Intra-Union Trade in Equine Semen

Notes for the Guidance of Certifying Veterinarians and Exporters

November 2015
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1. **Key documents**

The following key documents must be read and understood prior to completing and signing the Intra-trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC) for equine semen:

Equine-Semen-NFG - this document,
Equine-Semen-CKL - checklist procedures

2. **Notifiable disease clearance**

Official Veterinarians may certify Part II, paragraph 1.1.1 (African Horse Sickness (AHS)) of the ITAHC on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Centre for International Trade (CIT) Exports, Carlisle on form TRACES NDC; or any other arrangement (e.g. because the semen is not intended for export until later) if this is impractical.

The TRACES NDC must bear the same certificate reference number and the ITAHC to which it relates.

Part II, paragraph 1.1.2 relates to the centre only, and requires it not to be under any official prohibitions because of dourine, glanders, equine encephlomyelitis (all types, including West Nile fever), equine infectious anaemia (EIA), vesicular stomatitis, rabies and anthrax. Prohibitions may last for as long as 6 months after the last case has been recorded or slaughtered, depending on the disease. A TRACES NDC is not generally required as the Centre Veterinarian is supposed to know the health status. The centre veterinarian or certifying Official Veterinarian should contact CIT Exports, Carlisle if necessary to confirm the position (e.g. a change of centre veterinarian).

3. **Scope**

This Intra trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC) must be used for the export of equine semen to another Member State.

There are four different ITAHCs available for export from 1 October 2014, as follows:

- **Part A** (model health certificate IA from Decision (EU) 2015/261)): This is for semen collected after 30 September 2014 and being dispatched from an approved semen collection at which it was collected.

- **Part B** (model health certificate IB from Decision (EU)2015/261)) This is for semen collected after 31 August 2010 and before 1 October 2014 and being dispatched after 31 August 2010 from an approved semen collection centre at which it was collected.

- **Part C** (model health certificate IC from Decision (EU) 2015/261)): This is for semen collected before 01 September 2010 and being dispatched after 31 August 2010 from an approved centre at which it was collected.

- **Part D** (model health certificate ID from Decision (EU) 2015/261)): This is for semen collected after 30 September 2010 or stocks collected after 31 August 2010 or before 1 October 2014 or before 1 September 2010, and dispatched after 31 August 2010 from an approved storage centre, having been moved there from another centre in the UK, the EU or third country.
This guidance focuses on Part A, and assumes that semen collected before 1 October 2014 complied with the requirements of Directive 92/65/EC, before the amendments introduced by Regulation 846/2014 came into force on 1 October 2014, and that Parts B and C can be signed for such semen without any further guidance, other than contained in the check-list Equine-Semen-CKL. Part D can be signed on the basis of certification which accompanied the germplasm into the approved semen storage centre – such germplasm must have been legally processed in an EU approved semen collection centre in the UK (accompanied by a national/internal movement document confirming compliance with EU requirements, particularly the test programme applicable) or legally imported from another MS or a third country (accompanied by certification set out in Decision (EU)2015/261 if germplasm was dispatched after 1 October 2014, or Decisions 2010/470/EU and 2010/471/EU, respectively if the germplasm was dispatched after 31 August 2010 but before 1 October 2014, or 95/307/EC and 96/539/EC, respectively, if the germplasm was dispatched before 1 September 2010). Some guidance on how the various options in Part D may be certified can be found in the Equine-Semen-CKL.

The final certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Scottish Government or Welsh Government who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes, or a Veterinary Officer, on the basis of support certification (e.g. the TRACES pre-certificate as in paragraph 12 below, or the Equine-Semen-CKL) from the ‘centre veterinarian’ or main Authorised Veterinary Surgeon (AVS) responsible for the store from which the semen is to be exported.

OVs should affix the OV stamp to the certificate in the normal manner in any ink colour other than black. A copy of the signed certificate must be faxed to the CIT Exports, Carlisle on the day of issue.


This Intra trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC) must be used to accompany equine semen exported from approved premises for intra-Union trade under Council Directive 92/65/EEC and consigned to EU Member States.

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

The original ITAHC must accompany the consignment to the place of destination.

4. Completion of Part I of the ITAHC

Box I.12 – Place of Origin/Place of Harvest
The following information must be entered:
- Name and address of the collection centre;
- Registration number of the collection centre (as 'Approval number' on the ITAHC).

Box I.21 – Product
The following information must be entered:
- Type of product – i.e. preservation technique (fresh/chilled/frozen);

Box I.31 - Identification of the Animals
The following information must be entered:
- Type of product – i.e. preservation technique (fresh/chilled/frozen);
5. **Completion of Part II of the ITAHC**

**Approval/Supervision of Semen Collection/Storage Centres and Centre Veterinarians**

Part II.1, Paragraphs 1, 5.1 and 5.2 refer. Semen collection centres should be approved by Defra according to the conditions laid down in Council Directive 92/65/EEC as last amended by Commission Regulation 846/2014. The centre veterinarian or Authorised Veterinary Surgeon (AVS) is the veterinarian nominated by the operator of the semen collection centre and approved by Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) to carry out supervision of the premises, testing and semen collection procedures. For further information on the approval of centres and appointment of centre veterinarians, exporters and OVVs should contact CIT Exports, Carlisle. Requirements for the approval and supervision of semen collection and storage centres, and for the collection, processing, preservation, storage and transport of semen are detailed in **Annex A**.

6. **Identification of Donors and Other Animals on the Centre**

All animals on the centre must be identified individually and accompanied by a recognised passport (and microchip in the case of equidae born or identified for the first time on or after 1 July 2009) in accordance with Council Directive 90/426/EEC and Regulation (EC) No. 504/2008. In Great Britain, this aspect of the Directive and the Regulation is implemented by the Horse Passports Regulations 2009, the Horse Identification (Scotland) Regulations 2009 and the Equine Identification (Wales) Regulations 2009, as appropriate. Section IX must be present in the passport but it does not have to have been signed. The identification must be checked whenever samples for testing are taken or semen is collected.

7. **Disease Clearance of Holdings of origin and Non-Contact with Disease**

**Part II, paragraph 2 refers.** This requires the centre veterinarian to ensure that horses admitted to the centre originate from holdings which are of a health status that enables them to be moved to another MS (Articles 4 and 5 of Directive 2009/156/EC reproduced at **Annex B**, refer), or in the case of horses originating from an approved third country, are accompanied by a valid and appropriate health certificate as set out in EU legislation. Essentially, this means that the holding of origin must not be under any official prohibitions because of dourine, glanders, equineencephalomyelitis (all types, including West Nile fever), equine infectious anaemia (EIA), vesicular stomatitis, rabies and anthrax prior to movement to the centre. Prohibitions may last for as long as 6 months after the last case has been recorded or slaughtered, depending on the disease, so if in doubt, the centre veterinarian or certifying Official Veterinarian should contact CIT Exports, Carlisle if necessary to confirm the position.
8. **Restriction on Use for Natural Service**

Part II, paragraph 3.3 refers. A written declaration should be obtained from the owner or agent. The validity of this declaration should be checked against available breeding records. The centre veterinarian or Official Veterinarian should retain the declaration for his/her own records.

9. **Laboratory Testing Programmes**

Part II, paragraphs 3.5.1, 3.5.2 and 3.5.3 refer.

The sampling/testing regime depends on the ‘programme’, and the three options can be summarised as follows:

**Programme 1**

For donors which are continuously resident on the centre and no equidae on the semen collection centre come into direct contact with equidae of lower health status than the donor stallion: one set of samples taken at least 14 days after commencement of the minimum 30 days residency required prior to first collection of the season, if the stallions remain on the centre until the next breeding season, they must be tested again before the start of the season. If semen collected under this programme is frozen, it must be held / stored for at least 30 days prior to export.

**Programme 2**

For donors stallions which are resident (have complied with the 30 days residency prior to first collection) but which may leave the centre for less than 14 days at a time and/or if other equidae of a lesser health status are allowed onto the centre and come into direct contact with donors stallions: two or more sets of samples, the first set taken as per programme 1 above, the second/further sets in such a way as to ensure that the donor stallion has been sampled and tested prior to semen collection as follows (depending on the disease): within 90 days for EIA, within 30 days (if a SNT is carried out on blood, with negative results) or within 6 months (provided the SNT carried out on blood is positive AND the VI/PCR carried out on semen is negative) for EVA and within 60 days for CEM. In essence, if the donors are not being collected from on a continuous basis, they no longer have to be sampled/tested regularly at the above intervals. If semen collected under this programme is frozen, it must be held / stored for at least 30 days prior to export.

**Programme 3**

Two or more sets of samples, the first taken prior to the first collection of the season, the second/further sets between 14 and 90 days after last collection of semen intended for export. In essence, donors will need to be sampled/tested within a maximum of 90 days after semen intended for export has been collected. The donors do not have to be resident on the centre for 30 days prior to the first collection of the season, and although they can be sampled at the home stables by a private veterinarian, the samples MUST be submitted to an official laboratory (see below) for testing.

The test results (which should fully identify the horse/s in question) should be provided to the centre veterinarian as evidence that this particular requirement has been complied with. Frozen semen must have been stored in approved conditions for at least 30 days prior to certification and the results of these tests must be available and satisfactory.
IMPORTANT – Mix of Programmes/Other Equidae at the Centre

It should be borne in mind that if a centre chooses to follow a mix of programmes and/or have other equidae on the centre (e.g. resident or walk-on mares), then the protocol to be adopted must address any attendant risks. Generally speaking, compliance with the EU requirements for trade in breeding equidae and pre-breeding season sampling/testing as recommended by the HBLB code will be necessary. Travelling donor stallions from which semen is intended for trade must comply with one of the three programmes, although only programme 3 is likely to be practical. The following are examples (not exhaustive) of how risks may be mitigated:

If a centre chooses to collect fresh semen in accordance with programme 1 from some stallions and frozen semen in accordance with programme 3 from the others with which there is or likely to be direct (nose-to-nose or skin) contact, then the donors for the latter will need to undergo a 30 days’ residency in isolation and sampled 14 days after commencement of residency/isolation. Or, the donors for the former should follow programme 2. This assumes that the centre or any horses resident on or entering the centre are not subject to restrictions for notifiable diseases – see paragraph 7 above – especially those which could be transmitted by vectors (eg EIA, equine encephalomyelitis)

If other equidae (eg resident or walk-on mares) are present within the curtilage of the centre AND the donor stallions are likely to come into direct contact with them (donor stallions cannot be used for natural breeding in any case while on the centre), the other equidae could undergo the protocol set out in programme 1 and be considered of equal health status. This will require isolation for 30 days (resident mares only), collection of a set of samples as per programme 1 (although sampling sites for CEM in mares will be different and the HBLB code should be followed for this) and testing with satisfactory results (for EVA in mares, where serology is the only option available, positive results are considered satisfactory as long as they are stable or declining in two sequential blood tests taken at an interval of at least 14 days). The tests could be performed at any laboratory approved under the HBLB code. These equidae could be deemed to be of equal health status i.e. the second/further set of samples is not required (in effect meaning that programme 1 can be followed).

Submission of samples

(i) CEM swabs: these must be submitted as follows:

a. For culture: APHA Regional Laboratory, Bury St Edmunds.
b. For PCR: APHA Regional Laboratory, Penrith

Important: samples (swabs) for CEM (culture or PCR) must be collected at least seven days (in the case of systemic treatment) or 21 days (in the case of local treatment) after any antimicrobial treatment has been carried out on the donor stallion. For further information on how to transport the samples, please contact the laboratory in question

The two sets of swabs must be taken at least 7 days apart unless the PCR is used under programme 2 and for routine tests within 60 days prior to the collection of semen intended for trade, in which case only one set of swabs is required. [However, at the beginning of the breeding season, samples in programme 2 must continue to be collected and tested]
on two occasions - 14 days after the 30 day residency has started and at least 7 days apart."

The swabs (whether for culture or PCR) cannot be pooled. Therefore, separate swabs must be submitted as follows: from the penile sheath (prepuce), the urethra and the fossa glandis (ie 3 separate swabs). A pre-ejaculatory fluid sample is no longer required from 1 October 2014.

All swabs from an individual animal must be submitted chilled to the same laboratory, and must arrive at the laboratory within 48 hours of sampling. If more than 10 swabs are to be submitted, prior notice should be given to the laboratory. A separate laboratory report form must accompany each sample.

(ii) Samples for testing for equine infectious anaemia and equine viral arteritis should be sent to the APHA laboratory, Weybridge.

(iii) Before submitting semen samples for the virus isolation test for equine viral arteritis (paragraph 3.4.2 second alternative), centre veterinarians are advised to contact the virology department, Weybridge for advice on the procedures for collection and dispatch of semen samples for virological testing. A PCR test is currently not available, but when it is, this guidance will be updated.

10. Use of antibiotics

Part II, Paragraph 4 refers. Where antibiotics or a mixture of antibiotics are added, their bactericidal activity must be at least equivalent to that of the following mixtures in each ml of semen: gentamicin (250 μg), tylosin (50 μg), lincomycin-spectinomycin (150/300 μg); penicillin (500 IU), streptomycin (500 μg), lincomycin-spectinomycin (150/300 μg); or amikacin (75 μg), divekacin (25 μg), and the names of the antibiotics added and their concentration must be stated in the ITAHC.

11. Completion of ITAHC

**Intra-Union trade in equine semen – Check List**

The Equine-Semen-CKL must be completed by the Official Veterinarian before completing the ITAHC.

If the certifying Official Veterinarian is able to answer “Yes” to all the questions in Equine-Semen-CKL, the consignment meets the criteria for intra-Union trade and the ITAHC can be signed. The Equine-Semen-CKL should be retained by the Official Veterinarian for record purposes and not returned to the exporter. Should the certifying Official Veterinarian not be able to answer “Yes” to all the questions in Equine-Semen-CKL the consignment would not be eligible for intra-Union trade, therefore the ITAHC cannot be signed.

Having completed all the checks, ensuring the ITAHC is fully completed and all the appropriate deletions and/or additions have been made, the Official Veterinarian must sign
and stamp the ITAHC with the OVs official stamp in ink of any colour other than black. The completed ITAHC will accompany the consignment to its final destination.

IMPORTANT: Part II, paragraph 3.6 must be competed conscientiously, paying due regard to the testing programme used, and ensuring that the dates samples were taken for the various tests are within the required time frames in relation the date of collection of semen. The notes on the ITAHC should be consulted for guidance on how the table should be completed (see below). In an EVA seropositive stallion where the semen has to be tested (either by VI or PCR), the sampling date for the semen must be recorded and not that of the blood (for SNT) – including in programme 2 (II.2.4.2 refers), where it must, however, be ensured that an SNT has been carried out within 6 months prior to the collection of semen for export.

Completion of the table:
Programmes 1 and 2 – The date of admission onto the SCC should be the start date of residence. The date entered here for semen collection should be the date of first semen collection following the start date of the donor residence.
Programme 3 – The start date of residence can be left blank as residency status is not relevant.

12. Signatories and Conflict of Interest

In relation to export certification of semen, there may be circumstances where it is not appropriate for the Authorised/Approved Veterinary Surgeon (AVS) for the AI Centre to sign the final export certificate because of potential conflict of interest.

The format of TRACES model certificates does not allow for countersignature. In order to resolve this issue, there are two alternative methods of certification, a) and b) below, depending on whether or not any conflict of interest is deemed to exist:

a) Direct certification by AVS for Centre acting as an Official Veterinarian:

In cases where, with the agreement of the CIT Exports, Carlisle, it has been deemed there is no unmanageable conflict of interest preventing the AVS from certifying the consignment directly, the final ITAHC certificate will be issued directly to the AVS for completion provided that the AVS also holds an Official Veterinarian appointment for Panel 1N. In these cases, the AVS will sign the final ITAHC in their capacity as an Official Veterinarian. The AVS must have previously submitted a satisfactory “conflict of interest declaration” to CIT Exports, Carlisle.

b) Final certification by an independent Official Veterinarian;

In cases where there may be a conflict of interest for the AVS, the final ITAHC must be certified by an independent OV appointed to Panel 1N. The Official Veterinarian (OV) must not have a conflict of interest.
13. Notification to CIT Exports, Carlisle of Completion and Signature / Amendment of ITAHC

In order to meet the requirement for notification of germplasm movements to other Member States, Official Veterinarians must notify CIT Exports, Carlisle that an ITAHC has been completed and signed. Completed copies of the following documents must be emailed (preferred option) or faxed or delivered to CIT Exports, Carlisle on the same day the ITAHC is issued:

- Part I of the ITAHC (indicating any amendments)
- completed Part II of the ITAHC.

Any amendments to Part I of the ITAHC, must be clearly indicated, and endorsed with Official Veterinarian stamp and initials, so that the necessary amendments can be made by the issuing Animal and Plant Health Agency office prior to sending the TRACES movement notification to the destination Member State.

Certified Copies of ITAHCs

Official Veterinarians should make at least one photocopy of the completed (i.e. signed and stamped) ITAHC and endorse the front of each copy with “Certified copy” and their initials. One copy should be retained by the Official Veterinarian for record purposes for a minimum of one year. Where it is not possible to email or fax a copy of the ITAHC to CIT Exports, Carlisle, on the same day on which the ITAHC is signed, the Official Veterinarian should make an additional photocopy and ensure this is delivered to CIT Exports, Carlisle on the same day on which the ITAHC is signed.

However, where this requirement for photocopying is likely to give rise to considerable practical difficulties, the OV should contact CIT Exports, Carlisle for advice.

14. Notification of cancellation or changes

If the consignment is

- cancelled, or
- its date/time of departure has changed significantly, or
- a different vehicle is used, or
- there are amendments to identification of the consignment

the exporter must notify CIT Exports, Carlisle by fax or email, giving details of changes, so that a replacement TRACES message can be sent.
Annex A - Approval and Supervision of Semen Collection Centre, and Collection, Processing, Storage and Transport of semen according to Directive 92/65/EEC Annex D Chapters I, II and III (as amended)

Approval

The semen collection/storage centre must be approved by the Department and placed under the permanent supervision of a “centre veterinarian”/“Authorised Veterinary Surgeon”.

(a) Semen collection centres must:

i) have at least:
- lockable animal accommodation and an exercise area which is physically separated from the collection facilities, the processing and storage rooms;
- isolation facilities which have no direct communication with the normal animal accommodation;
- semen collection facilities that may be open air protected from adverse weather effects with slip-proof flooring which protects from dramatic injury in case of fall and around the place of semen collection, without prejudice to the requirements in point iii);
- a separate room for the cleansing and disinfection or sterilisation of equipment;
- a semen processing room separated from the collection facilities which need not necessarily be on the same site;
- a semen storage room which need not necessarily be on the same site;

ii) be constructed or isolated so that contact with outside livestock is prevented;

iii) be constructed so that the entire centre except the office rooms and the exercise area can be readily cleansed and disinfected;

(b) Semen storage centres must:

i) have a different and distinct approval number for the storage of semen of ovine/caprine species if semen of another species is also stored there;

ii) have a semen storage room furnished with the necessary installation to store the semen and/or the embryos, which is so constructed that it protects those products and the installation from adverse weather and environment effects;

iii) be so constructed that contact with outside livestock or other animals is prevented;

iv) be so constructed that the entire centre except the office rooms and exercise area can be readily cleansed and disinfected;

v) be so constructed that unauthorised access of people is effectively prevented.
Supervision

(c) Semen collection centres must:

i) be supervised so that they contain only animals of the species whose semen is to be collected;

However, other domestic animals may be admitted, provided that they present no risk of infection to those species whose semen is to be collected and they fulfil the conditions laid down by the centre veterinarian.

If in the case of equidae the semen collection centre shares a site with an artificial insemination or service centre, then female equidae (mares) and un-castrated male equidae (stallions) for teasing or natural service shall be admitted provided that they meet the requirements of points 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 of Section I of Chapter II of Annex D to Directive 92/65/EC, as amended;

ii) be monitored to ensure that records are kept which show:

the species, breed, date of birth and identification of each animal present in the centre;

any movement of animals entering or leaving the centre;

the health history and all diagnostic tests and the results thereof, treatments and vaccinations carried out on animals kept;

the date of collecting and processing semen;

the destination of the semen;

the storage of the semen;

iii) be inspected by an official veterinarian during the breeding season at least once a year in the case of animals with seasonal breeding and twice a year in the case of a non-seasonal reproduction in order to consider and verify all matters relating to the conditions of approval and supervision;

iv) be so supervised that the entry of unauthorised persons is prevented. Furthermore, authorised visitors must be required to comply with the conditions laid down by the centre veterinarian;

v) employ competent staff who have received adequate training on disinfection and hygiene techniques to prevent the spread of disease;

vi) be monitored to ensure that:

none of the animals kept in the centre is used for natural breeding at least 30 days prior to semen collection and during the collection period;

the collection, processing and storage of the semen is carried out only in premises set aside for these purposes;
all utensils coming into contact with the semen or the donor animal during collection or processing are either properly disinfected or sterilised prior to use or new, disposable and discarded after use;

products of animal origin such as diluents, additives or extenders are used in the processing of the semen, which present no animal health risk or which have undergone prior treatment to preclude such risk;

in the case of frozen or chilled semen cryogenic agents are used, which had not been used previously for other products of animal origin;

any receptacle for the storage or transport of semen is either disinfected or sterilised as appropriate prior to use or new, disposable and discarded after use;

d) **Semen storage centres must:**

i) be supervised to ensure that:

the status of the donor animals whose semen is stored at the centre is EU compliant;

the requirements laid down in points iv) and v) above are complied with;

records are kept of all movement of semen entering and leaving the storage centre;

ii) be monitored to ensure that:

only semen collected in and coming from approved semen collection or storage centres and transported in conditions offering every possible health guarantee, having had no contact with semen which is not EU compliant, is brought into the approved semen storage centre;

storage of semen takes place only on the premises set aside for the purpose and under strict conditions of hygiene;

all instruments which come into contact with the semen are properly disinfected or sterilised prior to use, except for single-use instruments;

storage containers and transport containers are either properly disinfected or sterilised before the commencement of each filling operation, except for single-use containers;

cryogenic agents used for preservation or storage of semen have not been previously used for other products of animal origin;

each individual dose of semen is clearly marked in such a way that the date of collection of the semen, the species, the breed and identification of the donor animal, the approval number of the semen collection centre can be readily established;

iii) be inspected by an official veterinarian at least twice every calendar year in order to consider and verify, where necessary based on records, standard operating procedures and internal audits, all matters relating to the conditions of approval, supervision and monitoring.
Collection, processing, preservation, storage and transport of semen

e) **The AVS must satisfy him/herself that the semen is collected under conditions meeting the requirements of Directive 92/65/EEC as amended.** This means that:

- collection of semen is carried out by competent staff who have received adequate training in disinfection and hygiene techniques to prevent the spread of disease;
- semen is collected from the donors identified as animals which have passed the appropriate tests and their identity is recorded so that aliquots of semen can be attributed to the correct donors;
- semen is collected in clean sterile containers either new or disinfected.

f) **The AVS must satisfy him/herself that the semen is processed under conditions meeting the requirements of Directive 92/65/EEC as amended.** This means that:

- semen is processed in sterile containers either new and disposable or cleansed and disinfected before use;
- products of animal origin such as diluents, additives and extenders must present no risk to animal health and have either been certified to be sterile or have undergone appropriate treatment;
- semen is placed into sterile containers: straws, vials or ampoules which are duly identified and each contain only products from one male donor. The identification must include at least the country of origin (UK), date of collection, species, identity of the donor and name or number of the collection centre.

  If a cipher (code) is used, a decipher must be given, attached to the health certificate and copied to the Center for International Trade (CIT) Exports, Carlisle with a copy of the health certificate.

  when the semen is frozen, only sterile liquid nitrogen which has not previously been in use for the storage of animal products, may be used.

g) **The AVS must satisfy him/herself that the semen is stored under conditions meeting the requirements of Directive 92/65/EEC as amended.** This means that:

- the storage flask must be clean and be located in a clean room which can be secured by a lock;

  when the semen is exported, at least 30 days later, the Official Veterinarian must verify the identity of the individual containers of semen and supervise their transfer into a transport container;

  the transport container must be sealed by the Official Veterinarian using a tamperproof seal applied in such a way that the flask cannot be opened without breaking the seal. The number of the seal must be recorded, given in the final health certificate and copied to CIT Exports, Carlisle with copy certificate.

  i) **The AVS must satisfy him/herself that the semen is transported under conditions meeting the requirements of Directive 92/65/EEC as amended.** This means that:
the transport containers must be cleansed and disinfected or sterilised before use, or must be single-use containers, and have been sealed and numbered prior to dispatch from the approved semen collection or storage centres;

the ITAHC must record the identification number on the straws or other packages and the seal number of the container in which they are stored and transported.

1. Equidae must show no clinical sign of disease at inspection. Inspection must be carried out in the 48 hours prior to their embarkation or loading. In the case of registered equidae, however, this inspection shall, without prejudice to Article 6, be required for intra-Union trade only.

2. Without prejudice to the requirements of paragraph 5 regarding compulsorily notifiable diseases, the official veterinarian must, at the time of inspection, be satisfied that there are no grounds — in particular on the basis of declarations by the owner or breeder — for concluding that the equidae have been in contact with equidae suffering from an infectious or contagious disease during the 15 days immediately preceding inspection.

3. The equidae must not be intended for slaughter under a national programme of infectious or contagious disease eradication.

4. The equidae must be identified in the following manner:

(a) in the case of registered equidae, by means of an identification document, as provided for in Directive 90/427/EEC, which must certify in particular that paragraphs 5 and 6 of this Article and Article 5 of this Directive have been complied with. The official veterinarian must suspend the validity of the identification document for the period of the prohibitions provided for in paragraph 5 of this Article or in Article 5 of this Directive. The identification document must, following the slaughter of the registered horse, be returned to the authority which issued it. The procedure for the implementation of this point shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 21(2);

(b) for equidae for breeding and production, by the method established in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 21(2).

5. In addition to the requirements laid down in Article 5, the equidae must not come from a holding which has been the subject of one of the following prohibition orders:

(a) if all the animals of species susceptible to the disease located on the holding have not been slaughtered, the period of prohibition concerning the holding of origin must be at least:

(i) six months in the case of equidae suspected of having contracted dourine, beginning on the date of the last actual or possible contact with a sick animal. However, in the case of a stallion, the prohibition shall apply until the animal is castrated;

(ii) six months in the case of glanders or equine encephalomyelitis, beginning on the day on which the equidae suffering from the disease in question are slaughtered;

(iii) in the case of infectious anaemia, until the date on which, the infected animals having been slaughtered, the remaining animals have shown a negative reaction to two Coggins tests carried out three months apart;

(iv) six months from the last recorded case, in the case of vesicular stomatitis;

(v) one month from the last recorded case, in the case of rabies;

(vi) 15 days from the last recorded case, in the case of anthrax;
(b) if all the animals of species susceptible to the disease located on the holding have been slaughtered and the premises disinfected, the period of prohibition shall be 30 days, beginning on the day on which the animals were destroyed and the premises disinfected, except in the case of anthrax, where the period of prohibition is 15 days. The competent authorities may derogate from these prohibition orders for hippodromes and racecourses, and shall notify the Commission of the nature of any derogations granted.

6. Where a Member State draws up or has drawn up a voluntary or compulsory control programme for a disease to which equidae are susceptible, it may present the programme to the Commission, within six months from 4 July 1990 for Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United Kingdom, from 1 January 1995 for Austria, Finland and Sweden, from 1 May 2004 for the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia and from 1 January 2007 for Bulgaria and Romania, outlining in particular:

(a) the distribution of the disease on its territory;

(b) the reasons for the programme, taking into consideration the significance of the disease and its cost/benefit advantages;

(c) the geographical area in which the programme will be implemented;

(d) the status categories to be applied to establishments, the standards which must be attained for each species and the test procedures to be used;

(e) the programme monitoring procedures;

(f) the action to be taken if, for any reason, a holding loses its status;

(g) the measures to be taken if the results of the tests carried out in accordance with the provisions of the programme are positive;

(h) the non-discriminatory nature of trade in the territory of the Member State concerned with respect to intra-Union trade.

The Commission shall examine the programmes presented by the Member States. Where appropriate, it shall approve them in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 21(2). Any additional guarantees, general or specific, which may be required in intra-Union trade may be defined in accordance with the same procedure. Such guarantees must not exceed those required by the Member State in its own territory.

Programmes submitted by Member States may be amended or supplemented in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 21(3). Amendments or additions to programmes which have already been approved or to guarantees which have been defined in accordance with the second subparagraph may be approved under the same procedure.
Article 5 – 2009/156/EC

1. A Member State which is not free from African horse sickness may dispatch equidae from that part of its territory which is considered to be infected within the meaning of paragraph 2 of this Article only under the conditions set out in paragraph 5.

2. A part of the territory of a Member State shall be considered to be infected with African horse sickness if:

(a) clinical, serological (in unvaccinated animals) and/or epidemiological evidence has revealed the presence of African horse sickness in the past two years; or

(b) vaccination against African horse sickness has been carried out in the past 12 months. The part of the territory considered to be infected with African horse sickness shall comprise as a minimum:

(c) a protection zone with a radius of at least 100 km around any centre of infection;

(d) a surveillance zone of at least 50 km extending beyond the protection zone, in which no vaccination has been carried out in the last 12 months.


4. All vaccinated equidae found in the protection zone must be registered and marked in accordance with Article 6(1)(d) of Directive 92/65/EEC. The identification document and/or health certificate shall carry a clear reference to such vaccination.

5. A Member State may dispatch from the territory referred to in the second subparagraph of paragraph 2 only equidae which meet the following requirements:

(a) they must be dispatched only during certain periods of the year, having regard to the activity of vector insects, to be determined in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 21(3);

(b) they must show no clinical symptom of African horse sickness on the day of the inspection referred to in Article 4(1);

(c) they must have undergone a test for African horse sickness as described in Annex IV, on two occasions, with an interval of between 21 and 30 days between the two tests, the second of which must have been carried out during the 10 days prior to dispatch either:

(i) with negative results, if they have not been vaccinated against African horse sickness; or

(ii) without having recorded an increase in the antibody count and without having undergone vaccination during the previous two months, if they have been vaccinated against African horse sickness.

In accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 21(2), and following the opinion of the European Food Safety Authority, other monitoring methods may be recognised;
(d) they must have been kept in a quarantine station for a minimum period of 40 days prior to dispatch;

(e) they must have been protected from vector insects during the period of quarantine and during transportation from the quarantine station to the place of dispatch

6. Signatories and Conflict of Interest

In relation to export certification of semen, there may be circumstances where it is not appropriate for the Authorised/Approved Veterinary Surgeon (AVS) for the AI Centre to sign the final export certificate because of potential conflict of interest.

The format of TRACES model certificates does not allow for countersignature. In order to resolve this issue, there are two alternative methods of certification, a) and b) below, depending on whether or not any conflict of interest is deemed to exist:

**Direct certification by AVS for Centre acting as an Official Veterinarian:**

In cases where, with the agreement of APHA, CIT Exports, Carlisle, it has been deemed there is no unmanageable conflict of interest preventing the AVS from certifying the consignment directly, the final ITAHC certificate will be issued directly to the AVS for completion provided that the AVS also holds an Official Veterinarian appointment for Panel 1n. In these cases, the AVS will sign the final ITAHC in their capacity as an Official Veterinarian. The AVS must have previously submitted a satisfactory “conflict of interest declaration” to CIT Exports, Carlisle.

**Final certification by an independent Official Veterinarian:**

In cases where there may be a conflict of interest for the AVS, the final ITAHC must be certified by an independent OV appointed to Panel 1N. The Official Veterinarian (OV) must not have a conflict of interest.

7. Notification to the Issuing Animal Health Office of Completion and Signature / Amendment of ITAHC

In order to meet the requirement for notification of animal movements to other Member States, Official Veterinarians must notify CIT Exports, Carlisle that an ITAHC has been completed and signed. Completed copies of the following documents must be emailed or faxed or delivered to CIT Exports, Carlisle on the same day the ITAHC is issued:

- Part I of the ITAHC (indicating any amendments)
- completed Part II of the ITAHC.

Any amendments to Part I of the ITAHC, must be clearly indicated, and endorsed with Official Veterinarian stamp and initials, so that the necessary amendments can be made by the issuing Animal and Plant Health Agency office prior to sending the TRACES movement notification to the destination Member State.

**Certified Copies of ITAHCs**

Official Veterinarians should make at least one photocopy of the completed (i.e. signed and stamped) ITAHC and endorse the front of each copy with “Certified copy” and their initials. One copy should be retained by the Official Veterinarian for record purposes for a minimum of one year. Where it is not possible to fax or email a copy of the ITAHC to CIT Exports, Carlisle, on
the same day on which the ITAHC is signed, the Official Veterinarian should make an additional photocopy and ensure this is delivered to CIT Exports, Carlisle on the same day on which the ITAHC is signed. However, where this requirement for photocopying is likely to give rise to considerable practical difficulties, the OV should contact CIT Exports, Carlisle for advice.