



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 34/21

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

Date issued: 02 August 2021

Purpose

To provide further notification to 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

This Briefing Note supersedes APHA Briefing Note 18/21, which was issued by APHA on 27 May 2021 to notify OV's of the status of the updates to the OCQ(V) export courses and of extensions that would be applied to revalidation deadlines to permit OV's to complete the updated revalidation courses.

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.

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

OVs 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 OVs 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), OCQ(V) - FA (Farm Animal Exports) and OCQ(V) - PX (Product Exports) courses and their associated revalidation courses have already been updated.

The OCQ(V) - EQ (Equine Exports) main course and the EQ revalidation course will be updated on 9 August 2021. All OVs who hold the EQ qualification and are due to revalidate within three months of the course release will have their revalidation due date automatically moved to the 9 November 2021, giving them three months to complete the updated course.

The updates to the following courses are nearing completion and will follow as soon as possible:

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

All OVs who hold the AX, UX, GX or SX qualifications and are due to revalidate before 31 December 2021 will have their revalidation due date automatically moved to 31 December 2021. For these courses, revalidation reminder emails will be paused until the updated course is released.

All amendments to deadlines will be automatically applied and individual OVs will be notified by Improve International when this is completed.

Action

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

OVs whose window for revalidation is open for EQ, AX, 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.

Further Information

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

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

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

APHA OV Team: CSCOneHealthOVTeam@apha.gov.uk

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