

Requirements for the Approved Tuberculin Tester Qualification

1. Minimum age qualification at initial application must be 18 years.
2. Identification and security checks will be carried out prior to enrolment for the training (The Approved Veterinary Supervisor (AVS) will be responsible for confirming that this is completed).
3. Minimum requirement will be either:
 - three GCSEs or equivalent qualifications in Mathematics, English and in a Science Subject or Food Production or
 - three years performance in a Government regulatory role e.g. Local Authority (LA) Inspector or Environmental Health Officer
4. A minimum of six months previous livestock handling experience will be required.
5. The Approved Tuberculin Tester (ATT) must work as part of a veterinary led team. They may be either directly employed by the practice or under sub-contract to the practice.
6. A Conflict of Interest declaration will be required at enrolment.
7. The online accredited course The Official Controls Qualification (Animal Health Paraprofessional) – Approved Tuberculin Tester (OCQ(AHP) - ATT) qualification must be gained before authorisation to carry out any TB testing will be granted.
8. The theory training will be completed with an examination which will need to be invigilated by a Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (MRCVS).
9. Conditional authorisation to test under supervision from APHA for a maximum of six months will be granted following successful completion of the online course and examination and the confirmation of an AVS and deputy/ies on the training record.
10. An AVS must be nominated who must be an MRCVS with a current OCQ(V) - TT qualification. One AVS will be able to supervise a maximum of two ATTs, but only one of which can be in training at any time. A deputy AVS must also be nominated with the option for a second.
11. The AVS will be required to confirm an understanding of their role and responsibilities as detailed on the training record and declare their own position including a successful audit within the last two years with no breaches. The AVS must accept responsibility and declare that they are supervising no more than the maximum permitted number of ATTs. An option for additional supervisors will be included for each candidate, to cover the possibility that the candidate may need to move to another area to see test reactions in order to complete the requirements.
12. Candidates will be required to test a minimum of 500 animals in at least ten herds under the direct and continuous supervision of an AVS. This must include some beef and some dairy type animals. The maximum number of cattle that may contribute to that number at any one test will be 100 (ATTs will be permitted to test more than 100 animals in any test at the discretion of the AVS but only 100 will count towards the final required total number of cattle). The candidate will be granted conditional access to the required IT system for the recording and submission of TB tests.
13. Each candidate will be required to see a minimum of 80 skin reactions to the test and within that a certain number of different types of reaction - minimum 20 oedematous, 20 circumscribed. These can be observed on cattle in the tests that they carry out, that have been TB tested by another authorised officer, as long as the ATT has seen and recorded them or a combination of both. ATTs will be permitted to move to another participating practice under the supervision of another AVS if necessary to meet these requirements.

14. Whilst training, candidates will need to be under constant direct supervision, i.e. physical presence of AVS on farm whilst testing with no exceptions.
15. An AVS will be required to sign off on the training requirement for the numbers tested and reactions seen, once numbers are met.
16. Candidates will need to enrol and 'pay' for a practical assessment. This can be completed once the ATT is considered competent by the AVS and the minimum number of animals have been tested and reactions seen. The assessment should be booked as far in advance of the likely required date as possible.
18. A practical assessment carried out by an independent assessor using the APHA contracted training provider will be required. Candidates will need to be assessed both on the injection day and reading day of the test (TT1 and TT2).
19. The AVS will need to be present at the practical assessment as the candidate will not be qualified to test alone at this stage (unlike a Veterinary Surgeon). Testing of a minimum of 30 cattle must be assessed. Group assessments will be acceptable i.e. more than one ATT with the same supervisor (or additional supervisors) being assessed at the same test. This will reduce the resource requirements and costs.
20. If the assessment is passed, full authorisation to test will be issued from APHA. Candidates will not be permitted to test alone until authorisation is received. Five working days must be allowed for full authorisation to be given.
21. If the candidate does not pass the assessment the supervisor will need to take over the test. APHA will decide on further action required which will depend on the reasons for failure.
22. The AVS must complete an on farm assessment of the testing of at least 20 animals at TT1 and TT2 between four and six months after the ATTs full authorisation is granted. The results will be held on the ATT training record and available for APHA review. Failure to complete the assessment will result in suspension or expiry of the ATT authorisation.
23. A full on farm audit must be carried out for all ATTs in the first twelve months following full authorisation by the VDP, APHA or the training provider. Failure to complete an audit will result in suspension or expiry of the authorisation.
24. Following the initial on farm audit the ATT must have an APHA, VDP or training provider audit at least once every two years. The ATT will have to provide evidence that at least thirty cattle have been tested in every two year interval.
25. APHA will continue to report on the performance of ATTs (and OVs) in terms of numbers of reactors, IRs and reactions identified against that expected. This will enable audits to be targeted to those not performing as expected.
26. Revalidation of the OCQ(AHP) - ATT will be required, with automatic expiry of the qualification if not completed. The revalidation requirements are:
 - Two years from the initial date of authorisation of the ATT
 - Thereafter every four years