60 days following the last collection of embryos/semen.

9. **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%20media/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.

10. **SEALING OF THE TRANSPORT CONTAINER**

Paragraph V 5.2 refers: The embryo/s 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 paragraph IV f) 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 V 5.1). 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 paragraph IV f) 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**.

11. 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.