



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 13/24

# Introduction of two new OCQ(V)s – Zoo Animal Exports (ZX) and Laboratory Animal Exports (LX)

Date issued: 04 April 2024

## Purpose

To notify OV's of the imminent introduction of the new zoo animal export and laboratory animal export courses, OCQ(V) - ZX and OCQ(V) - LX.

To advise existing OV's who hold one or more qualifications solely for the purpose of export certification from zoos or laboratories that there will be the option to transfer to these new qualifications from their existing OCQ(V)s.

Relevant qualifications may include:

- OCQ(V) - SX (Small Animal Exports)
- OCQ(V) - UX (Ungulate Exports)
- OCQ(V) - AX (Avian Exports)
- OCQ(V) - GX (Germinal Products Exports)
- OCQ(V) - PX (Product Exports)

To advise OV's who are due to revalidate one or more of the above OCQ(V)s on or before 31<sup>st</sup> July of the process for them to transfer to OCQ(V) - ZX and/or LX if they wish to do so.

## Background

Following a full review of the OCQ(V) courses in 2018, it was agreed that two new courses would be introduced for OV's who provide export certification for animals and their products from zoological collections and laboratories. The introduction of these two courses has been delayed due to the extensive changes brought about by EU exit and the need to divert resources to manage those changes.

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However, following extensive collaboration with a number of OV's who have experience of export certification from zoos and laboratories, these two courses are nearing completion. Final checks are underway and APHA hope to have release dates very soon. APHA will notify OV's once the courses are available for enrolment.

Once these courses are available for enrolment, eligible OV's will only be required to hold the OCQ(V)s - ES, EX and either ZX or LX to be able to provide export certification for a range of commodities from zoos or laboratories. They will no longer be required to hold multiple export qualifications for this purpose (alternatively, they can maintain their current export qualifications if they choose to do so).

The following OV's will be eligible to transfer to the new courses should they choose to do so:

- registered veterinary surgeons who are authorised to complete exports from zoos and those who are training to do so.
- registered veterinary surgeons who are authorised to complete exports from laboratories and those who are training to do so.

In order to be authorised under the ZX qualification a veterinary surgeon must also be:

- either currently employed by or contracted to provide veterinary services to a UK zoo licensed premises
- and/or hold a post-graduate qualification that is directly relevant to zoological veterinary medicine.

Eligible OV's wishing to transfer to one or both of these new courses must complete the full OCQ(V) - ZX and/or LX course as these are completely new courses and cover a wide range of material. It is essential that OV's who are granted authorisation under these new OCQ(V)s have covered all of the material within these courses.

The OCQ(V)s - ES and EX will be a pre-requisite for each of these courses. For OV's that already hold these qualifications, there will be no requirement to complete the ES and EX again – access to these courses will be maintained after the transfer.

ZX and LX revalidation courses will be introduced at a later date; these will not be required until four years after the new courses are introduced. ES and EX revalidation will be included in the revalidation of each of these new qualifications.

To note that any OV who also wishes to carry out export health certification outside of the zoo/lab animal establishments will need to maintain their relevant current qualifications. The zoo and lab courses cannot be used to certify consignments outside of these establishments. The only exception is for zoo vets who can also certify exotic pets with ZX.

For clarity, the scope of each course is included in the Annex below:

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## Action

**If an eligible OV is due to revalidate one of the relevant qualifications before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024, they should contact the APHA OV team (see contact details below) before their revalidation due date to discuss possible options that will allow them to transfer to ZX and/or LX once the courses are available for enrolment.**

Eligible OVs wishing to transfer to one of the new OCQ(V)s but who are not due to revalidate one of their relevant OCQ(V)s before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024 should wait until the new courses are available for enrolment before taking any action.

Once they are available, OVs will be able to enrol on the new courses at any time. Any OCQ(V)s that they no longer require will be suspended when the revalidation deadline is reached and will then be expired after a further 6 months. Alternatively, OVs can contact the APHA OV team to request that OCQ(V)s that they no longer require are expired immediately. This will stop any further email communications related to that qualification.

OVs must note that if the authorisation of an existing OCQ(V) is suspended or expired prior to authorisation under the ZX or LX courses, they must not carry out any work that requires authorisation of that specific OCQ(V). If an authorisation is expired and no other qualification is held for which ES and EX are pre-requisites, the ES and EX will also be expired. Once the ES and EX are expired, it will be necessary to complete them in full prior to completing the ZX or LX course. They will not be automatically reinstated to allow the ZX or LX to be completed.

New OVs wishing to enrol on the ZX and/or LX qualification must first complete the full ES and EX courses.

## Further Information

APHA OV Team:

Email: [CSCOneHealthOVTeam@apha.gov.uk](mailto:CSCOneHealthOVTeam@apha.gov.uk)

Improve International OV team:

Tel: 0330 202 0380

Email: [enquiries@improve-ov.com](mailto:enquiries@improve-ov.com)

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## Annex – Course Scope

### ZX scope:

*Includes* the export of:

- Live “zoo animals”, defined (for the purpose of this training course) as:
  - Animals (including wild animals) which are exported as part of or intended for conservation or education purposes and/or
  - Animals which originate from or are intended for an establishment that is licensed or approved as a zoo by the relevant competent authority.
- Export of all animal products from zoo animals, as defined above, including germinal products and animal by-products from zoo animals (e.g. blood/tissue samples).
- Export of exotic pets (including all species apart from those excluded below).

*Excludes* the export of:

- Domestic dogs, cats and ferrets
- Live equines as companion animals or for sport or competition
- Commercial exports of domestic animals for breeding, production or slaughter
- Animal products (germinal products or animal by-products) which do not originate from zoo animals as defined above.
- Products of Animal Origin (POAO) for human consumption (i.e. food products).

### LX scope:

*Includes* the export of commercially traded:

- Live animals which are from or intended for scientific research at an Establishment or Place Other than Licenced Establishment (POLE) (under A(SP)A). Commonly transported species would include mice, rats, rabbits, dogs, non-human primates, and zebra fish.
- Products from these animals such as:

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- Germinal products (e.g. murine sperm or embryos, avian, amphibia or zebra fish eggs) in a lab setting (not standard farm practice, but includes setting up new and expanding previously established colonies).
- Animal by-products (e.g. animal tissues/blood/fluids/faeces for diagnostic or scientific research purposes)

*Excludes* the export of:

- Live animals where animals are not intended for scientific research e.g.
  - Export of live zoo or exotic animal for conservation or education purposes including their germinal products
  - Commercial exports of domestic animals for breeding, production or slaughter (unless breeding for scientific research purposes)
  - Non-commercial animals (e.g. pet/companion animals or live equines as companion animals or for sport/competition)
- Animal by-products, unless these are being used for scientific research purposes.
- Products of Animal Origin (POAO) for human consumption (i.e. food products)

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