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Sean Wensley
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Dear Sean

APPEALS FOR OV GRANDFATHER RIGHTS

In August 2014 I wrote to all Official Veterinarians (OVs) at their most recent address supplied to APHA, about the implementation of new arrangements for the training and authorising of OVs. This followed the appointment of Improve International as AHVLA's OV training provider and the introduction of the new OV qualification, the 'Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary), or OCQ (V)'.

When the new arrangements were introduced, existing OVs were granted 'grandfather rights', meaning that experienced OVs did not need to undertake the initial training and could transfer their existing OV panels to the equivalent OCQ (V). To qualify for 'grandfather rights' OVs were asked to register with Improve International between August 2014, when the new registration database was launched, and 31 March 2015.

Notifications on the changes to the OV training and appointments process were sent to all OV practices by both APHA and Improve International. Despite this, some OVs missed the registration deadline and I have considered all appeals from OVs on a case by case basis. However, we are nearly nine months past the 31 March deadline and I have therefore decided that after 31 January 2016, no further appeals will be considered.

From 1 February 2016, any OVs who have not registered their 'grandfather rights' will have their OV status removed and will be required to register with Improve International, enrol on the training for any OCQ(V) they wish to hold and then reapply to APHA for authorisation. OVs who have not registered and wish to resign as OVs should destroy or return their pocket certificates and return their OV stamp to APHA.

Yours Sincerely,

Simon Hall
APHA Veterinary Director