

Information Note

Importation Of Equine Semen Into The Republic Of Ireland

Summary Checklist for Importers:

When importing equine semen you must ensure that:

1. The semen was collected and stored, from time of collection in an EU Approved Equine Semen Collection Centre in accordance with Council Directive 92/65/EEC; the EU Commission List is updated regularly.
See point (A) below
2. The semen travels 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 (B) below**
3. For importation of equine semen 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 (C) below
4. The semen travels with an appropriate Zootechnical Certificate.
See point (D) below
5. The appropriate fee for imports of equine semen from Third Countries is paid to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. For further details please contact Shannon Airport Tel. (061) 471546 or Dublin Port Tel. (01) 8556250.
6. All documentation relating to the import must be retained by the importer for a minimum of three years.

(A) Semen Collection Centre

Imported semen (frozen/chilled-fresh semen) must be collected, and stored from the time of collection, in an EU Approved Equine Semen Collection Centre, as defined in Council Directive 92/65/EEC, in the country of origin. An up-to-date list of EU approved Equine Semen Collection Centres is available from the following EU Commission website link or from Livestock Breeding Production and Trade

Centres within the EU and Centres in Third Countries:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/semen_ova/equine/index_en.htm

Both Frozen and chilled semen may be consigned either directly to your premises or to a Private Veterinary Practitioner where documentation accompanying the consignment must be kept on file for a minimum of three years.

(B) Health Certificate

- (i) An Official Health Certificate corresponding to the models in the Annex to Commission Decisions 96/539/EC (for imports from outside the EU) or 95/307/EC (for imports from another member state of EU), as amended, must accompany the consignment of equine semen. 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, Food and the Marine (the Minister).
- (ii) Consignments of semen 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 semen and a record must be kept of the final destination of all semen on the original certificate.
- (iii) It is important that anyone receiving either frozen or fresh/chilled semen 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 insemination of semen. If in doubt, the semen should not be inseminated and the local District Veterinary Office should be consulted.

(C) 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 equine semen. The original document must accompany the consignment of equine semen on the journey and be presented at the time of importation to an Officer of the Minister.
- (ii) Equine semen 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.

(D) Zootechnical Certificates

Imported semen from horses entered or registered in a stud-book maintained by an approved body must be accompanied by a Zootechnical Certificate drawn up in accordance with the terms of Decisions adopted under Article 8 (2) of Council Directive 90/427/EEC and corresponding to the model in Annex I of Commission Decision 96/79/EC. Copies of this Zootechnical Certificate are available on request from Livestock Breeding Production & Trade Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Government Buildings, Farnham St. Cavan. Tel. No. (049) 4368293.

(E) Offences

The European Communities (Trade in Animals and Animal Semen, Ova and Embryos) Regulations, 1996 S.I. 12 of 1996, gives legal effect to Council Directive 92/65/EEC which provides the legal basis for trade in equine semen, ova and embryos.

These Regulations stipulate that a person shall not import or export semen of the equine species unless the semen is collected in an approved equine artificial insemination centre. These Regulations also stipulate that imported and exported equine semen must be collected and stored in an EU Approved Equine Semen Collection Centre in accordance with Council Directive 92/65/EEC and be accompanied during transport by an Intra-community Health Certificate. A person who contravenes a provision of these Regulations shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000 (€1269.74) or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

The European Communities (Equine Stud-Book and Competition) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 399 of 2004) gives legal effect to Commission Decision 96/79/EC which provides the legal basis for zootechnical certificates. Regulation 14 stipulates that a person who contravenes these Regulations is guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €3,000.

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

Contacts:

Livestock Breeding Production & Trade Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Government Buildings, Farnham St., Cavan. Tel. No. (049) 4368293.

This information note is available on:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/animalbreeding/imports of animal breeding products>