



APHA Briefing Note 15/19

Notification of Requirements for the Reinstatement of OV Authorisation Following Failure to Revalidate a Required Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) by the set deadline.

Purpose

1. To notify OVs of an update to the requirements for the reinstatement of OV authorisation following expiry of an OCQ(V) due to failure to revalidate by the deadline.
2. This is applicable to all OVs and all OCQ(V) qualifications.
3. This is not applicable where OV status is revoked for any other reason (e.g. following investigations for misconduct).

Background

4. In order to carry out OV work, there is a requirement to hold one or more OCQ(V)s.
5. All OCQ(V)s require revalidation at set intervals and failure to complete the revalidation process by the specified deadline results in expiry of the qualification and the applicable OV status.
6. Previously, other than in exceptional circumstances, any vet whose OV status was expired due to failure to revalidate before the deadline was required to complete the full OCQ(V) course if they required reinstatement of their OV authorisation .
7. APHA has now introduced a period of time after each revalidation deadline during which authorisation for an expired OV qualification can be reinstated by completion of the revalidation course, rather than the full course. This period will be the 6 months following the date of the missed revalidation deadline.

8. If the revalidation process has not been completed by the end of the permitted 6 month period, the full course must be completed before authorisation can be granted.

Action for OVs

9. Vets who have missed the revalidation deadline must contact the APHA OV Team if they wish to regain their OV authorisation by taking the revalidation course. The deadline for completing the revalidation will be 6 months from the missed revalidation date.
10. Access to the revalidation course will not be possible unless the OV status for the qualification is amended by APHA – it will be updated from 'expired' to 'suspended' in order to permit access to the revalidation course and the new revalidation deadline will be set.
11. No OV work will be permitted to be carried out in the relevant area until the qualification is successfully completed and full authorisation granted.
12. Until the OCQ(V) authorisation is reinstated, vets cannot use any OCQ(V)s for which the expired qualification is a prerequisite, even if the other OCQ(V)s are still current.
13. On completion of the revalidation of the relevant OCQ(V), the vet must inform the APHA OV team, who will then update their OV status from 'suspended' to 'authorised'.
14. If the revalidation is not completed by the new deadline the OV status will be expired and the full course will be required in order for OV status to be reinstated.
15. Vets can choose to take the **full** course at any time in order to regain authorisation for the expired qualification. The APHA OV Team do not need to be contacted in this case as these courses can be accessed directly through the Improve International OV training website at all times.

Further Information

APHA OV Team – CSCOneHealthOVTeam@apha.gov.uk or 02080 261094.

Improve International OV training website – <https://www.improve-ov.com/home/>

Issued: 07 May 2019