



Ovine Embryos to Canada (Guidance)

OVIEMB.CA

Effective from 15 May 2019

Guidance Document

1 Purpose

- (1) This guidance document has been issued to accompany ovine embryos to Canada (OMAR). This guidance document should be read in conjunction with that OMAR.

2 Specific guidance for the zoosanitary certificate

- (1) Clause 2.2 - free from bovine tuberculosis can either be a premises with resident cattle or deer herds that are officially free under the National Pest Management Strategy for bovine tuberculosis, or a premises where there has been no clinical evidence of bovine tuberculosis in animals resident on the premises for the timeframe required.
- (2) Clause 2.3 - restriction/quarantine refers to notices issued under the Biosecurity Act 1993.
- (3) Clause 3.1 - 'communicable' diseases are those listed as Category 2, Category 3 and Category 4 diseases for sheep by the International Embryo Technology Society (IETS)
- (4) Clause 4.2 and Clause 4.4 - 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.
- (5) Clause 4.2 - 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.
- (6) Clause 4.2 - embryos presented for importation into Canada must be stored in a sealed container in ampules, straws, or other receptacles indelibly marked in accordance with the labelling recommendations of the International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS). 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).
- (7) Fluids, media, and ingredients of animal origin used for collection, processing, freezing, or transport must have been imported from North America, New Zealand or Australa (OIE International Zoosanitary code 8th edition appendix 4.2.3.3) and/or sterilised in accordance with the Manual of the International Embryo Transfer Society.

3 Additional information

- (1) Further information taken from the requirements for the importation of ovine embryos to Canada suggests:
 - a) Animal clones, their progeny, and their products and by-products are considered "new substances" under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999. The importation of these commodities is affected by other governmental legislation beyond the Health of Animals Act and Regulations and

require notification under the New Substances Notification Regulations prior to import into Canada. It must be determined if the new substance poses a risk to the health of Canadians and to their environment. Please contact Environment Canada and Health Canada for further details regarding what restrictions or further import conditions may apply.

- b) Fresh embryos are prohibited.

Disclaimer

This guidance does not constitute, and should not be regarded as, legal advice. While every effort has been made to ensure the information in this guidance is accurate, the Ministry for Primary Industries does not accept any responsibility or liability whatsoever for any error of fact, omission, interpretation or opinion that may be present, however it may have occurred.