



## APHA Briefing Note 19/18

### Notification of Extensions to Revalidation Deadlines for Specific OCQ(V) Qualifications

#### Purpose

1. To notify OV's of amendments to the revalidation deadlines for OCQ(V) qualifications.
2. This is applicable to all OV's holding the OCQ(V) Tuberculin Testing (TT) qualification and to OV's with Grandfather Rights due to revalidate the OCQ(V) Small Animal Exports (SX), Companion Animals (CA), Exports General (EX) and Essential Skills (ES) qualifications by 31 March 2019.

#### Background

##### OCQ(V) - TT

3. In 2017 OV's with Grandfather Rights completed the Tuberculin Testing OCQ(V) -TT revalidation qualification.
4. The next block of Grandfather Rights revalidation is due to be completed by 31 March 2019 due to the 2 year revalidation interval.
5. There has been widespread feedback that the 2 year revalidation interval is too short and that it should be increased.
6. The revalidation deadline also clashes with revalidation of other qualifications and many OV's may need to complete several qualifications in a short space of time. It also occurs at a busy time of year for many farm animal practitioners.
7. As per previous communications, APHA are carrying out a review of the OCQ(V) training including TB. The revalidation interval is under consideration as part of that review.

8. In the interim it has been agreed that all OV's holding the OCQ(V) - TT qualification will be given an extension of one year to their existing revalidation deadline. This will apply to all OV's due to revalidate from 3 December 2018. OV's who have already completed their second revalidation will have a year extension to their next revalidation date.
9. The deadline for **enrolment** will be extended by 11 months. For OV's with a current enrolment deadline of 31 March 2019, the new date will be 28 Feb 2020
10. The deadline for **completion** will be extended by 12 months. For OV's with a current completion deadline of 31 March 2019, the new date will be 31 March 2020.
11. Improve International will reset all the revalidation deadlines and notify the relevant OV's.
12. During the extended time OV's can choose to revalidate at any time.
13. The next revalidation date will be calculated from the date the revalidation is completed which is when the declarations are signed. This will allow OV's to reset their next revalidation date at a time of year most convenient for them.
14. Any future change to the renewal interval will be agreed following the current review. Once the next revalidation is completed all OV's will then move to the revalidation interval agreed as a result of the review.

#### Other Qualifications – OCQ(V) SX, CA, EX, ES

15. The deadline for revalidation of these qualifications currently clashes with EU exit, when there will potentially be a period of uncertainty around exports from the UK. Some OV's will also be required to complete more than one revalidation course during the same window.
16. It is considered that these qualifications should not be unduly delayed as Grandfather Rights OV's have not previously completed these qualifications. APHA needs to ensure the quality of OV's delivering export work.

#### For OCQ(V) CA and SX :

17. As CA and SX relate to specific areas of export it is not considered appropriate to permit a long extension to the current revalidation deadline. However a short extension to the completion date will be implemented.
18. The deadline for **enrolment** will remain as 31 March 2019
19. The deadline for **completion** will be extended to 30 April 2019 (one month)

For OCQ(V) ES and EX :

20. The risk of delaying these general qualifications for a short period is considered lower as OVs will have revalidated in a specific discipline in order to carry out the export work e.g. OVs exporting products will have already completed the OCQ(V) - PX qualification in 2018.
21. The deadline for **enrolment** will be extended to 31 May 2019 (2 months)
22. The deadline for **completion** will be extended to 30 June 2019 (3 months)
23. The future revalidation intervals for CA/SX and ES/EX will then be calculated from the new completion deadline dates to keep the windows separate, as long as completed within the window.
24. Improve International will reset all the revalidation deadlines and notify the relevant OVs.

#### Action for OVs

25. To complete the required OCQ(V) revalidation qualifications by the new deadline dates.
26. OVs are encouraged to complete the revalidations at the earliest opportunity and avoid delaying until the deadline dates.
27. For those not wishing to revalidate any qualification, to confirm this at the earliest opportunity on the Improve International website, before the qualification expires.

#### Summary of New Requirements for OVs

28. For those with a current revalidation deadline of 31 March 2019:

<b>OCQ(V)</b>	<b>New Enrolment Deadline</b>	<b>New Completion Deadline</b>	<b>New Window for Completion</b>
TT	28 Feb 2020	31 March 2020	1 Feb 2019 - 31 March 2020
CA	31 March 2019	30 April 2019	1 Feb 2019 – 30 April 2019
SX	31 March 2019	30 April 2019	1 Feb 2019 – 30 April 2019
EX	31 May 2019	30 June 2019	1 Feb 2019 – 30 June 2019
ES	31 May 2019	30 June 2019	1 Feb 2019 – 30 June 2019

29. For all OVs holding the OCQ(V) TT, the new enrolment deadline will be set 11 months from your current deadline and the completion date 12 months from your current deadline.

## **Further Information**

Links to Improve Website – <https://www.improve-ov.com/home/>

APHA OV Team - [CSCOneHealthOVTeam@apha.gov.uk](mailto:CSCOneHealthOVTeam@apha.gov.uk)

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