

TR540 The Approved Veterinary Supervisor role

August 2020

1. Qualifications for the Approved Veterinary Supervisor (AVS) role:

- the AVS must be an authorised Official Veterinarian (OV) and hold the Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) - Tuberculin Testing (OCQ(V) - TT)
- the AVS must have had a fully compliant Veterinary Delivery Partner (VDP), training provider or APHA audit within the two years prior to accepting the AVS role. Where there have been multiple audits within that period the last audit must have been fully compliant. The OV's own practical assessment is not considered an audit for this purpose
- subsequently the AVS must comply with OV audit requirements

2. These same qualifications also apply to the deputy AVS role.

3. The AVS has accountability for Approved Tuberculin Testers (ATTs) under their supervision. The AVS must ensure that the ATT meets the requirements for the role. The AVS is responsible for the following requirements:

- To ensure eligibility of the ATT for enrolment, the ATT:
 - is at least 18 years of age
 - has at least GCSEs or equivalent in English and Mathematics and either a third GCSE in a Science or Food Production subject or has three years of experience working in a Government regulatory role
 - has had identification and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) security checks completed with satisfactory outcomes prior to commencing any activities on behalf of government
 - has had at least six months livestock experience
- To ensure the ATT is aware of and understands their responsibility regarding Conflicts of Interest with regard to carrying out activities on behalf of Government and in particular TB testing.
- To provide Health and Safety (H&S) training and ensuring that the ATT understands their responsibilities for H&S on-farm and in particular whilst carrying out a TB test.
- Training of the ATT once conditional authorisation to test has been granted.
- Direct supervision of the ATT whilst performing TB testing during the period of conditional authorisation to test i.e. whilst training.
- Confirmation that the ATT has met the training requirements for the numbers of animals tested and reactions seen, once minimum numbers are met.

- Attendance at the practical assessment of the ATT. This may be delegated to the deputy AVS.
- Continued supervision of the ATT once full authorisation to test has been granted. This does not require routine AVS presence on-farm.
- Support for the ATT at all times including but not limited to:
 - guidance and if necessary attendance at any test where the ATT reports a H&S issue or incident
 - attendance at any TB test in the event of challenge of results by the owner/keeper
 - attendance at any TB test to examine any cattle for which the ATT reports suspicion of disease or referral to APHA if appropriate
 - guidance and if necessary attendance at any test where the ATT reports animal welfare concerns
 - attendance at any test in which the ATT reports suspicion of fraudulent activities
- Interpretation of the test results of any reactors or IRs whilst the ATT remains on-farm other than in exceptional circumstances where communications are impossible. Where communication on-farm is not possible the interpretation of results must be done as soon as possible after the ATT leaves the premises. The AVS is not expected to attend the farm other than where issues arise that cannot be resolved.
- To check and sign off all tests carried out by the ATT and submit the results to APHA.
- To complete an on-farm assessment of the testing of at least 20 animals at TT1 and TT1 between four and six months after the ATT's full authorisation is granted. The results will be held on the ATT training record and available for APHA review. Failure to complete the assessment and update the training record with the outcome will result in suspension or expiry of the ATT authorisation.
- The number of ATTs under the supervision of any single AVS is capped at only one ATT in training per AVS at any time and no more than two ATTs at any given time. At any time an AVS can therefore have:
 - one ATT in training plus one authorised ATT or
 - two authorised ATTs

The AVS can also act as a deputy for other ATTs simultaneously.
- An ATT may be required to move to another participating practice during the training period to meet the requirements for numbers of cattle and/or reaction types. A temporary second AVS or deputy may need to be nominated for this purpose and that AVS may already be supervising other ATTs.
- The primary AVS must nominate a deputy AVS who will be responsible for the ATT in their absence. The primary AVS will remain accountable for the ATT but the deputy AVS will be responsible when the role is delegated to them in periods of absence. The AVS must ensure that the deputy AVS is aware of their responsibilities in this role. A second deputy may be nominated for each ATT.

- A list of AVSs and deputies is held by APHA for monitoring and audit purposes. Performance of veterinary supervisors will be monitored and audits targeted where required.

The qualifications and requirements for an AVS also apply to the deputy AVS role.

- In exceptional unforeseen circumstances when an ATT has already completed day one of a test and neither the AVS or deputy AVS are available on the reading day due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. due to leave and sickness), a delegated OV with the OCQ(V) - TT can provide the supervision for the particular test to enable it to be completed. APHA must be notified if neither the AVS nor deputy AVS are available and the test is to be completed under the supervision of a delegated OV.
- In the event that the AVS or deputy identifies any risks that compromise the ability of the ATT to perform the role or that compromise disease control, appropriate action must be taken and APHA notified without delay. This includes any conflicts of interest that are identified.



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For information on how we handle personal data visit www.gov.uk and search Animal and Plant Health Agency Personal Information Charter.

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.