

**EXPORT OF BOVINE SEMEN TO ARGENTINA**

**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 6203EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6203EHC.

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 6203EHC may be used for the export of bovine semen from the United Kingdom to Argentina.

Please note that there is also a supplementary certificate 6203SUP covering assurances for Schmallenberg virus. All parts must be signed, dated and stamped.

In addition, there is a 6203SPT which is a veterinary support certificate providing confirmation of the disease status of the holding, prior to entry of the bulls into the Semen Collection Centre. This is required as part of the "official Health documentation" noted at paragraph 4.5 on the EHC.

**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**.

Please note, an official Spanish translation has been provided in the 6203EHC which must be completed, signed and stamped by cross referencing to the English translation.

**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](mailto: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 CIRC 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. The import permit number should be given in the health certificate at paragraph IV.(c).

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

Paragraphs V.1, V.2, V.3.4, V.4.2 and V.5.3.1 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.

With reference to paragraph V.7, if egg products have been used in the preparation of the semen diluent and the eggs have not come from an SPF flock, or are not commercially sterilised (i.e. subject to heat treatment) in accordance with the WOH Code (chapter 4.6), the exporter must provide details of the supplier(s) of the eggs to APHA or DAERA to enable form 618NDC to be completed.

**NOTE: Please note that at present UK regionalisation for AI and Newcastle disease is not recognised by the competent authorities in Argentina.**

With reference to paragraph V.8, if milk has been used in the

processing of the semen that has come from the UK, the exporter must provide details of the supplier(s) of the milk to APHA or DAERA to enable form 618NDC to be completed.

**6. 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_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.

**7. Residency of the donor bulls in the UK**

Paragraph V.4.1 refers: If necessary, details in the cattle passport may be checked to establish whether paragraph V.4.1 can be signed.

Paragraph 4.5 requires "official health documentation" to demonstrate no occurrence of diseases transmissible by semen, at the holding of origin, during the 90 days prior to entry into the Semen collection centre. In this case "diseases transmissible by semen" may be regarded as those for which there is mandatory testing prior to entry into the SCC. This paragraph may be certified based on a 6203SPT completed by an Official Veterinarian with knowledge of the holding of origin, and the official approval of the bull for semen collection, issued by the Centre for International Trade at the time of his entry. The latter will cover the notifiable diseases TB, Brucellosis & EBL. The SPT will provide confirmation of freedom from these diseases as well as the other diseases which are endemic in the UK.

**NOTE: as the SPT is required to be certified prior to the bulls entry into the SCC then it is important for this to have been planned well in advance.**

**8. Sealing of the transport container**

Paragraph V.12 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 paragraph II.d) 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.10), 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 II.d) 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**.

9. **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.