



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Import of Bovine Semen

Import Information Note (IIN) BSTC/1

January 2024

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1. General Information

This Import Information Note (IIN) must be read in conjunction with the IIN for general information for imports of live animals and germplasm, which provides information on pre-notifications, veterinary checks, risk categories etc.

[General information for imports of live animals and germplasm \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://www.defra.gov.uk)

References to European Union (EU) legislation within this document are references to direct EU Legislation which has been assimilated in Great Britain (assimilated direct legislation), as defined in the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 and can be viewed on the UK legislation website ([legislation.gov.uk](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)).

2. Scope

Imports of bovine semen of domesticated farm animals are governed by both the legislation in force at the time of its collection and at the time of trading (bovine semen cannot be imported from countries with whom a trading protocol was not agreed at the time of collection).

Bovine semen is defined as 'prepared or diluted ejaculate of male domestic animals of the bovine species'. All the protocols require the semen to have been collected under specified hygienic conditions, at premises free from specified diseases from donors of proven health status under the supervision of approved veterinarians.

3. Country of origin

Imports are permitted from trading partners, listed in a document published by the Secretary of State, with the consent of the Scottish and Welsh Ministers. See the documents for bovine semen at the links below.

- [Non-EU countries](#)
- [EU and EFTA countries](#)

4. Approval of collection and storage centre

All semen, ova and embryos must be collected in approved centres and by approved teams in accordance with the Balai Regime. Lists of approved centres and teams are available on gov.uk:

- [List of approved centres and teams](#)
- [List of EU approved establishments](#)

5. Bovine semen produced in accordance with EU rules

Imported bovine semen must be produced and imported in accordance with the provisions of [The Bovine Semen Regulations \(England\) 2007](#) (SI No 2007/1319 for England, SI No 2007/330 for Scotland and SI 2008/1040 for Wales)) as amended. These require that semen is imported to a licensed storage facility.

6. Health certification/documentation

Imports to Great Britain must be accompanied by the appropriate health certificate, which can be found on GOV.UK.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bovine-germinal-products-health-certificates>

Consignments of semen must be accompanied by a health certificate, which conforms to the model, and which is signed by an official veterinarian or inspector of the veterinary authority in the country of origin.

Section A - Model 1 applies to imports into and transits of semen of domestic animals of the bovine species collected, processed and stored in accordance with The Bovine Semen (England) 2007, dispatched from a semen collection centre where the semen was collected.

Section B - Model 2 applies from 1 Jan 2005 to imports and transits of stocks of semen of domestic animals of the bovine species collected, processed and stored before 31 December 2004 in conformity with The Bovine Semen (England) 2007, applying until 1 July 2004, and imported after 31 December 2004 in accordance with Article 2(2) of Directive 2003/43/EC, dispatched from a semen collection centre where the semen was collected.

Section C - Model 3 applies to imports into and transits of semen of domestic animals of the bovine species collected, processed and stored in accordance with The Bovine Semen (England) 2007, and of stocks of semen of domestic animals of the bovine species collected, processed and stored before 31 December 2004 in conformity with Directive 88/407/EEC, applying until 1 July 2004, and imported after 31 December 2004 in accordance with Article 2(2) of Directive 2003/43/EC dispatched from a semen storage centre.

7. Special arrangements for Canada

You can find additional information on special arrangements for Canada, including how to apply for an export certificate and related forms, [here](#). The health certificate for bovine semen from Canada can be found at Annex I of [Decision \(EC\) 2005/290](#).

8. Contact for further information

For further information regarding import requirements, contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Imports team:

Centre for International Trade - Carlisle
Eden Bridge House
Lowther Street

Carlisle
CA3 8DX

Email: Imports@apha.gov.uk

Telephone: 03000 200 301



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The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government and Welsh Government.