

**USDA APHIS VETERINARY SERVICES
STRATEGY & POLICY
PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF FARMED CERVID SEMEN
FROM NEW ZEALAND**

Amended October 2018

This protocol describes the conditions required to import semen from farmed cervids according to regulations found in 9 CFR Part 98.

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1.1. The U.S. importer must obtain an import permit from the:

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
Veterinary Services (VS)
Strategy & Policy (S&P)
4700 River Road, Unit 39
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231

Telephone: **(301) 851-3300, Option 2**
Fax: **(301) 734-4704**

Web Site: [APHIS Imports](#)

The application, **VS Form 17-129, “Application for Import or in Transit Permit,”** may be obtained by writing or telephoning S&P, or by downloading it from the APHIS web site: [Animal Health Permits](#)

- 1.2. An official health certificate is required. The official health certificate must be issued by a veterinarian designated by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), New Zealand, and must be endorsed by a MPI veterinarian attesting to the certifications and tests as required in this protocol. The health certificate must accompany the semen tanks to the port of entry designated on the USDA import permit.
- 1.3. The semen must originate from a Semen Collection Center (SCC) approved for the export of semen and under the general supervision of the MPI.
- 1.4. The SCC must be certified and accredited free of brucellosis (*B. abortus*) and TB (*Mycobacterium bovis*) by MPI.

2. CERTIFICATION

- 2.1. The health certificate must include the following information or statements:
- 2.1.1. The identification of the donors by breed and registry number.
- 2.1.2. The dates on which semen was collected.
- 2.1.3. The dates and methods of testing and results of the tests on the donors.
- 2.1.4. The name and address of the MPI approved SCC or premises where the semen was collected and processed for this shipment.

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- 2.1.5. The name and address of the consignor and consignee.
- 2.1.6. The name and address of the laboratory conducting the tests.
- 2.2. New Zealand is free of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), Contagious Pleuropneumonia, Akabane, Bluetongue, Aino, Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and *Brucella melitensis*.
- 2.3. No cases of disease caused by Schmallenberg virus have been detected or reported in New Zealand.
- 2.4. The donor animals must be part of New Zealand's national herd for a minimum period of time. Paragraphs 2.5.1 and 2.5.2 describe how the United States defines "part of the national herd" and for what length of time a donor must be part of the national herd:
 - 2.4.1. If the donor animals were imported from countries recognized by the USDA to be free of FMD, then these animals must have been free of any import quarantine restrictions and able to move freely within New Zealand's national herd for a minimum of 60 days prior to starting qualification to allow the collection of germplasm for export to the United States.
 - 2.4.2. If the donor animals were legally imported from a country not recognized by the USDA to be free of FMD, then the donor animals must have been free of any import quarantine restrictions and have been able to move freely within New Zealand's national herd for a minimum of 90 days prior to starting qualification to allow the collection of germplasm for export to the United States.
- 2.5. During the 60 days prior to the collection of semen for export to the United States, the donors were inspected by the veterinarian issuing the health certificate and found to be free of contagious diseases.
- 2.6. During the 60 days prior to the collection of semen for export to the United States, the donors were not corralled, pastured, or held with other animals that are under restrictions which would make them ineligible as donors of semen for export to the United States.
- 2.7. During the 12 months prior to the collection of semen for export to the United States, there has been no evidence of *B. abortus* found in the donor bulls or other animals associated with the bulls.
- 2.8. Prior to the collection of semen for export to the United States:
 - 2.8.1. All donors and mount animals, if used, in the SCC must originate from herds designated by MPI to be free of TB and brucellosis for at least 2 years prior to their entry into the SCC.
 - 2.8.2. The herd of origin of the donors or teasers must have been tested with negative

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results for TB within 12 months of the date of entry of the animal into the SCC.

- 2.8.3. Any donors from a herd or SCC that had a confirmed *M. bovis* infection, within the past 10 years, are not eligible for export of semen to the United States.

3. TESTS

- 3.1. The donors and mount animals, if used, must be tested and found negative not less than 21 days nor more than 120 days after semen is collected for bovine tuberculosis - negative intradermal tuberculin test. (Test must be at least 60 days from any previous intradermal tuberculin test)
- 3.2. On the dates of collection for the semen, none of the animals in the SCC showed any evidence of infectious or contagious disease.
- 3.3. Tuberculosis:
- 3.3.1. Each semen donor must originate from a herd that tested negative to a whole herd test for bovine tuberculosis. For the purposes of this protocol, APHIS defines a 'herd' as any group of farmed cervids held together, without addition and isolated from other animals susceptible to ruminant diseases, for at least 4 months prior to collection.
- 3.3.2. The donors must be tested with negative results during the 4 month isolation period; and tested with negative results a second time at least 120 days after the first test (and after the last collection for export to the United States).
- 3.3.3. **Note:** TB testing may be performed using a the single cervical test [The intradermal injection of 0.1 mL (5,000 tuberculin units) of PPD bovis tuberculin in the mid-cervical area with a reading by visual observation and palpation at 72 hours (plus or minus 6 hours) following injection], as described in the current OIE Terrestrial Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines.]
- 3.3.4. Any animal exhibiting a non-negative response to the TB test is ineligible for donating semen for export to the US.

4. PROCESSING CERTIFICATION

- 4.1. The veterinarian issuing the health certificate must supervise the collection and processing of the semen for shipment to the United States.
- 4.2. The semen must be packaged in ampules or straws permanently marked with the name, breed, and individual identification number of the donor and the date of collection.
- 4.3. The veterinarian issuing the health certificate must certify that the shipping tank is either new

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or it has been cleaned and disinfected under his supervision and only fresh liquid nitrogen has been used to charge the tank.

- 4.4. The veterinarian issuing the health certificate must certify that after processing, the ampules/straws were segregated in a storage area, at a storage facility designated by MPI and were maintained under his supervision until such time as they were placed in the shipping tank and sealed with Government of New Zealand seals. The seal numbers must be recorded on the health certificate.
- 4.5. The shipment must be routed direct to the United States with no stops en route other than those provided for on the USDA import permit.

5. ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

Check the animal health regulations of the importing state of destination for possible additional regulations and requirements for the proposed import ([State Regulations and Import Requirements](#)). It is the responsibility of the importer to follow all guidelines for the importation of regulated live animal commodities to the destination state.

6. ARRIVAL AND INSPECTION AT THE PORT OF ENTRY

- 6.1. The shipment must be routed directly to the United States from New Zealand with no stops en route other than those provided on the USDA import permit. This shipment may not transit a region considered by USDA APHIS to have foot and mouth disease (FMD) as noted on the USDA APHIS webpage:
(<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions>).
- 6.2. On arrival at the port of entry, the importer or the importer's agent must present the original health certificate and the original import permit for the semen to an APHIS inspector at the port.
- 6.3. The shipping container and all straws or ampules containing semen must be made available for inspection at the port of entry and may not be removed until an APHIS inspector determines that the shipment of semen meet import requirements and releases them.

7. SEMEN REFUSED ENTRY

If any semen is determined to be ineligible for importation into the United States upon arrival at the port of entry, the importer or agent must remove them from the United States within 30 days, or the semen will be destroyed.

