
**ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR PORCINE SEMEN TO BE
EXPORTED TO JAPAN FROM FINLAND**

This document defines Animal health requirements for porcine semen to be exported to Japan from Finland.

(Definitions)

For the purpose of this document, the definitions of terms are as follows:

“Artificial insemination center (hereinafter referred to as ‘the AI center’)”
means a facility approved by the animal health authorities of Finland and which meets the conditions set out in point 6 to 12 of this document for the collection, processing and/or storage of semen.

“Donor boar”
means a boar whose semen is collected for export to Japan.

“Exported semen”
means fresh porcine semen to be exported or which was exported to Japan from Finland.

“Notifiable disease”
means a disease listed by the animal health authorities of Finland, and that, as soon as detected or suspected, must be brought to the attention of the government authorities of Finland, in accordance with national regulations.

“OIE code”
means OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code which is effective at the time of collection.

“Quarantine station”
means a premise under the control of the animal health authorities of Finland where animals are maintained in isolation with no direct or indirect contact with other animals, to prevent the transmission of specified pathogen(s) while the animals are undergoing observation for a specified length of time and, if appropriate, testing and treatment.

“The animal health authorities of Japan”
means Animal Health Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.

“The animal health authorities of Finland”
means the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finnish Food Authority, Regional State Administrative Agencies and the Municipal Official Veterinarians.

(General Requirements)

1. Finland is free from foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), rinderpest, African swine fever (ASF), classical swine fever (CSF), Aujeszky's disease, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) and transmissible gastroenteritis (TGE) in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code. In addition, Finland is free from vesicular stomatitis and swine vesicular disease.
2. FMD, rinderpest, ASF, CSF, Aujeszky's disease, Vesicular stomatitis, PRRS, TGE and swine vesicular disease are designated as notifiable diseases in Finland.
3. Vaccination against CSF, FMD and rinderpest has been prohibited in Finland.
4. Donor boar should come from the herds in the premises where brucellosis, Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) and enterovirus encephalomyelitis (Teschén diseases) have not been reported for 6 months prior to start of the isolation stated in point 8.
5. The donor boar must not be vaccinated against Aujeszky's disease, brucellosis and PRRS.

(Requirements for the AI center)

6. The AI center is composed of semen collection facilities, a semen laboratory, semen storage areas, and administration offices. A quarantine station may also be attached to the AI center.

The AI center should meet the following conditions:

- (1) The AI center is under the direct supervision and sanitary control of an official veterinarian of the animal health authorities of Finland.
- (2) The AI center is inspected every 6 months by an official veterinarian of the animal health authorities of Finland.
- (3) The semen collection facilities should include separate and distinct areas for accommodating resident animals, for semen collection, for feed storage, for manure storage, and for the isolation of animals suspected of being infected.
- (4) The AI center should have a semen laboratory which complies with "Conditions applicable to semen laboratories" of the OIE code.
- (5) The semen collection area is cleaned daily after collection. The animals' accommodation, semen collection and storage areas are cleaned and disinfected at least once a year.
- (6) Only swine associated with semen production should be permitted to enter the AI center. Other species of livestock may be exceptionally permitted their residence on the AI center, provided that they are kept physically apart from the swine. Donor boars in the AI center should be isolated from animals, materials, feeds and vehicles which are not under the control of the AI center.
- (7) Entry of visitors is strictly controlled under the supervision of the AI center. Personnel at the AI center should be technically competent and observe high standards of personal hygiene to preclude the introduction of pathogenic organisms. Protective clothing and footwear for use only on the AI center should be provided.
- (8) While staying at the AI center the donor boars are not used for natural breeding.

- (9) Vehicles used for transport of animals to and from the semen collection facilities should not be allowed to enter the facilities.
- (10) Fodder introduction and manure removal should be done in a manner which poses no significant animal health risk.
- (11) At the AI center, there have been no confirmed clinical, microbiological and serological cases of brucellosis, PED and enterovirus encephalomyelitis (Teschin diseases) for at least 6 months immediately before commencement of the collection of the exported semen.

(Requirements for the donor boar)

7. The donor boar should comply with the following requirements within 30 days prior to entry into isolation in the quarantine station stated in point 8.
 - (1) The donor boars should be clinically healthy in this period.
 - (2) The donor boars should be tested negative for the following disease.
 - Brucellosis :
 - Tube agglutination test (less than 50 IU/ml) **or**
 - Buffered Brucella antigen tests **or**
 - ELISA **or**
 - Fluorescence polarisation assay
8. The donor boar should be kept isolated at the quarantine station for at least 30 days before entering the AI center. The donor boars may only enter the AI center on the successful completion of the following requirements
 - (1) The donor boar should be clinically healthy in this period.
 - (2) The donor boars should be tested negative for the following diseases
 - Brucellosis:
 - Tube agglutination test (less than 50 IU/ml) **or**
 - Buffered Brucella antigen tests **or**
 - ELISA **or**
 - Fluorescence polarisation assay
9. The donor boar in the AI center should be tested negative for the following diseases.
 - Brucellosis (**annually**):
 - Tube agglutination test (less than 50 IU/ml) **or**
 - Buffered Brucella antigen tests **or**
 - ELISA **or**
 - Fluorescence polarisation assay
10. The donor boar should be isolated from all other animals that are not the same health status.
11. The donor boar showed no sign of infectious diseases at the time of semen collection.
12. The donor boar should have been kept for at least 4 months prior to semen collection in the AI center.

(Requirements for handling and shipment of semen)

13. The exported semen should be handled for the packing and storage according to “Conditions applicable to the packing and storage of semen” of the OIE Code.
14. Each tube used for packaging the exported semen is marked with identification number, name and breed of the donor boar and with the date of collection and best before date of the collected semen so as to be checked with the health certificate prescribed stated in point 17.
15. The tubes should be stored with semen of equivalent health status at a storage facility designated by the animal health authorities of Finland and be maintained there under the supervision of a veterinarian approved by the animal health authorities of Finland until they are placed in the shipping container. The shipping container should be sealed under the supervision of the animal health authorities of Finland.
16. The shipping container is new.

(Issue of the health certificate)

17. The animal health authorities of Finland are responsible for issuing a health certificate stating the following points in English by each of the donor boar on shipping of the exported semen to Japan.
 - (1) Each of points 1 to 16.
 - (2) Sampling dates, methods and results of examinations for each disease stated in point 7 and 8.
 - (3) Latest sampling dates, methods and results of recent examinations for each disease stated in point 9.
 - (4) If any vaccines are applied to the donor boar, date of vaccination, type, manufacture, manufacturing lot numbers of vaccine and inoculation dose.
 - (5) Name and breed of the donor boar, collection date, quantity of straws or ampoules, identification number, etc. marked on straws or ampoules.
 - (6) Name and address of the premises of origin of donor boar.
 - (7) Name and address of the quarantine station.
 - (8) Name and address of the AI center.
 - (9) Isolation period with starting and ending dates stated in point 8.
 - (10) Date of entering the AI center.
 - (11) The number of the seal used to seal the shipping container stated in point 15.
 - (12) Date of issue, name and title of signer, and authorities' name and address of the health certificate.

(Other)

18. In the case of an outbreak of FMD, rinderpest, ASF, CSF, Aujeszky's disease, Vesicular stomatitis, PRRS, TGE and swine vesicular disease in Finland, the animal health authorities of Finland must immediately suspend the shipment of the porcine semen to Japan. The animal health authorities of Finland must inform the animal health authorities of Japan of the outbreak as soon as possible and the completion of the necessary measures for the last case.