



APHA Briefing Note 26/19

Temporary Unavailability of Official Controls Qualification Training for Official Veterinarians in the Event of a No-Deal EU Exit.

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) that in the event of the UK leaving the EU on 31 October 2019 without a deal, there will be a requirement to update several of the OCQ(V) courses.
2. Updated courses have been prepared in readiness for Day 1 of EU Exit and will be implemented if required. Access to all OCQ(V) courses will be unavailable for a period of time whilst the changeover to the updated courses is being implemented.
3. OVs who have completed any of the affected courses prior to the update are not required to complete the course again or resit the exam. However, they will have access to the updated course material for reference.

Background

4. In preparation for the possibility that the UK may leave the EU without a deal on 31 October, amended versions of several of the OCQ(V) training courses have been developed which reflect any new requirements. This is particularly relevant, though not exclusively, to the export qualifications.
5. These updated courses are ready to be implemented and Improve International Ltd. are preparing to introduce them on 1 November, should the need arise.
6. Whilst every effort is being made to minimise disruption during the transition to the updated courses, there will be a period of time when all the courses will be unavailable to access.
7. In the event that a no-deal exit is confirmed, the learning platform (Moodle) will be not be available from 02:00 on Thursday 31 October until the morning of Friday 1 November.
8. OVs will have continued access to the website (www.improve-ov.com) during this time and can continue to enrol on the courses. Enrolment will not be affected by the downtime.

9. Courses that will be updated are:

- OCQ(V) - ESr (Essential Skills revalidation)
- OCQ(V) - EX (Exports General)
- OCQ(V) - EXr (Exports General revalidation)
- OCQ(V) - SX (Small Animal Exports)
- OCQ(V) - SXr (Small Animal Exports revalidation)
- OCQ(V) - CA (Companion Animals)
- OCQ(V) - CAr (Companion Animals revalidation)
- OCQ(V) - AX (Avian Exports)
- OCQ(V) - AXr (Avian Exports revalidation)
- OCQ(V) - EQ (Equine Exports)
- OCQ(V) - EQr (Equine Exports revalidation)
- OCQ(V) - GX (Germinal Products Exports)
- OCQ(V) - GXr (Germinal Products Exports revalidation)
- OCQ(V) - PX (Product Exports)
- OCQ(V) - PXr (Product Exports revalidation)
- OCQ(V) - UX (Ungulate Exports)
- OCQ(V) - UXr (Ungulate Exports revalidation).

10. If an affected course is started but not completed before the downtime, it will be necessary for OVs to repeat some of the sections in the updated course before they can proceed through to the online examination.

11. OVs are therefore advised where possible to complete the online learning sections of affected courses by 02:00 on 31 October if they have already started them or wait until the learning platform becomes available again on the morning of Friday 1 November to start an updated course.

12. Where an OV has completed the online learning section of a course before 02:00 on 31 October it will be possible to take their online exam during the downtime. Case logs/certification exercises can also be uploaded during this time.

13. The following courses will not be affected by the change but OVs still will not be able to access them while the updates are being completed:

- OCQ(V) - ES (Essential Skills)
- OCQ(V) - TT (Tuberculin Testing)
- OCQ(V) - TTr (Tuberculin Testing revalidation)
- OCQ(V) - Cymorth - TB
- OCQ(V) - SS (Statutory Surveillance)
- OCQ(V) - SSr (Statutory Surveillance revalidation)

14. OVs who have completed any of the affected courses prior to 02:00 on 31 October will have access to the updated course material as soon as the learning platform becomes available again on the morning of 1 November but are not required to complete the course again or resit the exam.

Further Information

15. If you have any queries please contact:

- Improve International at enquiries@improve-ov.com
- APHA OV Team at CSCOneHealthOVTeam@apha.gov.uk.

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