



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 45/25

# Updated Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) Handbook Published

**Date issued: 28 November 2025**

## Purpose

To notify Official Veterinarians (OVs) of recent updates to the [Poultry Health Scheme \(PHS\) handbook](#) and ensure they are aware of the revised guidance.

## Background

The PHS facilitates the export of poultry and hatching eggs by ensuring high standards of health and biosecurity. OVs play a key role in inspecting PHS premises and certifying compliance. To support this work, the [PHS handbook](#) has been updated to reflect and clarify current requirements and procedures.

## What's New or Changed

A revised version of the [PHS handbook](#) is now available. Key updates include:

- New guidance for egg distribution centres
- Clarity on testing requirements for newly approved flocks and the 6-week wait period
- Clarity on biosecurity, routine testing, record keeping and clinical examination
- A new summary of testing schedules

The updated handbook is available on the [Poultry Health Scheme Handbook page](#) on [GOV.UK](#).

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.

## Action

All OV's involved in PHS inspections, should:

- Review the updated handbook in full
- Familiarise themselves with the revised inspection and certification procedures
- Ensure their inspection practices align with the updated guidance

## Further Information

For further questions or feedback, please contact the Customer Service Centre – One Health Team within Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA):

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