

INFORMATION NOTE

IMPORTATION OF BOVINE EMBRYOS INTO THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Summary checklist for importers:

When importing bovine embryos you must ensure that:

1. You are registered as an importer.
See point (A) below
2. The embryos were collected and stored, from time of collection by a EU approved Bovine Embryo Collection or Production Team in accordance with Council Directive 89/556/EEC and stored in an EU approved Embryo Storage Centre as per Council Directive 88/407/EEC; the EU Commission List is updated regularly.
See point (B) below
3. The embryos travel with an appropriate official health certificate issued by the country of origin either:
(a) An Intra-community health certificate, or,
(b) An EU approved Third Country health certificate.
See point (C) below
4. For importation of bovine embryos from Third Countries (Non EU Countries e.g. Australia), a **Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED)** is completed at least 24 hours prior to the importation and is sent to the Nominated Border Inspection Post (BIP).
See point (D) below
5. The embryos travel with an appropriate Zootechnical Certificate.
See point (E) below
6. The appropriate fee (€100) for imports of bovine embryos from Third Countries is paid to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. For further details please contact Shannon Airport Tel. (061) 471546 or Dublin Port Tel. (01) 8556250.
7. All documentation relating to the import must be retained by the importer for a minimum of three years.

(A) Importers of Animal Products such as Embryos must be registered

The European Communities (Registration of Importers of Animals Products) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 269 of 2004) prohibits the importation of products of animal origin unless the importer is registered with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Application forms for this purpose are available on request

from Food Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 7 West, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel No. (01) 6072023.

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/animalbyproducts/importofanimalsandanimalproducts/>

(B) Embryo Collection or Production Team

Imported embryos must be collected, and stored from the time of collection, by an EU approved Embryo Collection or Production Team, as defined in Council Directive 89/556/EEC, in the country of origin. An up-to-date list of EU approved Embryo Collection and Production Teams is available from the following EU Commission website link or from Livestock Breeding Section, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Farnham Street, Cavan Tel. No. (049) 4368292

<http://circa.europa.eu/irc/sanco/vets/info/data/semen/semen.html>

All bovine embryos(EU or third countries) must be consigned to an approved embryo collection or storage centre in Ireland once imported.

(C) Health Certificate

- (i) An Official Health Certificate corresponding to the models in the Annex to Commission Decisions 2008/120/EC. The Health Certificate must be issued by an official veterinarian duly authorised by the Competent Authority in the country of export and shall be produced at the time of importation to an Officer of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food .
- (ii) Consignments of embryos from the EU are subject to random, non-discriminatory official checks at the place of destination. All documentation accompanying imports must be kept for a minimum of 3 years. If a consignment is being broken up, a photocopy of the health certificate must accompany all batches of embryos and a record must be kept of the final destination of all embryos on the original certificate.
- (iii) It is important that anyone receiving embryos from another EU country should ensure that the consignment is accompanied by a correctly completed official health certificate certifying that the appropriate tests have been carried out. This documentation should be checked by a Veterinary Practitioner prior to implantation of the embryo. If in doubt, the embryo should not be implanted and the local District Veterinary Office should be consulted.

(D) Importation from outside the European Union

- (i) Commission Regulation EC 136/2004 requires that a Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED) must be sent to the approved Border Inspection Post at first point of entry into the Community at least 24 hours in advance of the arrival of the consignment of bovine embryos. The original document must accompany the consignment of bovine embryos on the journey and be presented at the time of importation to an Officer of the Minister.
- (ii) Bovine embryos imported from a Third Country (non-EU member state) to Ireland may only enter through an approved Border Inspection Post (BIP) in an

EU Member State. In Ireland the BIPs are: (i) Shannon Airport (061) 471546 or (ii) Dublin Port (01) 8556250.

(E) Zootechnical Certificates

Imported embryos from bovines entered or registered in a herd book maintained by an approved body must be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate drawn up in accordance with Commission Decision 2005/379/EC.

.

(F) Offences

If a person contravenes the European Communities (Bovine Breeding) Regulations, 2009 S.I. 19 of 2009 and commits an offence he/she is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €5,000 or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 6 months or to both.

Note: These procedures must be strictly adhered to, in order to protect the health status of the bovine industry in Ireland.

Contacts:

Livestock Breeding Production & Trade Section, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Government Buildings, Farnham St., Cavan. Tel. No. (049) 4368292.

Food Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 7 West, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel No. (01) 6072023.

This information note is available on: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/animalbyproducts/importofanimalsandanimalproducts/>