

**CHECKLIST FOR APPROVAL OF AN EQUINE EMBRYO COLLECTION
TEAM (ECT) FOR EXPORT TO THE EUROPEAN UNION**

ECT Name: _____ Date of inspection: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

ECT Team Veterinarian: _____ Phone: _____

Accreditation #: _____

State veterinary license(s) #: _____

Type of inspection: _____ Initial _____ Re-approval

APHIS approval number: _____

Conditions applicable to the embryo collection team (ECT):

- _____ a. The ECT is composed of a group of competent technicians and at least one veterinarian.
- _____ b. The ECT is under the supervision of a Federally accredited veterinarian responsible for all team operations including verification of donor health status, sanitary handling of donors, oversight of the processing laboratory, embryo storage, and disinfection and hygiene procedures.
- _____ c. ECT personnel are adequately trained in the techniques and principles of disease control. High standards of hygiene are practiced to preclude the introduction of infection.

Conditions applicable to the embryo processing laboratory:

- _____ a. The processing laboratory is constructed of impervious work surfaces.
- _____ b. The processing laboratory has a microscope capable of 50x magnification.
- _____ c. The processing laboratory is physically separated from the donor handling area and from the room or area used to clean and sterilize instruments and equipment used in embryo collection and processing.

- _____ d. The processing laboratory is protected against incursion of rodents and insects.
- _____ e. The processing laboratory is constructed with materials that can be easily cleaned and disinfected.
- _____ f. The processing laboratory is cleaned and disinfected following each occasion on which embryos are processed.
- _____ g. Access to the processing laboratory by unauthorized personnel is prevented.

Conditions applicable to collection and processing of embryos

- _____ a. Embryos are collected and processed without coming into contact with embryos not qualified for export to the EU.
- _____ b. Equipment that comes into contact with donor animals or that is used during embryo collection and processing is disposable or reusable and sterilized.
- _____ c. All products of animal origin used to collect, process, and transport the embryos are obtained from sources presenting no animal health risk or that have been treated prior to use to prevent such risk.
- _____ d. Cryogenic agents used to freeze the embryos have not been in contact with other animal products or materials prior to use.
- _____ e. Embryos are washed in groups of 10 or fewer by transferring them through ten changes of medium. Each of the ten washes is of 100 fold dilutions, and a fresh sterile micropipette is used to transfer the embryos to each of the washes. Only embryos from the same donor are washed together.
- _____ f. After the last wash, each embryo is examined microscopically over its entire surface at 50x magnification to determine that the zona pellucida is intact and free from any adherent material. Only embryos with an intact zona pellucida are frozen.
- _____ g. Each consignment is placed in a new or sterilized tank and stored in a lockable room or cabinet under the control of the Team Veterinarian.

Conditions applicable to embryo storage:

- _____ a. Embryos are frozen in fresh liquid nitrogen and then stored in fresh liquid nitrogen in cleaned and disinfected tanks or containers.

- _____ b. Embryos are stored in sealed sterile ampules, vials or straws under strict hygienic conditions in a lockable storage area intended exclusively for storage of embryos intended for export to the EU and approved by APHIS.
- _____ c. Only embryos from the same donor are stored in the same ampule, vial, or straw.

Conditions applicable to embryo identification and recordkeeping:

- _____ a. Records are kept of the date of collection and the name, breed, and registration number of the donor dam and sire.
- _____ b. All straws, goblets and canes are labeled in accordance with IETS standards.
- _____ c. The number, evaluation, and disposition of the embryos collected at each flush is recorded.
- _____ d. An inventory record of all embryos is maintained for a period of at least 2 years after the embryos have been exported.