



# Ovine Embryos to the United States of America (OMAR)

OVIEMB.US (OMAR)

Effective from 10 September 2020

## **TITLE**

Animal Products Notice: Ovine Embryos to the United States of America (OMAR)

## **COMMENCEMENT**

This Animal Products Notice comes into force on 10 September 2020

## **ISSUING AUTHORITY**

This Animal Products Notice is issued under sections 167(1) and 60(1) of the Animal Products Act 1999.

Dated at Wellington, 1 September 2020.

Stephen Cobb  
Manager, Import & Export Animals  
Ministry for Primary Industries  
(acting under delegated authority of the Director-General)

Contact for further information  
Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)  
Agriculture & Investment Services  
Import & Export Animals  
PO Box 2526  
Wellington 6140

Email: [animalexports@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:animalexports@mpi.govt.nz)

---

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Part 1: Requirements</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 Application	5
1.2 Definitions	5
1.3 Requirements for export	5
1.4 Specific requirements for the zoosanitary certificate	5
1.5 Laboratories	6
<b>Part 2: Zoosanitary Certificate</b>	<b>7</b>

## Introduction

This introduction is not part of the Animal Products Notice, but is intended to indicate its general effect.

## Purpose

The purpose of this document is to set out the zoosanitary requirements necessary to export compliant ovine embryos from New Zealand to the United States of America.

## Background

The Animal Products Act 1999 provides the controls and mechanisms needed to give and to safeguard official assurances or zoosanitary certificates to facilitate the entry of animal material including live animals, hatching eggs, semen and embryos, and products into overseas markets.

Notices issued as Overseas Market Access Requirements (OMARs) under section 60(1)(a) and (b) of the Animal Products Act specify the requirements that are necessary or desirable for the purpose of facilitating access to overseas markets or are in accordance with the requirements of the relevant authority of the importing country.

OMARs may also determine the form and content of the official assurances that can be issued for animal material or product, including live animals, hatching eggs, semen or embryos, which meet the specified requirements.

Where the OMAR determines the form and content of the official assurances, a separate export certificate template is available to authorised persons, recognised persons and registered exporters who have applied for access to the certificate templates, to facilitate the completion and issuing of the relevant official assurance. That template will be an amendable version of the form set in the OMAR.

Notices issued under section 60(1)(c) of the Animal Products Act to safeguard the assurances provided by New Zealand, and guidance in the form of Operational Codes, should be read in conjunction with this Notice.

This OMAR specifies the requirements that must be met by exporters of ovine embryos to be exported from New Zealand to the United States of America and determines the form and content of the official assurance that must accompany the ovine embryos to be exported. The OMAR was issued after consultation with industry and the United States of America. It is based on import requirements dated October 2018 received from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

## Who should read this Animal Products Notice?

Exporters of ovine embryos to the United States of America.

Operators of Export Approved Premises collecting ovine embryos for export to the United States of America.

## Why is this important?

This Notice is important because it sets out the requirements that need to be met so that the Director-General of the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) can certify that the ovine embryos meet the requirements for export to the United States of America which New Zealand, in consultation with the government of the United States of America, has determined will apply. It should be noted that although the

ovine embryos may comply with these requirements and be given an official assurance (by way of a certificate), the importing country ultimately retains control over what ovine embryos it clears for entry.

## Document History

Version Date	Section Changed	Change(s) Description
05 March 2020		New OMAR
10 September 2020	Table I: INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SEMEN DONOR(S)	Updated to accommodate natural mating and fresh semen use
	Sub clause 3.5.2	Amended to include 'fresh semen'

## Other information

### Export non-conformances

Exporters should note that, under section 51 of the Animal Products Act 1999, where they have exported animal material or products, including live animals, hatching eggs, semen and embryos, that are refused entry by the foreign government they have a statutory duty to notify the Director-General of MPI not later than 24 hours after they have first knowledge of the event.

### Liability

Section 61A of the Animal Products Act 1999 states that:

The Crown is not liable, and nor is the Director-General or any employee of the Ministry liable, for any loss arising through the refusal or failure of the relevant authority of an overseas market to admit export animal material or animal product to that market.

### Related documents

OMAR documents can be downloaded from <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/requirements/omars-overseas-market-access-requirements/omars-live-animals-semen-embryos-organics/>

When you click on the + symbol on the right-hand side of any OMAR document, you can view the related information and documents (guidance document and export certificate template).

The export certificate for this OMAR is provided for in *Ovine Embryos to the United States of America (Export Certificate)*. The export certificate is password-protected.

## Part 1: Requirements

### 1.1 Application

- (1) This Notice applies to the export of ovine embryos from New Zealand to the United States of America.

### 1.2 Definitions

- (1) In this Notice, unless the context otherwise requires:

**Act** means the Animal Products Act 1999

- (2) A term used in this Notice that is defined in the Act or the following Notices (or their successors) has the meaning given to it in the Act or that Notice:

- a) [Animal Products Notice: Official Assurances Specifications for Animal Material and Animal Products.](#)
- b) [Animal Products Notice: Specifications for Laboratories.](#)
- c) [Animal Products Notice: Export Approved Premises](#)

### 1.3 Requirements for export

- (1) Ovine embryos exported from New Zealand to the United States of America must be accompanied by an official assurance in the form of a zoosanitary certificate, a sample version of which is included in Part 2.
- (2) A zoosanitary certificate must be completed and issued by an authorised person.
- (3) In order to issue a zoosanitary certificate, the authorised person must be satisfied that:
  - a) A permit to import the ovine embryos has been issued by the competent authority of the United States of America.
  - b) The proposed shipment otherwise meets the requirements of this Notice

### 1.4 Specific requirements for the zoosanitary certificate

- (1) With regard to Clause 2.1, the minimum period of time embryo donor(s) are required to have been part of New Zealand's national herd depends on the origin of the animals and or their ancestors.
  - a) If the embryo donor(s) 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 collection.
  - b) If the embryo donor(s) are first generation offspring of animals or germplasm that was legally imported from a country not recognized by the USDA to be free of FMD, then the embryo donor(s) 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 collection.
- (2) With regard to Clause 3.5 – Where imported semen is used:
  - a) The semen must meet the current zoosanitary requirements between the country where the ovine semen is collected and the United States of America.
  - b) At the time of arrival in NZ the semen was transported directly to an MPI approved centre where it was stored under the supervision of the Approved Veterinarian; in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and IETS Manual until embryo production.

## **1.5 Laboratories**

- (1) Where this Notice requires laboratory testing to be undertaken the testing must be done in laboratories operating in accordance with the Recognised Laboratory Programme (RLP) unless otherwise stated.

## Part 2: Zoosanitary Certificate



Certificate No: .....

### NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

#### ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATE

Commodity: OVINE EMBRYOS  
 To: THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
 Exporting Country: NEW ZEALAND  
 Competent Authority: MINISTRY FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES  
 Import Permit Number: .....

#### I: INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SEMEN DONOR(S)

Donor Identification	Date of Collection and/or Natural Service	*Ampoule/Straw Identification

\*frozen semen only

#### I: INFORMATION CONCERNING THE EMBRYO DONOR(S)

Name	Breed	Herd Book / Registration No./ Individual ID	Date of Collection	Ampoule/Straw Identification

Total number of ampoules/straws in the consignment: .....

#### II: ORIGIN OF THE EMBRYO DONOR(S)

Name and address of exporter: .....

Name, address and approval number of the embryo team: .....

#### III: DESTINATION OF THE EMBRYO(S)

Name and address of consignee: .....

**IV: SANITARY INFORMATION****VETERINARY CERTIFICATE**

I, ....., an Official Veterinarian of the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries hereby certify, after due enquiry with respect to the embryo donor animal(s) and embryo(s) identified in this Zoosanitary Certificate, that:

**1 COUNTRY FREEDOM**

- 1.1 New Zealand is free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), scrapie, sheep and goat pox, contagious caprine pleuropneumonia, Akabane, bluetongue, Aino, epizootic haemorrhagic disease, *Brucella abortus*, and *Brucella melitensis*.
- 1.2 No cases of disease caused by Schmallenberg virus have been detected or reported in New Zealand.

**2 RESIDENCY STATUS OF EMBRYO DONOR(S)**

- 2.1 The embryo donor(s) has been part of New Zealand's national herd for a minimum of \*[sixty (60)] \*[or] \*[ninety (90)] days prior to collection, and has not been under any movement restriction during this time.

*\* Delete as applicable*

**3 HEALTH STATUS**

- 3.1 The embryo donor(s) was free of clinical evidence of communicable diseases that are transmissible by embryo transfer on the day of collection.
- 3.2 Since birth, or for at least twelve (12) months prior to collection, the embryo donor(s) has only been on premises with cattle or deer herds that are officially free of bovine tuberculosis.
- 3.3 During the sixty (60) days prior to collection of the embryo(s) for export to the United States of America, the embryo donor(s) was not corralled, pastured, or held with animals of a lesser health status or under any restrictions which would have made them ineligible as donors of embryo(s) for export to the United States of America.
- 3.4 During the thirty (30) days prior to the collection of embryo(s) for export to the United States, the embryo donor(s) was inspected by the team veterinarian and was found to be clinically free of communicable diseases transmissible by embryo transfer.
- 3.5 The embryo(s) in this consignment were fertilized:

Either [3.5.1 with semen which is eligible for export to the United States of America]\*

Or [3.5.2 by natural mating or with fresh semen from a ram of at least an equivalent health status as semen donor animal(s) eligible for export to the United States of America]\*

*\* Delete as applicable*

- 3.6 The embryo donor(s) was at least twelve (12) months old at the time of collection of embryos for export.

Certificate No: .....

3.7 The embryo donor(s) was tested with negative results for bovine tuberculosis, using the intradermal tuberculin test, between thirty (30) and one hundred and twenty (120) days after the last collection of embryo(s) in this consignment for export to the United States of America.

**4 EMBRYO COLLECTION, PROCESSING AND STORAGE**

4.1 The embryo collection team is approved by the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries to collect embryos for export.

4.2 The embryos were collected, processed, identified, and stored in accordance with the recommendations set out in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and the *International Embryos Transfer Society (IETS) Manual*.

4.3 The embryo(s) were stored under the supervision of an Official Veterinarian in containers, in which no biological material other than semen or embryo(s) of equivalent health status was held.

**5 TRANSPORT**

5.1 Prior to export the transportation container was sealed by an Official Veterinarian using a seal bearing the marks:.....

.....  
Signature Official Veterinarian  
New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries

.....  
Official Stamp and Date

.....  
Name and Address

**Note. The Official Veterinarian must sign and stamp each page of the veterinary certificate using a different colour ink to the paper and the print, and, where applicable, sign, date and stamp each page of the documents (e.g. laboratory reports) that form part of the extended health certification**