10.1 Artificial Insemination - Background Information

This module describes background and procedures required to qualify a donor or teaser animal for entry into an artificial insemination (AI) centre.

Background Information

1. The **animal semen production centre** is an establishment in which animal semen is collected and/or processed under the terms of a permit issued by the CFIA.

Legislation

2. The enabling legislation to draft regulations pertaining to the artificial insemination industry is contained in Section 64(q) of the *Health of Animals Act*. The regulations pertaining to the artificial insemination industry are contained in Sections 2, 60, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 160, and 161 of the *Health of Animals Regulations*.

Procedures to Qualify a Semen Donor or a Teaser Animal for Entry into an AI Centre

3. All pre-entry qualifying procedures performed on the farm of origin are to be performed by an accredited veterinarian who has been authorized to conduct those specific procedures under the authority of an Accredited Veterinarian Agreement. The veterinarian should contact the respective district veterinarian for advice as to the submission of samples, the respective laboratory to be used, and the completion of laboratory forms. Blood samples must be sent to CFIA laboratories, unless otherwise specified.

4. Donor animals consigned to a recognized bull sale or exhibition may be tested on the farm of origin before the event. Following the sale or exhibition, the animal may enter the designated isolation facility of an approved semen production centre to commence health testing for entry into the resident herd of the centre. The centre assumes the risk associated with this procedure.

5. Note that the period of test validity is **60 days** from the date of sample collection, except for boars destined to an insemination centre approved for export of semen to the European Community (EC) where the period is only **30 days**. In the case of tuberculosis, the date of test is the date on which the injection site is read.

6. The accredited veterinarian can apply the procedures in an isolation facility at a semen production centre if the centre is approved, and if the accredited veterinarian is authorized to perform on-farm testing for the same species for the following animals:

   - swine arriving in a production centre in which semen is for distribution in Canada,
   - cervids,
   - bison, and
   - sheep and goats when semen is collected in a sire reference program.

   In all other cases, qualifying and testing procedures associated with the assessment of the isolation, health status of semen donor and teaser animals subsequent to their presentation to the pre-entry isolation facilities of the semen production centre are to be performed by CFIA staff.

7. The herd of origin must be inspected and found free from clinical evidence of infectious disease and, in so far as can be determined, from history of infectious diseases during the preceding 60 days.

Isolation and Identification

8. The donor animals or teasers should remain in isolation at the premises of origin and must not be exposed to any infection to which they are susceptible from the date of pre-entry health testing until entry into the designated isolation facility of the centre.

9. Animals must be positively identified (See *2.1 Identification of Livestock*).

10. All donor animals being presented as prospective additions to semen production centres must be examined and any evidence of heritable physical defects is to be recorded on the health certificate *CFIA/ACIA 1634 Certificate of Health for Entry into a Semen Production Centre*.

Certification

11. The *CFIA/ACIA 1634* certificate must be completed by the accredited veterinarian who performs the on-farm pre-entry inspection of the animal. **It is the responsibility of the accredited veterinarian to ensure the completed certificate is endorsed and stamped by the responsible district veterinarian before being issued to the owner**. The distribution of the *CFIA/ACIA 1634* is as follows:

    - one copy of the certificate is retained by the district veterinarian;
    - one copy is sent to the semen production centre for their records; and
    - one copy is provided to the owner to accompany the animal to the semen production centre for entry into the isolation area at the Centre.

    Note: Multiple entries of donor boars from the same herd may be listed on a single annex to the *CFIA/ACIA 1634*.

12. Anyone collecting or processing bovine-operating from a mobile laboratory or a fixed centre-must be in possession of a "Permit to Operate a Semen Production Centre" issued by the National Coordinator, Artificial Insemination, Animal Health and Production Division, Ottawa. A mobile laboratory must be associated with a permanent facility in which the records referred to in Section 119(2) of the *Health of Animals Regulations* are maintained.

13. Section 115 of the *Health of Animals Regulations* requires that every person who owns a premises on which semen is collected and labelled "Owner Use Only" must be in possession of a "Permit to Collect Semen" issued by the CFIA area or district office upon application by the owner, unless the owner of the premises is granted a "Permit to Operate a Semen Production Centre."

References

A copy of *CFIA/ACIA 1634* is available from your district veterinarian.