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**EXPORT OF BOVID SEMEN [SPECIFICALLY BOVINE (*Bos taurus*, *Bos indicus*, *Bison bison*), WATER BUFFALO (*Bubalus bubalis*), YAK (*Bos grunniens*)] FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA- 138EHC**

**NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF FOR THE GUIDANCE OF CENTRE VETERINARIANS, OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS**

**1. Scope of the certificate**

Certificate 138EHC must be used to accompany bovid semen [specifically bovine (*Bos taurus*, *Bos indicus*, *Bison bison*), Water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*), Yak (*Bos grunniens*)] from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United States of America.

In addition to non-sexed semen, it can be used for sexed semen either collected in the region of the UK (Great Britain or Northern Ireland) where the semen sexing facility is located or imported from the USA or Canada.

**Please note that this certificate can only be used for semen, whether sexed or non-sexed, collected in the same region of export (either Great Britain or Northern Ireland) or for semen imported from the USA or Canada. USDA APHIS have confirmed that for this purpose, Great Britain (England, Scotland Wales) must be regarded as a separate region to Northern Ireland and to all European Union (EU) Member States. This means that semen collected in Northern Ireland cannot be moved to Great Britain for onward export to the USA and vice versa, nor can semen be imported from any EU Member State to either Great Britain or Northern Ireland for onward export to the USA.**

A separate certificate must be issued for each consignment of semen.

The original of this certificate must accompany the shipment.

**2. Signing of the certificate**

The health certificate must be signed at paragraph 12, Section A of Part D by the Centre Veterinarian (i.e. Authorised Veterinary Surgeon at the Semen Collection Centre where the semen was collected).

**Countersignature Requirements**

Although Section B of Part D of this certificate suggests it can be signed by an Official Veterinarian, in the case of exports to USA, an Official Veterinarian is considered to be a veterinarian employed by the Department. It must therefore be countersigned at paragraph 14, Section B of Part D, by a veterinarian of the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) or, in the case of Northern Ireland, of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland (DAERA).

All requests for APHA countersignature must be submitted to the APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle (CITC) at least two working days in advance of the requested date/time of countersignature using 'Request for APHA Veterinarian Countersignature of an Export Health Certificate' (ET145) application.

The ET145 application can be submitted to CITC:

- as an attachment, at the same time you complete an online application for certification, on the Export Health Certificates (EHC) Online service, or
- by email to [processingteam@apha.gov.uk](mailto:processingteam@apha.gov.uk)

Upon receipt of your ET145 application CITC will liaise with an APHA Veterinarian at your preferred countersigning office/area to make arrangements for countersignature to take place and notify you of the arrangements made.

**Please note:**

At paragraph 11.5 and again at paragraph 11.11.1 the Centre Veterinarian (CV) is required to certify that certain actions took place "under my supervision". This implies that only semen collected and processed whilst the certifying CV was in post can be certified. However, for semen collected and processed at other times or for sexed semen processed at another collection centre, providing the certifying CV has documentary proof that these actions were carried out under the supervision of the CV in post at that time, he or she can sign these paragraphs as written.

APHA/DAERA Veterinarians should affix their SP stamp to the certificate in the normal manner. The APHA/DAERA Veterinarian should retain a copy for record keeping purposes, and, if not based at the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle, should also forward a copy to them, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DAERA, Dundonald House, Belfast, within seven days of signing.

The health certificate must be signed and stamped in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK.**

**3. Import Permit**

It is the responsibility of the importer to obtain an import permit in advance from USDA/APHIS/VIS. Enquiries should be addressed to: National Center for Import And Export, Import/Export Animals, 4700 River Road, Unit 39, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231 - Telephone (301) 734-3277 or Facsimile (301) 734-8226.

**4. Relevant legislation and approval of Semen Collection/Storage Centres (SCC/SSC)**

In order to complete this certificate, it is necessary to be familiar with the relevant legislation in force in either Great Britain or Northern Ireland. From 31 December 2020, the last day of the EU Exit transition period, Directive 88/407/EEC, as amended, applies in Great Britain. At the time of writing these Notes for Guidance, that situation remains the same for Great Britain, i.e. England, Scotland and Wales. In Northern Ireland, that legislation was replaced by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/686, which came into force on 21 April 2021.

Paragraph 13.4 - For semen collection in Great Britain, the SCC/SSC must be approved in accordance with Directive 88/407/EEC and listed on the gov.uk website:

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

For semen collection in Northern Ireland, the SCC/SSC must be approved in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2020/686 and listed on the EU website/TRACES:

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/semens-oocytes-embryos/bovine\\_mt#movement-to-other-member-states](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/semens-oocytes-embryos/bovine_mt#movement-to-other-member-states)

**5. Bovine Viral Diarrhoea - Mucosal Disease (BVD-MD) virus**

Paragraph 11.2.5 refers. This only applies to BVD-MD serologically positive bulls, and is reflected in the relevant legislation in force in GB/NI which requires a test, prior to the initial dispatch of semen from BVD-MD serologically positive bulls, of a semen sample from each animal for virus detection using the virus isolation test for BVD-MD. In the event of a positive result (i.e. if the 'Cumulus' phenomenon is

demonstrated), the bull should be removed from the centre. All of its semen should be destroyed and it must not be certified for trade.

6. **Sex-sorted semen**

For sex-sorted semen, a 'Cleaning and Disinfection' protocol needs to be in place to ensure there is no cross contamination between semen from SBV seropositive and SBV seronegative bulls when these batches are sex-sorted using the same machines. Any piece of the processing equipment that is not disposable must be cleansed and disinfected in situ, with cleansing agents, bleach and viricidal, alternating with purified water. APHIS studies these protocols and if satisfied, publish the names of the sex-sorting semen collection laboratories on their website:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/live-animal-import/cattle-bison-germplasm/approved-eu-efta-bovine-semen-sexing-facilities>

Import permits will only be issued for semen sex-sorted in these laboratories, provided:

- The semen was collected in an approved semen collection centre in the same region as the semen sex-sorting facility. USDA APHIS has confirmed that for this purpose, Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) must be regarded as being a separate region to Northern Ireland. This means that semen collected in Northern Ireland cannot be moved to Great Britain to be sex-sorted before being exported to the USA, or conversely.
- There is effective supervision of the process by:
  - o The Centre Veterinarian
  - o The APHA/DAERA veterinarian responsible for auditing the centre/laboratory

7. **Support assurances from Centre Veterinarian to enable certain paragraphs in Section B to be signed by the Veterinary Officer**

The Centre Veterinarian must provide the assurances required at Paragraph 13.3, Paragraphs 13.6 to 13.12 and Paragraph 13.14 of Section B to the APHA/DAERA Veterinarian to enable these paragraphs to be signed. With regard to Paragraph 13.3 refers to the animals must be resident in the herd for 60 days and be free of restrictions at the time of admission into the SCC. With regard to Paragraph 13.7, the list of countries considered by the USDA to free from FMD and rinderpest can be found by following the link:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions>

Note, Rinderpest was officially declared eradicated globally in 2011.

8. **Freedom from FMD and Rinderpest and CBPP**

Paragraphs 13.1. and 13.7. refer. The list of countries recognised by the United States Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A.) to be free from foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest can be found by reference to Title 9, Chapter 94.1 of the CFR ([United States] Code of Federal Regulations), as updated from time to time and found at:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions>

(Note, Rinderpest was officially declared eradicated globally in 2011)

Semen collected during 15/01/2001 to 17/12/2002 in Great Britain, or during 10/02/2001 to 05/11/2001 in Northern Ireland, (dates inclusive) is not eligible for export to the USA. This is because the USDA had suspended the FMD-free status of GB/NI during these periods.

Paragraph 13.2 refers to Great Britain or Northern Ireland freedom of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and can be certified based on 618NDC authorisation issued by APHA CIT at Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

**9. Diagnostic tests**

Paragraph 13.5 refers. Tests performed at APHA laboratories and the VSD laboratory, Stormont, can be deemed to comply with the methodologies set out in the WOAHS Terrestrial Animal Health Manual.

**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>

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