



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 09/20

Extension to the Conditional Authorisation and Revalidation Deadlines for the Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) - Tuberculin Testing due to COVID-19.

Date issued: 26 March 2020

Purpose

To notify all OV's who are due to revalidate their Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) - Tuberculin Testing (OCQ(V) - TT) between 26 March 2020 and 30 September 2020 that their revalidation deadline date will be extended. All OCQ(V) - TT revalidation deadlines due before 30 September 2020 will be automatically extended to 30 September 2020. OV's will not have to apply for this extension.

Extensions have also been applied to all OCQ(V) - TT conditional authorisation deadlines that are due before 30 June 2020. All of these have now been given a four-month extension, which has been applied to each OV's training record.

Additionally, in order to assist OV's in completing the end of course online examination during these exceptional circumstances a new option of remote invigilation has been approved for use. Details can be found on the Improve International website detailed below.

Background

In 2018, a one-year extension was applied to revalidation due dates for all OV's holding the OCQ(V) - TT. This meant that OV's who had previously been granted grandfather rights for this qualification were now due to complete their next revalidation by 31 March 2020. This represents a significant proportion of the OV TB testing population. Whilst many OV's have successfully completed this revalidation, there are a number who have yet to do so. In the current situation with COVID -19 and the resulting impacts on veterinary practices and

veterinary resource, many of these OV's will not be able to complete the revalidation by the imminent deadline.

In order to relieve the pressure on individual OV's to complete the revalidation and to prevent further strains on the available resource, the OCQ(V) - TT revalidation date will be extended. Any OCQ(V) - TT revalidation due prior to 30 September 2020 will now be extended and the new revalidation date set for 30 September 2020. Improve International will apply the extension to all the applicable training records. OV's do not need to apply for these extensions.

The COVID -19 situation has also forced suspension of all OCQ(V) - TT Practical Assessments until at least 30 June 2020. Any OV whose six-month conditional authorisation is due to expire on or before 30 June has already been granted a four-month extension to prevent their conditional authorisation from expiring. Further decisions will be made on conditional authorisations with a deadline after 30 June 2020 as the COVID -19 situation unfolds.

OV's required to revalidate any other OV qualifications must notify APHA at the earliest opportunity if they are unable to complete them by the deadline for reasons related to COVID-19.

OV's should also note that new OV authorisations, with the exception of the OCQ(V) – TT, will be subject to delay and will not be processed within the usual ten working day turnaround time. Affected OV's will be notified by email in these instances. OCQ(V) – TT authorisations will continue to be granted.

Further updates will follow as necessary.

Further Information

<https://www.improve-ov.com/about/remote-invigilation.php>

Contact the APHA OV Team – CSCOneHealthOVTeam@apha.gov.uk

