**ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION OF CATTLE REGULATIONS**

**(NORTHERN IRELAND) 1988**

ENTRY OF ANIMALS INTO A SEMEN COLLECTION CENTRE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

#### ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

1. **Administrative Procedures**
   1. Application to move a bovine animal onto a Semen Collection Centre in Northern Ireland must be made to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Veterinary Service, Jubilee House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Limavady, BT49 9HP by the owner of the animal or his agent, on form **BA1**.
   2. On receipt of form BA1, Veterinary Service will check the APHIS computer for disease restrictions, or statuses, on the animal and the herd of origin.
   3. Subject to the checks at 1.2, Veterinary Service will send to the approved veterinary surgeon, appointed by the owner of the animal, the following:-
      1. A copy of these **animal health requirements**
      2. 1 copy of the owner’s declaration of segregation, form **BA2**
      3. 1 request form, for forwarding to the local Divisional Veterinary Officer, for a **DVO support declaration** ( see pt 2.12 )
      4. 3 copies of the veterinary surgeon’s pre-entry test certificate, form **BA3**
   4. When all pre-entry tests and treatments have been completed with negative test results, the 3 completed copies of veterinary surgeon’s pre-entry test certificate (BA3) must be distributed by the veterinary surgeon who carried out the tests as follows:-
      1. Original to Veterinary Service, Jubilee House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Limavady
      2. for issue of approval certificate form **BA5**.
      3. Copy to the owner of the animal for attaching to the movement notification documents which must accompany the animal to the Semen Collection Centre.
      4. Copy to be retained by the veterinary surgeon who carried out the tests.
   5. On receipt of a copy of the veterinary surgeon’s test certificate (BA3) and provided all tests are negative and isolation has been carried out as required, Veterinary Service will issue to the owner of the animal a certificate of approval form BA5 for entry of the animal into post entry isolation at a Semen Collection Centre licensed by the Department in Northern Ireland.
   6. Movement of the animal to the semen collection centre must take place within the validity period stated on the approval certificate (Form BA5).
   7. The owner of the animal referred to in form BA5 must complete movement notification documentation as follows:-
      1. MC2A should be completed on the day of movement showing the name and address of the Semen Collection Centre detailed in form BA5 and forwarded to the local Divisional Veterinary Office
      2. MC2B and MC2C should accompany the animal to the Semen Collection Centre and be presented, together with copy of the PVP certificate form BA3 and the original Form BA5, to the Centre Veterinarian.
   8. Subject to examination on arrival by the Centre Veterinarian, the animal will only be allowed into the centre if it is accompanied by the approval certificate (form BA5) and copies of BA3, MC2B and MC2C.
2. **Guidance Notes for Veterinary** **Surgeons**
   1. Veterinary surgeon’s certificate form BA3 may only be signed by a private veterinary practitioner who is approved by the Department for carrying out Tuberculin tests on behalf of the Department. If a veterinary surgeon receives form BA3 for completion **and is not approved as above he must contact his local DVO and await permission before proceeding with any tests, treatments etc.**
   2. Veterinary Surgeon’s certificate form BA3 requires certification by the veterinary surgeon in respect of identification of the animal, isolation, clinical examination of the animal, breeding history of an animal and various tests. The following notes for guidance should be read before arranging to commence any of the work involved. Any queries on any of these points should be discussed with the DVO (Artificial Reproduction), Dundonald House, Telephone 028 90525228.
   3. The identity of the animal will already be entered on form BA3 at the time of issue. This must be checked before undertaking any examinations or tests. If the identification number of the animal is not as entered on form BA3, the DVO (Artificial Reproduction), Dundonald House, must be consulted before proceeding further. All ear tags must be clearly legible.
   4. All animals must undergo a period of not less than 30 days isolation in approved isolation on the farm of origin prior to entry into a Semen Collection Centre. Accommodation to be used for on-farm isolation must be approved by the veterinary surgeon prior to use. Accommodation must not be approved for isolation purposes unless all of the following criteria are satisfied:-
      1. Accommodation must be within a building.
      2. Accommodation must have air space separate from all other animals.
      3. Accommodation must have drainage separate from all other animals.
      4. Disinfectant foot baths must be in place for use by stockmen.
      5. Protective clothing solely for use when attending the isolated animal must be provided and kept at the isolation accommodation.
   5. In addition, the veterinary surgeon must obtain from the owner of the animal a declaration in writing (Form BA2) :-
      1. that the animal will remain in the approved isolation premises until moved to the Semen Collection Centre;
      2. that the animal will not be used for natural service while in isolation
      3. that the animal will be conveyed from the isolation premises to the Semen Collection Centre in a vehicle that has been cleansed and disinfected with an approved disinfectant prior to loading
   6. A clinical examination of the animal is necessary to ascertain if there are any signs of infectious or contagious disease, internal or external parasitism, any abnormality likely to be heritable, or any condition liable to interfere with the animals breeding potential including Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy. In bulls, both testicles must be examined for size, consistency and descent and the seminal vesicles must also be palpated for the presence of abnormalities. Any abnormalities encountered must be discussed with the DVO (Artificial Reproduction), Jubilee House, Ballykelly before proceeding further.
   7. If the application is for a bull, the breeding records of the bull and of the herd of origin over the previous 12 months, must be investigated with particular reference to:-
      1. The breeding records of cows and heifers served by the bull
      2. Service by the bull of any cows or heifers in any other herds
      3. Progeny sired by the bull showing an abnormality not evident in the bull or in the dams
      4. Any indication of infertility in the herd of origin
      5. Any indication that the bull is the progeny through the female line of any animal in which BSE has been confirmed
   8. If not satisfied with the outcome of any of the above or any other investigations, the DVO (Artificial Reproduction), Jubilee House, Ballykelly must be consulted before proceeding further.
   9. During the 30 day period of isolation referred to in paragraph 2.2.2 the animal must be subjected to the following tests. All test results must be negative in accordance with existing criteria. If in doubt as to the interpretation of any test result, the DVO (Artificial Reproduction), Jubilee House, Ballykelly must be consulted
      1. **Tuberculosis** - Intradermal comparative test. This test must not be carried out within 42 days of an earlier Tuberculin test. A PCT should be created on APHIS via ePVP in advance of commencement of this test. TB test results must be reported to the local DVO Via e-PVP.
      2. **Brucellosis** - Serum Agglutination Test (SAT). Only animals showing a brucella count lower than 30 IU of agglutination per millilitre, or a complement fixation test showing brucella count lower than 20 EEC units per millilitre (20 ICFT units) are eligible. The tables below may be useful..

Serum Agglutination Test

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dilution of | Degree of Agglutination (i.u.s) | | | |
| Serum | **+** | **+ +** | **+ + +** | **+ + + +** |
| 1/10 | **13** | **15.5** | **18** | **20.5** |
| 1/20 | **25.5** | 31 | 36 | 41 |
| 1/40 | 51.5 | 61.5 | 72 | 82 |

Complement Fixation Test

Conversion Of Titres To International Units/Ml

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Final dilution of serum | End-point reading | iu/ml |
| 1/4 | 1+  2+  3+  4+ | **16.6\***  20.0  23.3  26.6 |

* + 1. **Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis/Infectious Pustular Vulvovaginitis** - ELISA test.
    2. **Enzootic Bovine Leucosis** - ELISA or AGID test.
    3. **Bovine Virus Diarrhoea** – A Serological test for BVD and a Virus isolation test on clotted blood. In the case of an animal less than six months of age the test must be deferred until that age is reached.
  1. Tests must not commence until the animal has been in isolation not less than 14 days, but should be arranged so that results will be available for completion of form BA3 at the end of the 30 day isolation period.
  2. **Note**: All VSD sample submission forms must be **clearly endorsed** to show that a copy of the test results must be sent to the DVO (Artificial Reproduction), The Old Library, County Hall, Coleraine.
  3. Subject to satisfactory checks of the herd of origin and the isolation premises, the local Divisional Veterinary Office will, on request by the certifying veterinary surgeon, complete a Divisional Veterinary Office Support Declaration regarding paragraphs 6 and 12 in the form BA3.
  4. On satisfactory completion of all investigations and tests and upon completion of the 30 day isolation period 3 copies of the veterinary surgeon’s certificate form BA3 must be completed, signed, and distributed as required at paragraph 1.4.
  5. **Please ensure the request paperwork is forwarded to VSD, to ensure the BR result gets recorded on APHIS – similarly any TB tests should be processed as a PCT onto APHIS.**
  6. The following is a suggested timetable for the various procedures required for completion of the veterinary surgeon’s certificate form BA3:-

Day 1

* Check and confirm identification of the animal (2.3)
* Approve the isolation premises and over see movement of the animal into isolation (2.4)
* Obtain owner’s declaration (2.5).
* Carry out clinical examination of the animal (2.6).
* Investigate breeding history of the animal and herd of origin (2.7).

Day 14

* Commence Tuberculin test (2.9).
* Take blood samples (2 x clotted blood) for BR, IBR, EBL, and BVD (2.9)

Day 17

* Read Tuberculin test (2.9).

Day 25-30

* Obtain a DVO declaration, from the local Divisional Veterinary Officer, by submitting request form (2.12)
  1. Teaser animals must either be steers or maiden heifers. Pre-entry test procedure for teaser animals are as required for bulls except that:-
     1. In the case of teaser steers breeding history of the animal and of the herd of origin and examination of testicles and seminal vesicles are not applicable. In this case “not applicable” must be endorsed on the relevant section of form BA3. All other procedures are as for bulls.
     2. In the case of female teasers, the owner’s declaration at paragraph 2.4 must include a statement that the animal has not been used for breeding in any way including embryo transfer. The breeding history of the animal and of the herd of origin is not applicable, and form BA3 must be endorsed accordingly. All other procedures are as for bulls.
  2. Certification of 30 days isolation will be based on owner’s declaration and observations at the visits to carry out the required examinations and tests. In addition, the owner should be advised that officers from the Department may call, unannounced, during the isolation period to check that isolation is satisfactory. If it is found at a check visit by the Department that isolation requirements are not being followed, any procedure completed up to the time of the check visit will have to be repeated.

**Please note:**

**From 01 July 2024, all bulls must satisfy the requirement that, in relation to TB, and Br, the bull must have never been kept previously in any establishment of a lower health status. This means the animal has never been in a herd that is concurrently having a TB/BR breakdown, i.e. The Official Tuberculosis Free status (OTF) or the Official Brucellosis Free status (OBF) has not been withdrawn; and if the OTF/OBF status was suspended, if the suspension was subsequently withdrawn, this would equate to an animal being in a herd of lower disease status. If the OTF status was subsequently restored this would not equate to being in a herd of lower status.**

**Please check this with your local DVO before making an application.**

**Updated July 2024**

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Exports and Animal Diseases

Jubilee House

111 Ballykelly Road

Ballykelly

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