



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 10/26

Introduction of Automatic Notifications for Updates to OV, ATT and ABS Instructions and Documents

Date issued: 19 March 2026

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs), Approved Tuberculin Testers (ATTs) and Approved Blood Samplers (ABSs) that a new notification system has been introduced for OV, ATT and ABS instruction and document updates. The instructions and documents are located on the Improve International websites here: [Official Veterinarian Instructions](#) and [AHP Instructions](#)

Background

2. From 23 March 2026, when any changes are made to OV, ATT and ABS instructions and documents, OVs, ATTs and ABSs who are authorised under the relevant work area and individuals enrolled on the relevant Official Controls Qualification (OCQ) will receive an automatic email notifying them of the update.
3. All existing OVs, ATTs and ABSs will be subscribed to the new notification process for the work areas for which they are authorised and can expect to receive email notifications. Anyone enrolled on an OCQ but not yet authorised, will also be subscribed. There will be an option to unsubscribe from one or more work areas.
4. When enrolling on an OCQ for a new work area all candidates will be informed of the notification process and given the option to unsubscribe.
5. OVs, ATTs and ABSs must be aware that it is a requirement, under the relevant policy for authorisation, to be up-to-date with all aspects of the work relevant to individual official controls authorisations. By choosing to unsubscribe from these notifications, an OV, ATT or ABS must accept responsibility for ensuring that they adopt a different strategy for accessing any updates to instructions and documents promptly.

Further Information

If you encounter difficulties with unsubscribing from the notifications (should you choose to do so), please contact Improve International:

Email: enquiries@improve-ov.com

Telephone: 0330 202 0380

Any other queries relating to this briefing note should be sent to the APHA OV Team:

Email: CSCOneHealthOVTeam@apha.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 8026 1094

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