



APHA Briefing Note 15/18

Notification of a Review of the OCQ(V) Qualifications and an Invitation to Provide Feedback.

Purpose

1. To notify OVs that APHA have initiated a review of the OCQ(V) training qualifications that will be conducted in consultation with Improve International and the BVA.
2. To invite OVs to provide suggested amendments to and constructive feedback on these training qualifications by 26 October 2018.

Background

3. APHA delivers Official Veterinarian (OV) training via the contracted supplier Improve International in the form of OCQ(V) qualifications. These qualifications include specific training on Exports, TB, Brucella and Anthrax along with some more general training applicable to all OVs. After completion of the initial course and qualification, OVs are required to revalidate at set intervals varying from two to five years depending on the qualification.
4. In 2017 OVs with Grandfather Rights (GR) completed the Tuberculin Testing OCQ(V) -TT revalidation qualification. Feedback from OVs on the revalidation course and process was incorporated into a review of the TT course content which was subsequently updated during 2017. A further review has been carried out in 2018 from which several recommendations have been made for consideration. These include recommendations on :
 - Revalidation interval
 - Revalidation Window e.g. may fall in busy periods for some practice.
 - Invigilation Requirements
 - CPD requirements
 - Numbers of animals to be tested prior to revalidation

- Use of Case logs - actioned (now optional and scenarios can be completed as an alternative).
 - Amendments to contents – actioned (to improve clarity in some sections and add where information was lacking).
 - Examination Questions – actioned (new Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) have replaced all previous questions).
5. Feedback from the recent revalidation of certain export qualifications (UX, EQ, GX, AX, PX) has been mixed – for example whilst some fully support the content and principle of these courses, others have questioned the need to be examined on areas/species that they will never certify.
 6. Some simple changes have and will be made as a result of feedback but further investigation is required to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to the more complex issues raised, particularly where any changes may have wider implications.
 7. A review of the OCQ structure and content has been commissioned by APHA which is being carried out in consultation with Improve International and the BVA. The aim of the project is to review and make recommendations for change on the following:
 - All export qualifications
 - Essential Skills (ES) and Statutory Surveillance (SS) qualifications
 - Revalidation Intervals
 - Revalidation Windows
 - Invigilation Requirements
 - CPD requirements
 - Use of Caselogs
 - MCQs
 - Syllabus in general but specifically the Ungulate Export (UX) qualification which currently includes equines, farm animals and large zoo animals
 - Academic Accreditation Requirements.

8. The OCQ (V) TT recommendations will be incorporated into this wider review.
9. OVs are given the opportunity to feedback at the time of revalidation when they complete a course and this feedback will be incorporated into the review.
10. The aim is to complete the review by the end of 2018. Implementation of approved recommendations would then commence in January 2019.
11. The precise timeline for implementation will depend on several other priorities, particularly EU exit preparations.

Amendments to any course for which a block of grandfather rights revalidation is already in progress will only be made once the revalidation period closes other than in exceptional circumstances.

Action for OVs

12. APHA would like to encourage all OVs who have already completed any OCQ(V) training to feedback via a short survey accessed via the following link [OCQ SURVEY MONKEY](#). All feedback received by 26 October 2018 will be included in the review.
13. Please send all responses to the APHA email address detailed below.
14. OVs are advised not to delay revalidating any course which they are due to complete whilst awaiting the outcome of the review.

Further Information

- Links to Improve Website – <https://www.improve-ov.com/home/>
- APHA OV Team - CSCOneHealthOVTeam@apha.gsi.gov.uk

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