

The following import requirements are effective October 1, 1996.

*The countries included are: Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Denmark, the Republic of Ireland, the United Kingdom, Greece, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Austria, Finland, Sweden, and Portugal.

ANNEX I

CHAPTER I

I. Conditions governing the approval of semen collection centers.

Semen collection centers must:

1. be placed under the supervision of a "center veterinarian."
2. have at least:
 - (a) lockable animal accommodation and if required for equidae, an exercise area which are physically separated from the collection facilities, the processing and storing rooms;
 - (b) isolation facilities which have no direct communication with the normal animal accommodation;
 - (c) semen collection facilities including a separate room for the cleansing and disinfection or sterilization of equipment;
 - (d) a semen processing room separated from the collection facilities which need not necessarily be on the same site;
 - (e) a semen storage room which need not necessarily be on the same site;
3. be so constructed or isolated that contact with outside livestock is prevented;
4. be so constructed that the entire center except the office rooms and, in the case of equidae, the exercise area can be readily cleaned and disinfected.

II. Conditions for the supervision of semen collection centers.

Semen collection centers must:

1. be supervised 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 fulfill the conditions laid down by the center veterinarian.

If in the case of equidae the collection center shares a site with an artificial insemination or

service center, then mares, teaser stallions and stallions for natural service are admitted provided they meet the requirements of Annex D Chapter II paragraph A (1), (2), (3) and (4); (which are listed in this document as Annex II, Part A, Stallions)

2. Be monitored to ensure that records are kept which show;

-the species, breed, date of birth and identification of each animal present in the center,

-any movement of animals entering or leaving the center,

-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 semen,

-the storage of semen;

3. 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 nonseasonal reproduction in order to consider and verify all matters relating to the conditions of approval and supervision;

4. be so supervised that the entry of unauthorized persons is prevented, Furthermore, authorized visitors must be required to comply with the conditions laid down by the center veterinarian;

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

6. be monitored to ensure that:

-none of the animals kept in the center is used for natural breeding at least 30 days prior to first semen collection and during the collection period,

-the collection, processing and storage of 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 sterilized prior to use or new, disposable and discarded after use,

If, in the case of equidae, the collection center shares a site with an artificial insemination center or a service center, there must be a strict separation between instruments and

equipment for artificial insemination or natural service and instruments and equipment coming into contact with donor animals or other animals kept in the collection center and the semen,

-products of animal origin such as diluents, additives or extenders are used in the processing of 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 sterilized as appropriate prior to use or new, disposable and discarded after use;

7. ensure that each individual dose of semen is indelibly identified in such a way that the Member State of origin, date of collection, the species, the breed, the identity of the donor animal and the name and/or number of the approved center which collected the semen may be established.

ANNEX II

A. STALLIONS

Only a stallion which to the satisfaction of the center veterinarian meets the following requirements may be used for the collection of semen:

1. it must not show any sign of an infectious or contagious disease at the time of admission and on the day the semen is collected;

2. it must come from the territory or, in the case of regionalization, from the part of the territory of a Member State or a third country and from a holding under veterinary supervision each of which satisfy the requirements of Council Directive 90/426/EEC; (EU'S list of third countries from which they will take horses, the U.S. being one of them)

3. it must have been kept for 30 days prior to semen collection in holdings where no equine has shown any clinical sign of equine viral arteritis during that period;

4. it must be kept for 60 days prior to semen collection in holdings where no equine has shown any clinical sign of contagious equine metritis during that period;

5. it must not be used for natural mating during 30 days prior to the first semen collection and during the collection period;

6. it must be subjected to the following tests, carried out and certified in a laboratory recognized by the competent authority according to the program set up in paragraph 7;

(i) an agar-gel immuno-diffusion test (Coggins test) for equine infectious anaemia with negative result;

(ii) a serum neutralization test for equine viral arteritis. Unless a negative result at a serum dilution of 1 in 4 is achieved, a virus isolation test for equine viral arteritis shall be carried out with negative result on an aliquot of the entire semen of the donor stallion;

(iii) a test for contagious equine metritis carried out on two occasions with an interval of seven days by isolation of Taylorella equigenitalis from pre-ejaculatory fluid or a semen sample and from genital swabs taken at least from the penile sheath, urethra and urethral fossa with negative result in each case;

7. it must have been subjected to one of the following testing programs:

(i) Where semen is collected for trade in fresh or chilled semen:

-and the donor stallion is continuously resident on the collection center for at least 30 days prior to the first semen collection and during the collection period, and no equidae on the collection center come into direct contact with equidae of lower health status than the donor stallion, the tests required in paragraphs 6 (i), (ii) and (iii) shall be carried out at least 14 days after the start of the above residence period and at least once a year at the beginning of the breeding season.

-and the donor stallion is not continuously resident on the collection center, and/or other equidae on the collection center come into direct contact with equidae of lower health status, the tests required in paragraphs 6 (i), (ii) and (iii) shall be carried out within the 14 day period before the first semen collection and at least once a year at the beginning of the breeding season. Furthermore, the test required in paragraph 6 (i) shall be repeated at least every 120 days during the period of semen collection. The test required in paragraph 6 (ii) shall be carried out not more than 30 days before each semen collection, unless the non-shedder state of a seropositive stallion for equine viral arteritis is confirmed by virus isolation test which must be carried out annually.

(ii) Where semen is collected for trade in frozen semen, the testing programs as described in paragraph 7 (i) first and second indent shall apply or, alternatively, the tests required in paragraph 6 (i), (ii) and (iii) shall be carried out during the mandatory 30 days storage period of the semen and not less than 14 days after the collection of the semen, irrespective of the residence status of the stallion.

ANNEX III

C. If any of the tests referred to Annex II prove positive, that animal must be isolated and the semen collected from it since the last negative test shall not be subject of trade. The

same applies to semen collected from the other animals susceptible to the disease concerned at the holding or collection center since the date on which the positive test was carried out. Trade shall not resume until the health status of the center has been re-established.

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Annex

Animal Health Certificate
for the importation of semen of equidae

ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE

No.

ORIGINAL

1. Consignor (name and full address)

2. Third country of collection

3. Consignee (name and full address)

4. Competent authority

5. Competent local authority

NOTES

(a) A separate certificate must be issued for each consignment of semen

6. Place of loading

7. Name and address of the collection center

8. Means of transport

9. Place and Member State of destination

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10. Registration number of the collection center

11. Number and code-mark of containers

12. Identification of consignment: fresh/chilled/frozen(1)equine semen

12.1 Number of containers _____

12.2 Date(s) of collection _____

12.3 Species _____

12.4 Breed _____

12.5 Donors identity _____

(1) Delete as appropriate.

13. I, the undersigned official veterinarian of _____(insert name of exporting country),
have read and am familiar with Council Directive 92/65/EEC as amended and certify that:

13.1 The semen collection center in which the semen described above was collected, processed
and stored for export to the European Union:

13.1.1 is approved and supervised by the competent authority according to the conditions of
Chapter I, Annex D of Directive 92/65/EEC,

13.1.2 is situated on the territory or in the case regionalization according to Article 13 of
Directive 90/426/EEC in a part of the territory (1) of the country of export which was on
the day the semen was collected until the date of dispatch free of:

-African horse sickness, in accordance with EC legislation,

-Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis for two years,

-glanders for six months,

-dourine for six months;

13.1.3 was during the period commencing 30 days prior to the date of collection of the semen
until the date of its dispatch not subject to a prohibition order for animal health reasons
which laid down one of the following conditions:

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- 13.1.3.1 if not all the animals of species susceptible to the disease located on the holding were slaughtered, the prohibition lasted for:
- six months, beginning on the day on which the equidae suffering from the disease are slaughtered, in the case of equine encephalomyelitis,
 - a period required to carry out with negative result two Coggins tests three months apart on the animals remaining after the infected animals have been slaughtered, in the case of infectious equine anaemia,
 - six months, in the case of vesicular stomatitis,
 - one month from the last recorded case, in the case of rabies,
 - 15 days from the last recorded case, in the case of anthrax.
- 13.1.3.2 if all the animals of species susceptible to the disease located on the holding have been slaughtered and the premises disinfected, the prohibition lasted for 30 days, or 15 days in the case of anthrax, beginning on the day on which following destruction of the animals the disinfection of the premises was satisfactorily completed;
- 13.1.4 contained during the period commencing 30 days prior to semen collection and lasting until the date of its dispatch only equidae which were free of clinical signs of equine viral arteritis and contagious equine metritis:
- 13.2. prior to entering the semen collection center the donor stallions and any other equidae located in the center:
- 13.2.1 were continuously resident for three months (or since entry if they were directly imported from a Member State of the European Union during the three months period) on the territory or in the case of regionalization in a part of the territory (1) of the country of export which was during that period free of:
- African horse sickness, in accordance with Community legislation,
 - Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis for two years,
 - glanders for six months,
 - dourine for six months:

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- 13.2.2 either originated from the territory of the country of export which was on the day of admission into the center free of vesicular stomatitis for six months
or
were tested by a virus neutralization test for vesicular stomatitis on a blood sample taken on ____ (2), this being within 14 days prior to entering the center, with negative result at a serum dilution of 1 in 12 (1);
- 13.2.3 originated from holdings which on the day of admission onto the center fulfilled the requirements of paragraph 13.1.3 above:
- 13.3 the semen described above was collected from donor stallions, which:
- 13.3.1 on the day the semen was collected have not shown clinical signs of an infectious or contagious disease,
- 13.3.2 during at least 30 days prior to collection of the semen have not been used for natural service,
- 13.3.3 during at least 30 days prior to collection of the semen have been kept on holdings where no equine animal showed clinical signs of equine viral arteritis.
- 13.3.4 during the last 60 days prior to collection of the semen have been kept on holdings where no equine animal showed clinical signs of contagious equine metritis.
- 13.3.5 to the best of my knowledge and as far as I could ascertain have not been in contact with equidae suffering from an infectious or contagious disease during the 15 days immediately preceding the collection of the semen:
- 13.3.6 have undergone the following animal health tests carried out in a laboratory recognized by the competent authority in accordance with a test program as specified in 13.3.7:
- 13.3.6.1 an agar-gel immunodiffusion test (Coggins test) for equine infectious anaemia with negative result;
- 13.3.6.2 either a serum neutralization test for equine viral arteritis with negative result at a serum dilution of 1 in 4
or
a virus isolation test for equine viral arteritis carried out with negative result on an aliquot of the entire semen;
- 13.3.6.3 a test for contagious equine metritis carried out on two occasions with an interval of seven days by isolation of *Taylorella equigenitalis* from pre-ejaculatory fluid or a

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semen sample and from genital swabs taken at least from the penile sheath, urethra and from the urethral fossa with negative result in each case.

13.3.7. have been subjected to one of the following programs(3)

13.3.7.1 The donor stallion was continuously resident on the collection center for at least 30 days prior to the semen collection, and during the collection period, and no equidae on the collection center came during that time into contact direct with equidae of lower health status than the donor stallions.

The tests required in paragraph 13.3.6 have been carried out on samples taken on _____(2) and on _____(2) at least 14 days after the commencement of the above residence period and at least at the beginning of the breeding season.

13.3.7.2 The donor stallion was not continuously resident on the collection center or other equidae on the collection center came into direct contact with equidae of lower health status than the donor stallions.

The tests required in paragraph 13.3.6. have been carried out on a sample taken on _____(2) and on _____(2) within the 14 days period before the first semen collection and at least at the beginning of the breeding season.

The test required in paragraph 13.3.6.1 was last carried out on a sample of blood taken not more than 120 days before the semen was collected on _____(2).

The test required in paragraph 13.3.6.2 either was last carried out not more than 30 days before the semen was collected on _____(2)(1)
or
the non-shedder state of the seropositive stallion for equine viral arteritis was confirmed by a virus isolation test which was carried out not more than one year before the semen was collected on _____(2)(1).

13.3.7.3 The tests required in paragraph 13.3.6 have been carried out during the 30 days mandatory storage period of frozen semen and not less than 14 days after the collection of the semen on samples taken on _____(2) and on _____(2).

13.4 The semen described above was collected, processed, stored and transported under conditions which comply the requirements of Chapter II and III of Annex D of Council Directive 92/65/EEC.

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Done at _____ on _____

(Signature of the official veterinarian)

Stamp(4)

(Name and qualification in block letters)

- (1) Delete as appropriate.
- (2) Insert date.
- (3) Cross out the programs that do not apply to the consignment.
- (4) The signature and the stamp must be in a color different to that of the printing.