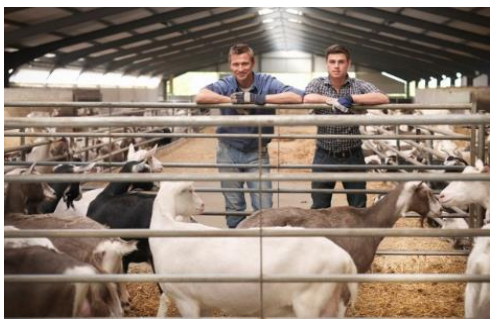
October 2021 / / ISSUE NUMBER 6

Germplasm Gazette

News on trade in ruminant reproductive material

Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

In This Issue



Source: DAWE

Remote Inspections

Export News

The department has trialed remote inspections on a number of commodities including reproductive material.

Feedback from exporters and inspectors is that this process works well and can provide improved efficiencies and cost savings. Please contact your local regional office is you are interested in trialing remote inspections.

Processing of NOIs

Export News

As we are now in the busy period for import and export of reproductive material, we are receiving a number of requests for priority assessments. The Repro Hub makes every effort to accommodate requests for urgent assessments, however it is not always possible when we are already fully booked with import and export inspections, and our veterinary officers are fully occupied assessing existing consignments. We have also found that trying to rush the assessment and process too many consignments at once often results in errors and detained consignments, causing further delays and an increased workload for everyone.

To accommodate increased export inspection bookings, we can offer remote inspections. By using officers in other locations to inspect remotely, we can increase our export inspection booking capacity. Please contact Claudia Lin if you would like more information on remote inspections at genetics@agriculture.gov.au.

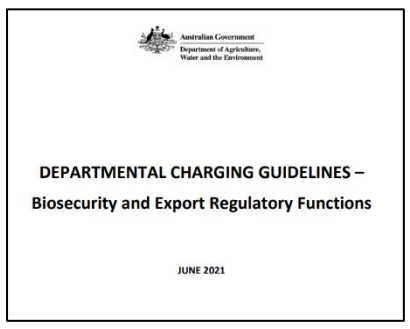
Our standard processing time for an NOI is ten business days and the standard booking time for an export inspection is three business days in advance.

Updated Charges

Export News

The final 2021-22 live animal export cost recovery implementation statement (CRIS) has been published on the department's website. The new charges came into effect from 1 July 2021 and the charging guidelines are available on the department's website: https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/departmental-charging-guidelines-2021.pdf

There is no longer a fee for health certificates and export permits. This is now charged under document assessment and preparation which is a time-based fee. The time-based charges are calculated on minimum units of 15 minutes. The export permit levy has increased from $130 to $183.


Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

DEPARTMENTAL CHARGING GUIDELINES –
Biosecurity and Export Regulatory Functions

JUNE 2021

Please note the charging guidelines also outline charges for late cancellations and late notice of rescheduled appointments. Where an NOI is submitted and assessed but the export does not proceed the charges incurred up to the point of cancellation will apply.

Is there anything you would like to know more about or read in the Gazette? If so, please email: Andrea.Preusche@agriculture.gov.au

Canadian In Vivo-Derived Embryo Imports Update

Import News

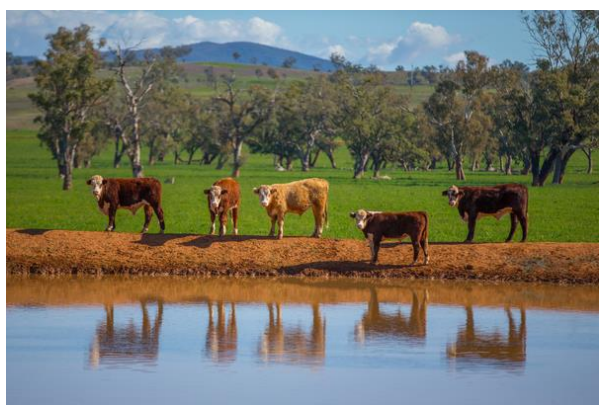
https://www.worldatlas.com/flags/ca.php

Earlier this year, amendments were made to the clause regarding semen used to produce bovine in vivo-derived embryos imported from Canada. The aim of the changes was to provide clarification around Australia's biosecurity requirements for embryo practitioners in Canada.

The amendments were mutually agreed, perceived to be minor and were not foreseen to impact trade. However, when it became apparent that trade was affected, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment decided to revert to the previous clause for semen qualification for an interim period to allow adequate time to inform industry of such changes.

This means that Canadian export eligible semen, Canadian domestic use semen and Canadian owner use semen that meets all Australian import conditions can be used in the production of in vivo-derived bovine embryos, imported from Canada until at least 1 January 2022. Following this date and negotiation with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), these conditions may change.

The department will keep industry informed regarding any changes for semen qualification for bovine in vivo-derived embryos from Canada.



Source: DAWE

Recent Timely Corrections to Import Documentation

Import News

https://www.britannica.com/topic/flag-of-the-United-States-of-America

The department has received advice on the procedures for the clarification of non-compliances or errors in labelling/documentation for imports from the USA.

A recent shipment requiring a letter of explanation from the centre veterinarian, with official endorsement of that letter, was progressed in a timely and professional manner which allowed the efficient clearance of the imported germplasm.

The department is grateful to the US veterinary authorities for their cooperation and guidance in this matter.

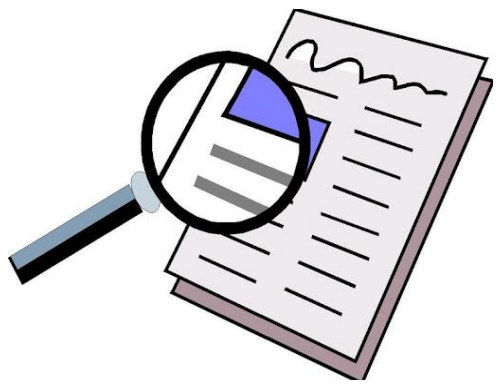
Amended Administrative Conditions for Ruminant Reproductive Material

Import News

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment recently released an updated 'Notice to Industry' regarding the amendments to administrative conditions for all ruminant germplasm to clarify that laboratory reports for all disease testing listed in the import conditions is required:

Each consignment of 'COMMODITY' must be accompanied by:

> *Laboratory reports for all testing. Copies of the laboratory reports must accompany the shipment and be endorsed by the official government veterinarian.*



http://clipart-library.com/test-reports-cliparts.html

Industry was advised that while the practicalities of this requirement for bovine germplasm are worked through with trading partners, the department will continue to accept a summary table of test results for bovine germplasm, without accompanying laboratory test results, for routine imports of bovine semen and embryos. Laboratory reports may be required if there are non-compliances or errors in certification for shipments. Laboratory test results must still be provided for ovine, caprine and cervine germplasm import consignments.

When laboratory reports can be provided, the department will collect data to determine the rates of non-compliance relating to laboratory test results for bovine germplasm for a period of up to 12 months. Depending on the results of the data assessment, the department may then reduce the frequency of verification against laboratory reports.

The amendment to the administrative conditions was made in response to several instances of serious non-compliance with import conditions verified through the provision of laboratory reports. To date, the wording of Australia's administrative import conditions for ruminant germplasm has not been clear about verification of test results via checking of laboratory reports.

As a result, clearance staff at the border have historically cleared bovine germplasm based on the table created by the approved collection centre veterinarian, without reviewing laboratory test reports for verification. This is inconsistent with all other germplasm and live animal commodities exported to Australia.

In order to reduce the burden on exporting country industry and officials, the department has decided that exporting country official veterinarians do not have to stamp, sign and date numerous pages of printed reports or provide laboratory test reports for testing completed as part of the standard requirements to be an approved collection centre. Only test results relating specifically to the diseases and dates listed in the import conditions must be provided in an endorsed laboratory report. The endorsed laboratory reports can be emailed directly to the department clearance officer by the exporting country competent authority (**not** the approved centre veterinarian or exporter) at the time of or after export of a tank. These do not need to accompany the shipment in hard copy.

The department appreciates the industry feedback regarding this amendment and will keep industry updated about any changes.

Process For Third Country Transfers

Export News

The department is unable to issue certification for product that is no longer in Australia. If product that originated from Australia is to be exported to a third country the department can issue a letter of compliance, subject to supporting documentation. A letter of compliance can provide details of the product before it left Australia and is signed by an official veterinarian. The department cannot certify any attestations about the product or its storage once it has left Australia.

To request a third country transfer/letter of compliance you will need to contact the relevant competent authority of the destination country for advice on what documentation is required from the department. Depending on the information, the department may request the exporter to supply the following documents:

- RME number of the original export from Australia
- Import permit (if applicable)
- CVD or ETVD for the destination country (third country)
- Supporting documents (e.g., laboratory tests) that meets the requirements of the destination country (third country).

Document assessment and preparation charges will apply against the original NOI.

Source: DAWE

Changes to Establishment Approvals and Export Certification to Great Britain and the European Union

Export News

https://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/gb.html

https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/symbols/flag_en

Great Britain (GB) has left the European Union (EU) and will now operate under its own trade rules for import and export of animals and animal products from 1 January 2021. The transition period ended on 31 March 2021 and all the reproductive material exports to GB past 31 March 2021 must be prepared and certified in accordance with UK's own trade rules for imports and export of animals and animal products.

Health Certificates can be found in these links:
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/health-certificates-for-animal-and-animal-product-imports-to-great-britain
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/health-certificates-for-animal-and-animal-product-imports-to-great-britain#germinal-products

Below is a summary of the changes:

Great Britain:

Exports:

- GB now has separate health certificates from the EU. Even though the requirements are the same as the EU, the GB health certificates must be used from **31 March 2021.**
- The Repro Hub have developed centre vet declarations (CVDs) and embryo transfer veterinary declarations (ETVDs) for export consignments to GB and have emailed these to exporters.

Facility and Centre Approvals:

- Any premises that were listed by the EU on 31 December 2020 automatically transition to being approved by GB and listed by DEFRA.
- Any premises that wish to become EU or UK listed after 1 January 2021 must apply to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment to be listed.

European Union:

Exports:

- The EU import requirements for germplasm have changed and will be introduced 16 January 2022 (previously 21 August 2021). The Repro Hub will provide further updates, and the new health certificate templates closer to the implementation date.

Facility and Centre Approvals:

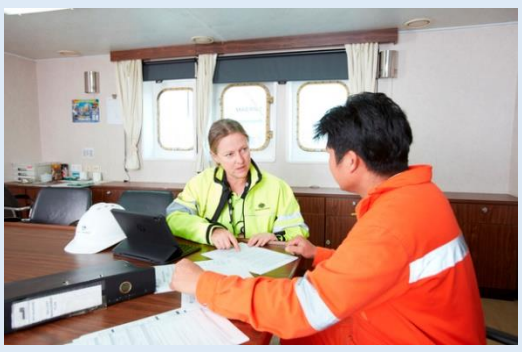
- No changes to the approval process apart from updates to the legislation.

All the relevant legislation and information of the new model health certificates can be found in this link:
https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/semen-oocytes-embryos_en

IMPORTANT:

We've recently seen tanks being held up due to centre or team approval numbers being incorrectly filled on the CVDs, ETVD, and health certificates. Centres and teams have been provided with their approval numbers at the time their initial audit was completed. It is important to write down the correct centre or team approval numbers that are published on the Great Britain or EU website (see link below). Please ensure this is completed correctly prior to submitting the CVD and ETVD to the Repro Hub.

1. *GB lists for semen and embryos can be found here: List of establishments in non-EU countries approved to export animal products to GB - Updated 9 August 2021*
2. *EU lists for Bovine semen and embryos can be found here: Bovine (europa.eu)*
3. *EU lists for Equine semen and embryos can be found here: Equine (europa.eu)*
4. *EU lists for Ovine and Caprine semen and embryos can be found here: Ovine & Caprine (europa.eu)*



Source: DAWE