

# Sexed Genetics Straw Handling Guidelines

At ABS Global, the experience when using our genetics is a priority. Every semen collection from ABS Global sires undergoes a series of rigorous quality control evaluations to ensure that every straw sold meets our high standards.

To get the best possible results from using Sexcel® Sexed Genetics, please follow our heifer rearing protocols, and use the following straw handling protocols:



01

## Straw identification and transfer

- Use the tank inventory card to identify the goblet location containing the straw.
- Never lift the goblet above the frost line in the neck of the tank.
- If the straw is not identifiable within 5 seconds, lower the goblet back into the liquid nitrogen for at least 10 seconds before recommencing identification.
- Use the appropriate tweezers for 0.25cc straws, never fingers, to pick up straws.

02

## Thawing procedure

- ABS Global recommends thawing only one straw of Sexcel at a time as the objective is to thaw the number of straws that can be inseminated within 5 minutes of thawing.
- Replace the thaw bath water daily and ensure the temperature is between 35C to 37C (95F to 98F) using a thermometer.
- Thaw the straw in the water bath for 30 seconds.
- Remove the straw from the water using tweezers and protect from the environment using a clean, dry paper towel. Use the paper towel to dry the straw.
- Ensure that there is minimal time between removing the straw from the thawing bath and loading it into the AI gun, and that you protect the straw from cold wind and sunlight.

03

## Load the AI gun

- Place the thawed straw into the pre-warmed AI gun with the plugged end first. An electronic AI gun warmer is recommended.
- Cut the straw at 90 degrees just below the crimped end, with clean scissors or a straw cutter.
- Place the plastic sheath over the loaded AI rod. Ensure that the straw enters and adapts well inside the green or blue plastic piece of the sheath.
- The use of a plastic 'chemise sanitaire' is recommended on top of the AI gun sheath.

04

## Number of straws per heifer

- Inseminate one complete straw per heifer, do not split straws.