



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 29/20

OVs who fail to facilitate bovine TB testing on-farm audits

Date issued: 09 September 2020

Purpose

To remind all Official Veterinarians (OVs) holding the Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) – Tuberculin Testing (OCQ(V) – TT) that they are responsible for compliance with the required on-farm auditing of TB testing and that failure to facilitate an audit can result in suspension or revocation of OV status. Also to notify OVs that APHA is implementing a new process from 10th September whereby failure to facilitate an audit will result in written notification from APHA of a deadline by which the audit must be completed.

Background

In order to ensure that the TB testing is delivered to the required standards and provide assurances that Official Veterinary instructions provided by APHA are being followed, there is a requirement for on-farm TB testing audits to be carried out. This requirement can be found in the 'Policy for Authorisation of Official Veterinarians (OVs) in Great Britain – OV13' (link below). The required audits may be carried out by APHA and in England and Wales also by the Veterinary Delivery Partners (VDPs). To assist in the arrangement of audits OVs are required to provide information regarding when and where they will be testing on particular dates and times and to ensure that any change to that information is updated. Failure to provide this information prevents audits from being completed and there have been instances where OVs have failed to undergo an on-farm TB test audit.

Action

All OVs must ensure that accurate information is provided regarding the tests that they intend to complete and to update that information if the arrangements change. This information must be provided via Sam or, if the OV is not an authorised Sam user, by completing a TB notification template (TB216).

From 10th September an OV who repeatedly fails to facilitate an audit will receive a letter from APHA stating a deadline for completion of a TB audit. This will be set at four months from the date of the letter. Failure to undergo audit before this deadline will result in suspension of the OV's OCQ(V)-TT authorisation, other than in exceptional circumstances. An audit will then be required before the authorisation can be re-instated.

Further Information

If you need any further clarifications with regard to the above please contact the APHA OV team on 0208 026 1094 or CSCOneHealthOVTeam@apha.gov.uk.

Link to the Policy for Authorisation of Official Veterinarians (OVs) in Great Britain – OV13 - <http://apha.defra.gov.uk/external-operations-admin/library/documents/sitewide/OV13.pdf>