



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 18/21

Update of the OCQ(V) export courses to incorporate the requirements agreed following the UK's Exit from the EU.

Date issued: 27 May 2021

Purpose

To notify OV's of the current status of the updates to the OCQ(V) export courses to include the new requirements for animal or animal-related product exports from the UK into the EU.

To inform OV's that, in some cases, extensions to the revalidation deadlines of these courses will be applied, to ensure that OV's have a reasonable period of time to complete the revised courses.

Background

Following the end of the EU Exit transition period on 1 January 2021, the UK has been finalising agreements with the EU regarding GB exports into EU countries and Northern Ireland. The details have been published in various Briefing Notes (link below) periodically as they have been agreed.

The OCQ(V) export courses are being updated to include the new requirements. Improve International will notify OV's approximately one week in advance of any updates being made to courses they are already enrolled on.

OV's who currently hold exports qualifications and who are not yet due to revalidate will be notified after relevant course changes have taken place so that they are able to review the updated content. These OV's will have access to the new course material but will not need to retake the exam.

The OCQ(V) - EX (Exports General), OCQ(V) - CA (Companion Animals) and OCQ(V) - FA (Farm Animal Exports) courses and their associated revalidation courses have already been updated. The OCQ(V) -PX (Product Exports) main course has also been updated (on 24 May 2021) and the PX revalidation course will be updated on 1 June 2021.

For these courses, there will be no further changes to the revalidation due date.

The updates to the following courses are in progress and will follow as soon as possible:

- OCQ(V) - AX (Avian Exports) and AX revalidation(r)
- OCQ(V) - EQ (Equine Exports) and EQr
- OCQ(V) - UX (Ungulate Exports) and UXr
- OCQ(V) - GX (Germinal Products Exports) and GXr
- OCQ(V) - SX (Small Animal Exports) and SXr

For OV's whose revalidation deadline for AXr, EQr, UXr, GXr or SXr falls within the three months after the updated course goes live, an extension will be applied to the deadline. The new deadline will be set for three months from the release date of the updated course. Revalidation reminder emails will be paused until the new date is known.

Any amendments to deadlines will be automatically applied and individual OV's will be notified by Improve International when this is completed.

Action

All OV's are encouraged to review the updated training material as soon as possible after it is made available.

OV's whose window for revalidation is open for PX, AX, EQ, UX, GX or SX are advised to await the release of the updated courses prior to revalidating and then to revalidate at their earliest opportunity once the updated content is available.

If any OV has a revalidation deadline for one of these courses which is due before the release of the updated course, they can request an extension to the deadline using the TR588 application form (see below).

Further Information

OV Briefing Note: <http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/briefing%20notes.htm>

TR588: <http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/ov/TR588.pdf>

Improve International: <https://www.improve-ov.com/home/>

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