

March 2005

## **IMPORT REQUIREMENTS OF ARGENTINA FOR BOVINE EMBRYOS EXPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES**

The embryos must be accompanied by a U.S. Origin Health Certificate issued by a veterinarian authorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and endorsed by a Veterinary Services (VS) veterinarian. The certificate shall contain the name and address of both the consignor and consignee and complete identification of the embryos to be exported. The U.S. Origin Health Certificate shall state the type of tests conducted, dates of the tests, embryo collection date, the washings utilized, treatment of embryos made, name and identification number of the donor animals, birth date of donor animals, place of origin, and name and address of the collection center or farm. A model bilingual U.S. Origin Health Certificate may be used as the certificate and is provided.

### **I. Requirements for the Treatment and Identification of the Embryos**

1. The veterinarians of the embryo collection team are accredited by the USDA and at least one member of the team is certified by the American Embryo Transfer Association (AETA).
2. The biological products of animal origin utilized in the collection, processing, washing, and freezing of the embryos for exportation are free of live microorganisms, and antibiotics were added according to the recommendations of the International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS).
3. The materials and instruments used for the collection, manipulation, washing, freezing, preservation, and transportation of the embryos were sterilized according to the recommendations of the current edition of IETS's Manual of the International Embryo Transfer Society (available from <http://www.iets.org/manual.htm>.)
4. The embryos have been examined before and after the washing procedures and before freezing under a microscope with 50X magnification and with movement in the culture fluid, to determine that the surface and the zona pellucida were intact and free of any adherent material.
5. The embryos were washed according to the recommendations of the IETS and were transferred in groups of 10 or less, after 10 washings in sterile media, using sterile micropipettes for each washing.
6. Each washing of the embryos constituted a dilution of 1/100 of the previous washing and only embryos from the same donor were washed in the same media.
7. The ampoules/straws shall be identified according to the following:
  - a. number assigned to the transferring organization,

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- b. breed code,
- c. registration number of the donor cow,
- d. freeze date,
- e. number of the individual ampoule/straws, and quantity and the quality of the embryos contained therein.

8. The racks/canes shall be labeled as follows:
- a. embryo transfer business or organization code,
  - b. freeze date,
  - c. name and registration number of the sire and dam.

## **II. Sanitary Requirements of the Donor Sire**

1. The semen utilized for insemination of the donor cow meets the import health requirements of Argentina or the requirements of Certified Semen Services (CSS) or its equivalent.

## **IV. Sanitary Information of the Donor Cow**

1. The United States, as well as the country of origin of the donor sire, is free of foot-and-mouth disease (Types SAT 1, 2, 3 and Asia 1), lumpy skin disease, Rift Valley fever, and rinderpest.
2. During the 2 years prior to the collection of the embryos, there have been no officially confirmed cases of pseudorabies (Aujeszky's), bluetongue, malignant catarrhal fever or Q fever on the farm of origin of the donor cow and at the embryo transfer (ET) center.
3. During the 90 days prior to the collection of the embryos, there have been no officially confirmed cases of infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR), bovine virus diarrhea (BVD), vesicular stomatitis, parainfluenza 3, bovine leucosis, campylobacteriosis (vibriosis), trichomoniasis or other infectious or contagious diseases at the establishment of origin of the donor cow or at the ET center.
4. The donor cow originates from an establishment free of brucellosis and tuberculosis.
5. In the 24 hours prior to and in the 30 days after collection of the embryos for exportation, there were no officially reported cases in the donor females or other contact animals of the diseases previously mentioned.
6. For micro-manipulated embryos, the following certification statement must be fulfilled: The embryos were examined over their entire surface under a microscope at a minimum 50 X magnification to ensure that the zone pellucida was intact and free of any adherent material prior to sexing, micromanipulation or freezing.

## 7. Testing Requirements:

A. The donor cow(s) was (were) tested either at the time of collection or within 180 days after collection with negative results to the following diseases:

a. Brucellosis

- i. Standard tube test at a 1:50 dilution (30 IU), or
- ii. Standard plate test at a 1:50 dilution (30 IU), or
- iii. Complement fixation (CF) test at a 1:10 dilution

b. Bluetongue

- i. Agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID) test, or
- ii. cELISA

c. Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis

- i. Serum neutralization (SN) test at a 1:8 dilution, or
- ii. ELISA

c. Vesicular stomatitis (Serotypes Indiana and New Jersey)

- i. Serum neutralization (SN) test at a 1:8 dilution, or
- ii. ELISA

N.B.: The tests for brucellosis, IBR, and bluetongue may be omitted if the embryos are washed in trypsin following the guidelines of the IETS, and a certification stating this appears on the health certificate. (Provide "Embryo Processing" certification statement number 7.)

B. In cases where results are positive to any or all of the above tests, and the embryos were not trypsin treated, an analysis should be made according to IETS standards for those diseases as follows:

- a. Collection and culture of flushing fluids
- b. Culture of washing fluids from the 7th - 10th washes
- c. Culture of degenerate embryos or unfertilized eggs

### **OTHER INFORMATION:**

1. The Division of Animal Health in Argentina is requesting that the health certificate be presented in bilingual form. This office developed a bilingual certificate which may be used for exporting bovine embryos to Argentina.
2. Animal health requirements for an artificial insemination center complying with the minimum requirements of Certified Semen Services (CSS) are available on

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[http://www.naab-css.org/about\\_css/disease\\_control.html](http://www.naab-css.org/about_css/disease_control.html) and [http://www.naab-css.org/about\\_css/disease\\_control-2002-SP.htm](http://www.naab-css.org/about_css/disease_control-2002-SP.htm).