Import requirements for frozen in-vivo or in-vitro derived Ovine and Caprine embryos from the United States to Canada

Note: Fresh embryos are prohibited.

DOCUMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

IMPORT PERMIT
- Needed to import the animal or product at the time of import
- Importer in Canada must contact local CFIA office to apply for an import permit BEFORE the animal(s) or thing(s) are imported.

EXPORT CERTIFICATE
-Is issued by exporting country
-Must contain all statements and information as required by the Permit to Import Embryos.

CONDITIONS OF IMPORT

The original of this permit and any other necessary export documentation pertaining to the shipment must be provided for inspection at the first port of entry.

The conditions in this permit can only be changed or amended by a CFIA inspector. Any change to the permit by an unauthorized person will render the permit invalid.

Accompanying export documentation must be issued in either English or French.

The zoosanitary export documentation pertaining to the shipment must clearly describe the animal(s) or thing(s) and the country of origin. The export document must be issued by a veterinary inspector of the central veterinary service of the country of origin; or by a veterinarian designated for such purposes by the central veterinary service of the country of origin and endorsed by an official veterinary inspector of the central veterinary service of the country of origin.

Should the disease status of the country of origin change between the time of issuance of this permit and the time of unrestricted entry into Canada, the import shipment may be refused entry into Canada or be subject to additional quarantine and testing or treatment. Importers will be responsible for any additional incurred costs.

CERTIFICATION

The original zoosanitary export certificate must clearly describe the shipment. The certification must read the following:

1)The zoosanitary export certificate must include the following details: identification (the registered name, registration number and official tag), species and breed of the donor dam and sire, the name and address of the exporter, address of the collection premises, period of residency of the donor dam at the collection premises, name and approval number of semen collection center if artificial insemination was used, date of embryo/oocyte collection and the number of embryos/oocytes from each collection date, the total number of embryos/ooyctes in the consignment, total number of straws/ampules in consignment, the identification markings or labelling on the straws/ampules, the serial number on the shipping tank and the number or markings of the tamper proof seal applied to the shipping container, and the name and address of the consignee.

The disease free status of any country or zone must be confirmed as follows:

The country or zone (as previously approved by the CFIA) remains free of the following diseases: contagious caprine pleuropneumonia, foot and mouth disease, Nairobi sheep disease, peste des petits ruminants, Rift Valley fever, rinderpest, sheep pox and goat pox
The United States has not detected a case of B. melitensis in the previous 10 years.

The animal(s) and donor animal(s) must originate from a herd certified free from brucellosis as follows:

1) The herd of origin is recognized free from brucellosis by the central veterinary service of the country of origin.

OR

2) Brucellosis has not been detected in the herd of origin in the last 2 years.

The animal(s) or donor animal(s) must originate from a herd certified free from tuberculosis.

1)The herd of origin is recognized free from tuberculosis by the central veterinary service of the country of origin.
OR
2) Tuberculosis has not been detected in the herd of origin in the last 2 years .

The animal(s), donor animal(s) or thing(s) must originate from a premises free from vesicular stomatitis.

1)All premises on which the animal(s) or source animal(s) have resided in the past twenty-one (21) days must have been free from clinical and epidemiological evidence of vesicular stomatitis virus during the twenty-one (21) days immediately prior to movement of the animal(s) off the premises or to collection.

With regards to transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE's):

1. the oocytes or embryos were collected, processed and stored in accordance with the relevant OIE chapters.
   AND
2. For in vivo-derived sheep embryos only: The embryo is of the genotype AAQR or AARR based on official testing of the parents or the embryo.
   OR

1. In the country or zone:
   a. TSE's of sheep and goats are compulsorily notifiable;
   b. a scrapie awareness, surveillance, monitoring and control system is in place;
   c. affected sheep and goats are killed and completely destroyed;
   d. the feeding to sheep and goats of meat-and-bone meal or greaves of ruminant origin has been banned and effectively enforced in the whole country;

2. the donor animals either have been kept since birth in a free establishment, or meet the following conditions:
   a. are permanently identified to enable trace back to their establishment of origin;
   b. have been kept since birth in establishments in which no case of scrapie had been confirmed during their residency;
   c. showed no clinical sign of scrapie at the time of oocyte or embryo collection;
   d. have not tested positive for, and are not suspect for, a TSE or under movement controls as a result of exposure to a TSE.

The residency of the donor animal(s) of the germplasm presented for importation must be certified as follows:

1)The donor animal(s) of the germplasm presented for importation must have been continually resident in the United States or Canada since birth.

The premises of origin must be certified as being free from zoosanitary restrictions as follows:

1) Premises on which the donor animal(s) have resided , must not have been subject to any restriction / quarantine measure pertaining to reportable diseases of the species in question during the period the donor animal was on the premise.

The premise or facility at which the exported germplasm was collected must not have been subject to any restriction or quarantine measure with respect to animal disease during any period the donor animal was on the premise.

The donor animal(s) must be certified free from communicable disease as follows:

1) The animal(s) from which the exported germplasm was sourced must have been examined and found free from clinical evidence of communicable disease during every procedure related to the preparation and collection of germplasm.

The animal(s), donor animal(s) or thing(s) being presented for importation must not come into contact with any animals, products or equipment of a lesser zoosanitary health status during the entire required periods of residency, isolation, storage, transportation to the port of exportation.

The approval of the embryo collection team must be certified as follows:

1) The embryos/oocytes presented for importation into Canada must have been collected and processed by an experienced embryo collection team following international standards.

2) The embryo collection team complies with the World Animal Health Organization (OIE) guidelines and the protocols established by the International Embryo Technology Society (IETS) for the collection, processing and treatment of embryos/oocytes and is under permanent supervision of a veterinarian.

Supervision of the collection facility must be certified as follows:

1) The exported germplasm must have been collected and processed at a facility under the supervision of a veterinarian designated for this purpose by the central veterinary authority of the country of origin.

The semen used to fertilize embryos must be certified as follows:

1) The embryos must have been conceived by artificial insemination with semen imported directly from Canada or semen that would meet current requirements for importation into Canada.

2) Alternatively, the donor sire(s) used to fertilize the exported embryos must be certified as having met the same residency and zoosanitary requirements as would be needed for the donor sire(s) to be eligible to enter an approved collection centre for the collection of semen for exportation to Canada.

The processing of exported embryos must be certified as follows:

1) The embryos must have been washed, treated and processed in accordance with the protocol detailed in the Manual of the International Embryo Technology Society (IETS); for washings and treatments, this means that ten (10) washings and two (2) trypsin treatments are required in the following sequence: 5 washing - 2 trypsin treatments - 5 washings.
2) The zona pellucida of the embryos was examined on the entire surface using a magnification of not less than 50X and certified intact and free of adherent material. Micromanipulated embryos must be examined prior to any micromanipulation which involves penetration of the zona pellucida.

Any biological product of animal origin used in the media and solutions for collection, processing, washing and storage of the embryos must be certified free from pathogenic microorganisms as follows:

1) Any biological product of animal origin used in the media and solutions for collection, processing, washing or storage of embryos/oocytes should be free of pathogenic micro-organisms. All material with animal ingredients used in the processing of the germplasm must have been sourced and processed to prevent introduction of pathogenic microorganisms

The germplasm must be certified free from contaminating pathogenic microorganisms. The certification must read this:

1) The germplasm presented for import into Canada must have been collected, processed and stored in a hygienic manner that prevented contamination with pathogenic microorganisms. Media and solutions used in the collection and storage of embryos should be sterilized by approved methods according to the IETS Manual and handled in such a manner as to ensure that sterility is maintained. Antibiotics should be added to collection, processing, washing and storage media as recommended in the IETS Manual. All equipment used to collect, handle, wash, freeze, store and transport the germplasm presented for import into Canada must have been new, or sterilized prior to use.

The freezing or preservation of the germplasm must be certified as follows:

1) Straws or ampules must contain germplasm from only one donor. The cryogenic or cooling agent used in the process must not have been used in association with any other product of animal origin. The straws or ampules must be sealed prior to the time of freezing.

The labelling of the germplasm must be certified as follows:

1) Embryos/oocytes presented for importation into Canada must be stored in a sealed container in ampules, straws or other receptacles indelibly marked in accordance with the recommendations of the International Embryo Technology Society (IETS) for labelling. The receptacles must be labelled with at least the following information: practitioner code, donor breed, donor registration number, donor management number or barn name or tattoo, sire registration number, straw number, number of embryos in receptacle (if greater than one), and freezing date (YYMMDD, eg. 11JA01).

The embryos/oocytes must be stored and transported in new, clean containers or in used containers that have been cleaned and disinfected

The animal(s), germplasm or thing(s) described on this permit must be shipped by the most direct and appropriate route from the point of export to the address of destination in Canada. Transshipment through another country requires written authorization from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

1) Written approval for routing of the shipment of animals through another country must be attached to the permit and accompany the shipment. With the exception of changing planes, animals or germplasm must not be off loaded at any port of call en route.

The tanks, containers, cages or vehicles used to transport the animal(s) or thing(s) to Canada must be sealed by the certifying veterinarian in the country of origin in a manner to preclude opening. The seals may only be removed under the supervision of an inspector designated under the Health of Animals Act.

1) The numbers of the seals or other identifying devices must be recorded on the export certificate.