



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 27/21

Introduction of a watermark to APHA Laboratory testing reports - Update

Date issued: 28 June 2021

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians that APHA will be using a watermark on all laboratory test reports for Laboratory Testing (LT) and Rabies (RAB) submissions to Weybridge.

Background

2. Further to APHA briefing note 21/21 regarding the introduction of a watermark onto laboratory test reports for LT and RAB submissions to help combat the risk of fraudulent reports, this update is to advise from 1st July all of these reports will carry the watermark.
3. As part of the introduction of the watermark we have also removed the electronic signatures on reports, and reports will now only contain the names of the Authorising Officer who is releasing the report.
4. Example 'dummy' reports are attached to show you how the watermark will look on the reports. The placement has been designed to cover the areas that are most often changed in altered reports.

Action

5. The watermark is being introduced as an additional tool to help prevent fraudulent activity and OVs are still required to validate test reports as set out in the briefing note 06/21.

6. OVs are encouraged to report back to APHA on any issues or concerns regarding the new watermark.

Further Information

- Briefing Note
 - <http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/ov/Briefing-Note-2121.pdf>
 - <http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/ov/Briefing-Note-0621.pdf>
- Example Reports
 - [Report 1](#)
 - [Report 2](#)
- Contact Details for feedback - APHA OV Team - CSCOneHealthOVTeam@apha.gov.uk