



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 06/21

Validating laboratory test reports used for certifying movement of animals

Date issued: 12 February 2021

Purpose

1. To inform Certifying Officers about the risk of forged laboratory test results and how to check the validity of an APHA or Biobest laboratory test report.

Background

2. The RCVS Code of Professional Conduct states that Veterinary Surgeons must use reasonable diligence in detecting falsity when undertaking certification.
3. APHA has seen an increasing number of forged test reports. Most have been identified through checks instigated by the competent authorities in the countries to which animals have travelled. The forged reports have been seen across a range of tests but appear to be a particular problem in rabies serology results.
4. As Official Veterinarians you will be aware of your responsibility to scrutinise laboratory test result reports when certifying animals to travel outside the UK. You need to be aware of the risk of forgeries of such reports.
5. Recent examples of forged reports have included simple date changes, amended results, through to fictitious testing of the animal in question. On close inspection of the reports there are usually fairly clear clues that the report may be a forgery.
6. OVs need to be particularly careful about result reports presented by owners rather than sent direct to their practice from the laboratory. We would ask that you request a validation check on all such reports when used in support of export certification.
7. To request a validity check on any APHA laboratory test report, please contact APHA Laboratory Testing. Please provide a scan or photograph of the report in order to confirm that APHA issued it, and the content is correct.

Email: lab.services@apha.gov.uk

Fax: +44 (0)1932 357838

Telephone: +44 (0)208 4152280

8. To request a validity check on any Biobest laboratory test reports, please contact Biobest and provide a scan of the document:

Email: Enquiry@biobest.co.uk

Fax: +44 (0)131 440 9587

Telephone: +44 (0)131 440 2628

9. If the laboratory result report is issued from another laboratory, please contact them and request they validate that the report and that the content is genuine.