



APHA Briefing Note 06/19

Free-of-charge Official Control Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) training to certify the export of animal products to the EU

Summary

1. The briefing note is a response to the increase in demand in the event of a no-deal scenario for Export Health Certificates (EHCs) for exports of animal products that must be signed by an authorised signatory, or an Official Veterinarian (OV).
2. In order to encourage additional OVs to offer certification services to meet this potential new demand, this briefing note aims to inform OVs of the availability of free-of-charge online training for the Official Control Qualification for Products Exports (OCQ(V) - PX) and courses in Essential Skills (OCQ(V) - ES) and Exports General (OCQ(V) - EX).

Introduction

3. Leaving the EU with a deal remains the Government's top priority. This has not changed. However, a responsible government must plan for every eventuality, including a no-deal scenario.
4. In December, Cabinet agreed to proceed with the Government's next phase of no-deal planning. This means we are setting in motion our remaining no-deal plans. We recommend that businesses and individuals now also ensure they are prepared and enact their own no-deal plans as they judge necessary.
5. Businesses and the wider public should visit gov.uk/euexit to access the information they need.
6. In the event of no deal, there is expected to be an increase in demand for EHCs for animal products.
7. This Briefing Note is to inform OVs of the availability of free-of-charge online training for the Official Controls Qualification for Products Exports (OCQ(V) - PX), and, where candidates are eligible, prerequisite courses in Essential Skills (OCQ(V) - ES) and Exports General (OCQ(V) - EX). The OCQ(V) - PX covers the export of animal products, including food for human consumption and animal by-products. Please note – all 3 qualifications must be held in

order to certify the export of animal products. The training provider for these courses is Improve International – relevant information can be found on their OCQ(V) training website at <https://www.improve-ov.com/home/>.

Who can apply

8. This offer is only for:
 - I. **OVs who are registered on the OV database but don't currently hold the OCQ(V) - PX.** In this case, training in the OCQ(V) – EX and or/OCQ(V) – ES will be provided free of charge
 - II. **Veterinarians who are not currently OVs but wish to offer PX certification services.** In this case, registration with Improve International, and training in OCQ(V) – ES, OCQ(V) EX and OCQ(V) – PX will be provided free of charge.

How to apply

9. If you wish to take up this offer you must contact the APHA OV Team on 0208 026 1094 and provide your RCVS registration number and details of the free-of-charge OCQ(V) qualification(s) that you wish to apply for.
10. The APHA OV Team will validate your request before providing instructions on how to access registration/enrolment free of charge. This must be done before registering on the OV database/enrolling on courses to avoid being charged.

Background

11. In the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal, but with agreements in place to allow exports of animal products to continue as a 'listed third country', there may be an increase in demand for OV services to provide Export Health Certificates (EHCs). This is because such products currently travel within the Single Market on commercial documents with no border controls, whereas exports to the EU require consignment-specific certification and clearance at a Border Inspection Post.
12. In order to encourage additional OVs to offer certification services to meet this potential new demand, APHA is offering relevant OCQ(V) training free of charge. This offer is available to eligible new and existing OVs who elect to extend their qualifications.
13. The offer is made as a direct result of the potential for new EHC demand that may result if the UK leaves the EU without a deal. The offer is to promote new certification capacity, over and above the service already provided. OVs who have already paid for training courses did so on the grounds of existing commercial demand. No refunds are therefore available to those who have already registered on the OV database and/or enrolled on courses. Similarly, APHA will not provide free-of-charge access to revalidation courses for those

candidates whose OCQ(V) - ES and OCQ(V) - EX qualifications are due to expire on 30 June 2019.

14. A similar initiative has been made available through the Welsh Government to OV's working within the Veterinary Delivery Partnerships (VDP) network in Wales.
15. OV's are reminded of other recent communications relating to export certification:
 - I. Free training of Certification Support Officers (see [Briefing Note 22/18](#))
 - II. Online model EHCs through [Form Finder](#)
 - III. Listing of Export Health Certification providers on GOV.UK (see [Briefing Note 03/19](#))

The terms of the offer

16. Veterinarians must be registered with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (but may or may not be OV's) and willing to offer export certification services in England, Scotland or Wales.
17. Candidates must have contacted APHA and subsequently registered on the OV database and/or enrolled on the course offered free of charge by Friday 29th March 2019. The offer, and access to any free training, may be withdrawn before this date if the UK agrees on a deal with the EU that results in an implementation period or if the available budget is reached. The offer may be extended if necessary. Veterinarians wishing to participate should contact the APHA OV team using the details provided due to the temporary nature of the offer.
18. Depending on demand, APHA may challenge and regulate applications to provide a suitable geographic distribution of PX services and to provide fair access for different employers within the available budget.
19. Employers of OV's who have taken up this offer must offer a service to suitable exporters, including through inclusion in the listing of export health certification providers on GOV.UK (see [Briefing Note 03/19](#)). It is understood that even if a service is offered, it would depend on a suitable commercial contract being agreed and this may not be possible in every case. There is no guarantee of demand for certification services.

Help

20. If you have any queries please contact the APHA OV Team at CSCOneHealthOVTeam@apha.gov.uk or Improve International at enquiries@improve-ov.com.

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