Chapter 10
Operational Training

Section 1  OV training
Section 2  UAI training
Section 3  PIA training
Section 4  Wild game training
Section 5  Annexes
1. OV training

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Process and legal requirements
This guidance document details the process and the requirements to be fulfilled in order for a veterinarian to be appointed as an Official Veterinarian (OV) under Regulation (EC) 854/2004.

1.1.2 Eligibility for appointment as an OV
To be eligible for appointment as an OV, the candidate must:

- hold a veterinary degree (see topic 1.5 on ‘OVs from other countries’ regarding equivalent qualifications from other countries)
- be a member of the RCVS
- have successfully passed the theory examination at the end of a university OV course
- have successfully completed their practical probationary period and passed the assessment which is conducted at the end of the probationary period

1.1.3 OV role
The following summarises the main duties and responsibilities of an OV according to legal requirements. Reference: Regulation (EC) 854/2004, Chapter II, Articles 4 and 5:

- food chain information (FCI)
- ante-mortem inspection
- animal welfare
- post mortem inspection
- specified risk material and other animal by products
laboratory testing
health marking of carcases of domestic ungulates, farmed game mammals other than lagomorphs, and large wild game, as well as half carcases, quarters and cuts produced by cutting half-carcases into three wholesale cuts.

1.1.4 OV auditing tasks
Currently OVs do not carry out auditing tasks as these are performed by designated FSS Veterinary Auditors, however OVs will assist in collecting evidence on compliance of the systems below, which is used during audits and might undertake partial audits, unannounced inspections or inter-approval visits, as and when agreed with the Competent Authority. They must also gain auditing experience as part of their Probationary Period.

Audit of good hygiene practices and hazard analysis and HACCP based procedures:
- checks on FCI
- design and maintenance of premises
- pre operational, operational and post-operational hygiene
- personal hygiene
- training in hygiene and in work procedures
- pest control
- water quality
- temperature controls
- controls on food entering and leaving the establishment and any accompanying documentation
- verification that FBO applies HACCP based procedures continuously and properly
- verification of compliance with microbiological criteria
- verify application of the identification mark

1.1.5 OVs other tasks
- Communication of inspection results
- Decisions concerning FCI
- Decisions concerning live animals
- Decisions concerning animal welfare
- Decisions concerning meat
- Enforcement
- Supervision of MHIs carrying out official controls
1.2  The university course

1.2.1  Legal requirements
The competent authority may appoint as OVs, veterinarians who have passed a test meeting the requirements contained in Regulation (EC) 854/2004, Annex I, Section III, Chapter IV.

1.2.2  Theoretical syllabus
An OV must have an adequate knowledge of the following areas:

- National and Community legislation on veterinary public health, food safety, animal health, animal welfare and pharmaceutical substances
- principles of the common agricultural policy, market measures, export refunds and fraud detection (including the global context: World Trade Organisation, Codex Alimentarius, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE))
- essentials of food processing and food technology
- principles, concepts and methods of good manufacturing practice and quality management
- pre-harvest quality management (good farming practices)
- promotion and use of food hygiene, food related safety (good hygiene practices)
- principles, concepts and methods of risk-analysis
- principles, concepts and methods of HACCP, use of HACCP throughout the food production food chain
- prevention and control of food-borne hazards related to human health
- population dynamics of infection and intoxication
- diagnostic epidemiology
- monitoring and surveillance systems
- auditing and regulatory assessment of food safety management systems
- principles and diagnostic applications of modern testing methods
- information and communication technology as related to veterinary public health
- data-handling and applications of biostatistics
- investigations of outbreaks of food-borne diseases in humans
- relevant aspects concerning TSEs

1.2.3  Practical training subsequent to the university course
Once the candidate has passed the theoretical examination at the end of the OV university course, they must carry out practical training, for a minimum of
200 hours and finalise training within 12 months of completion of the OV course (for exemptions see 1.4.2 of this chapter). During this period the novice OV (NOV) works under the supervision of an existing OV.

1.2.4 Universities

The contact details for universities delivering OV courses are as follows:

Langford Continuing Education Unit
University of Bristol School of Veterinary Science
Langford House
Langford
Bristol
BS18 7DU
Tel: 0117 9289502
Fax: 01934 852170
Website: www.vetschool.bris.ac.uk
e-mail: langford-ce@bristol.ac.uk

University of Glasgow
School of Veterinary Medicine
464 Bearsden Road
Glasgow
G61 1QH
Tel: 0141 330 5700
Fax: 0141 330 2256
Website: www.gla.ac.uk/vet/cpd
e-mail: enquiries@vet.gla.ac.uk

1.2.5 University examination

After undertaking the university training course the veterinarian must pass a test to confirm knowledge of the subjects contained in the OV theoretical syllabus.

The Competent Authority may not require the candidate to complete the OV course, or certain parts of it, if it is satisfied that the candidate has acquired the required knowledge as part of:

- a veterinary degree
- though continuous professional development,
- as a result of a post graduate qualification
- past experience, for instance candidates with sufficient experience as an OV in other Member States
In any of the circumstances detailed above, and subject to agreement from the Competent Authority, the veterinarian may be permitted to complete only part of the modules, or none of them, but they MUST sit and pass all aspects of the exam. The candidate should contact the University for further information in relation to the specific arrangements for sitting the examination.

### 1.3 The probationary period

#### 1.3.1 Appointment as a Novice OV

Once the veterinarian has passed the university test and becomes a Novice Official Veterinarian (NOV), they should complete the form at Annex 2 in this Chapter – ‘Application for OV appointment and authorisation’ and their practice should send it to FSS Operations team at operations@fss.scot, along with a copy of the University certificate.

FSS Operations
4th Floor, Pilgrim House
Old Ford Road
Aberdeen, AB11 5RL
operations@fss.scot

FSS Operations Team will provide the NOV with:

- A letter of appointment from FSS, providing information regarding the probationary period and incorporating a schedule detailing OV practical experience requirements for the different types of establishments (Model letter in Annex 3)
- FSS OV authorisation

#### 1.3.2 Practical training

The legislation requires the OV to carry out practical training for a probationary period for at least 200 hours under the supervision of an existing OV before starting to work independently.

During their probationary period, the NOV needs to gain experience in all areas covered in the university training syllabus.

Additionally, they should develop knowledge and experience of:

- FSS working practices
- FSS IT systems and procedures (for example: OWS, SharePoint)
- FSS audit of FBO food safety management systems
The NOV must not personally conduct audits but should observe and assist with the audit process to develop their auditing skills and gain an understanding of the auditing procedures.

1.3.3 Supervision

The NOV must work under supervision of an OV (Supervisory OV (SOV)) during the probationary period. The veterinary contractor employing the NOV will nominate a supervisor.

Regular contact must be maintained between SOV and NOV. Both SOV and NOV must demonstrate that they have followed up the issues discussed between them (for example, by way of entries in the ‘Learning log and portfolio of experience’ – see Annex 4 to this chapter).

1.3.4 OV practical experience requirements

The NOV is responsible for ensuring that the visits and a minimum of 200 practical training hours in specific types of establishments have been met (see Annex 15 of this chapter). Although FSS takes a flexible approach with regards to the minimum number of training hours in specific establishments, it is mandatory that the hours in establishments listed on the ‘OV practical experience requirements’ (Appendix A of the letter of appointment) are met.

The NOV must keep a record of the total number of hours completed in each type of establishment as part of their ‘Learning log and portfolio experience’ (Annex 4).

The table below contains details of the establishments, species and minimum total hours that every NOV must complete during their probationary period.

It also provides details and suggestions on how the NOV will be able to achieve satisfactory learning processes on the specific requirements for these establishments, and how they will be able to gain the necessary knowledge in auditing food safety management systems.

For other types of establishment and the hours that the FSS strongly recommends, refer to annex 3 on ‘OV practical experience requirements’ in this chapter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Establishment</th>
<th>How NOV to gain knowledge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red meat slaughterhouse (60 hours minimum)</td>
<td>Work as SLH OV (if possible with co-located CP) under supervision of the SOV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(covering at least cattle, sheep and pigs slaughter, each with a minimum of 14 hours)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Red meat cutting plant (7 hours minimum)
Conduct UAIs and shadow audits in CP with an appointed Veterinary Auditor

### White meat slaughterhouse (42 hours minimum)
(covering at least poultry slaughter, with a minimum of 28 hours)
Work as SLH OV (if possible with co-located CP) under supervision of the SOV

### White meat cutting plant (7 hours minimum)
Conduct UAIs and shadow audits in CP with an appointed Veterinary Auditor

### Minced meat establishment (14 hours minimum)
Conduct UAIs and shadow audits in CP / processing plants with an appointed Veterinary Auditor

### Meat preparations establishment (14 hours minimum)
A total of minimum 49 hours should be achieved by adding up the time spent in the 3 categories to the left.

### Meat products establishment (14 hours minimum)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Establishment</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Minimum hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approved Game Handling Establishment (28 hours minimum)</td>
<td>Dressing of wild game: large: deer</td>
<td>14(*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>small: game birds, lagomorphs</td>
<td>7(*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cutting of wild game</td>
<td>7(*)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visits to a wild game establishment are not compulsory; however, if the NOV wishes to gain OV appointment in relation to wild game, they must complete the following activities and allocated compulsory hours (*):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cutting of wild game</td>
<td>7(*)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part of the statutory requirements regarding OV training and probationary period is that this training must include the auditing of Food Safety Management Systems.

In order to gain this experience, the NOV must accompany (shadow) a VA in at least 1 full FBO Audit of Food Safety Management Systems. This audit must cover as many activities as possible, and both slaughterhouse and cutting plant activities must be included.

The training must include the understanding of the audit process and familiarisation with audit outcomes and reporting systems.

### 1.3.5 NOV tasks

The NOV may conduct the following tasks in approved establishments:
• inspection tasks (ante mortem and post mortem)
• other checks (welfare, ABP, SRM, etc)

The NOV may charge when carrying out the above tasks by completing the relevant timesheet and code. However, when both the SOV and NOV are in attendance, the contractor may only charge for one person.

The NOV should accompany a VA auditing FBO procedures to ensure the NOV becomes familiar with the auditing systems and procedures, including writing the audit report.

The NOV must not personally conduct audits but may assist with the audit process (for example, by providing evidence collected by on-going supervision of FBO’s own procedures in slaughterhouses) to develop their auditing skills and gain an understanding of the auditing procedures.

1.3.6 Learning log and portfolio of experience

The NOV must ensure that their ‘Learning log and portfolio of experience’ is completed before the assessment of competence takes place.

**Note:** The ‘Learning log and portfolio of experience’ is provided to the NOV by their employing Contractor practice.

1.3.7 Essay

The NOV is required to choose a relevant topic and carry out a critical evaluation in relation to public health, animal health and/or animal welfare. The essay/report must contain a minimum of 800 words and a maximum of 1000 words.

In agreement with their contractor, the NOV must send their proposed report/essay topic title, along with a brief description (no more than 300 words) of its contents and structure to Operations team in FSS Aberdeen for agreement as to the relevance and suitability of the chosen topic: operations@fss.scot, copying in the relevant VM for the area.

The topic of the essay/report is to be approved by the VM within 10 working days. If the suggested topic is not deemed to be appropriate, the VM will give advice and guidance as to potential alternatives.
1.4 **Assessment of NOVs**

1.4.1 **Assessment request**

The NOV, in consultation with his employing contractor practice, is responsible for requesting the assessment of competence. This request should be made to the FSS Operations Team in Aberdeen.

The following documents should be sent when requesting the assessment:

- completed ‘Assessment request’ form (see annex 6)
- copies of ‘Certificates of practical experience’ (see annex 5)
- a copy of the essay/ report, with a copy of the notification from the VM confirming that the topic is acceptable

These should be sent at least 15 working days before the date on which the NOV expects to complete their OV Assessment. Do not send the original documents with the ‘Assessment request’ form.

1.4.2 **Assessment procedure**

Once the ‘Assessment request’ form has been received by the Operations Team and the practical experience requirements verified Operations/VM will notify the employing Contractor practice, which will allocate an assessor and arrange a date and venue for assessment.

As soon as the NOV has been offered a date for the assessment, they must submit a copy of their ‘Learning log and portfolio of experience’ and a copy of the completed essay/ report to the appointed assessor, to arrive at least 5 working days before the date of the assessment.

On the assessment day, the NOV needs to present the original completed ‘Learning log and portfolio of experience’ to the assessor.

The assessor will conduct the assessment through observation, questioning, exploration of actions taken, evidence of liaison with establishment teams(s) and discussions regarding the practical experiences that the NOV has undertaken during the probationary period.

The assessor may also ask questions in relation to the contents of the completed ‘Learning log and portfolio of experience’, the essay/ report and establishments other than the type at which the assessment is taking place.

The assessor will complete an ‘Assessment of practical application experience’ form, giving feedback regarding the evidence gathered during the assessment day. The outcome of the assessment will be stated; the individual will either have been successful or will require further experience.
In the case of the latter, guidance will be given as to the amount and type of further experience required.

**Note:** All NOVs must successfully complete their practical training and assessment within 12 months from the date they have first been deployed as OV following the OV course. Exemptions from this rule will have to be justified by the contractor and notified in advance to the area VM (through the contract meetings) and they will be accepted by FSS on a case by case basis.

The completed ‘Assessment of practical application experience’ must be sent by the assessor to the FSS Operations team who will notify the NOV of the outcome within 10 working days of receipt.

### 1.4.3 Successful NOV

After the completion and successful achievement of the assessment, the NOV will receive a letter of Confirmation of Appointment and a copy of the ‘Assessment of Practical Application Experience’ from the Operations team, confirming that they may begin working independently as an OV.

This letter will be copied to the employing contractor.

**Reference:** see annex 7 on ‘Assessment of practical application experience’ and annex 8 on ‘Official Veterinarian confirmation of appointment letter’ in this chapter.

### 1.4.4 Unsuccessful NOV

If after the completion of the assessment, the NOV has not shown the level of competence/experience required, FSS Operations will forward the completed ‘Assessment of Practical Application Experience’ to the NOV, within 5 working days of receipt.

The ‘Assessment of practical application experience’ will define the areas requiring further attention, and the suggested additional hours of experience required.

Arrangements to cover any skills gap(s) need to be organised between the NOV and their employing contractor.

The NOV should continue to complete the ‘Learning log and portfolio of experience’ during the additional hours required.

**Note:** Authorisation to work as an NOV will be withdrawn by FSS for any NOV who does not successfully complete the practical training and assessment within 12 months of completion of the OV course. Any delays in completing the required hours should be discussed in advance at a local
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level, through the contract meetings, between the contractor Area Manager and the FSS VM and OM.

When the NOV and SOV are satisfied that the further experience required from the initial assessment has been gained, a re-assessment should be requested following the process as defined in sub-top 1.4.1 on 'Assessment request' as defined above.

Notwithstanding the over-riding 12 month period as mentioned above, where a NOV has reached 400 hours within their probationary period and has not successfully passed the assessment, their future as a NOV with the FSS will be considered.

1.4.5 Appeal procedure

If a NOV disagrees with the outcome of an assessment, they should follow their employer's appeals procedure.

1.5 OVs from other countries

1.5.1 RCVS membership

OVs are required to be members of the RCVS to complete their practical in plant training.

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) will be able to confirm the equivalency of veterinary qualifications obtained in other member states.

1.5.2 OVs from other Member States

In accordance with Directive 89/48/EEC (Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications) and Section 1.2.2 of the Food Law Code of Practice (made under the Food Hygiene (E/S/W) Regulations 2006), an OV from another member state may feel it unnecessary to undertake the entire OV designation course and/or undertake the 200 hours practical NOV training, as they consider they have sufficient knowledge and experience of the requirements detailed in Regulation (EC) 854/2004, including domestic legislation and enforcement procedures.

1.5.3 OVs from Third Countries

Where the OV comes from a third country (outside the EU) they must confirm that their veterinary degree and OV designation are acceptable and equivalent to the similar qualifications issued in the EU. The RCVS can confirm its status.
1.5.4 **Required knowledge**

Regardless of when the OV qualified and depending on whether they have had a gap in their employment, the OV must be acquainted with:

- post 2006 EU hygiene legislation,
- domestic hygiene, animal health and welfare legislation
- associated EU, FSS and Scottish Government guidance documents
- knowledge of veterinary risk assessment and enforcement
- drafting and service of formal notices
- evidence gathering techniques

1.5.5 **OV University course exam**

All prospective GB OVs must sit and pass all aspects of the OV course university exam and will be required to provide the following documentary evidence:

- their veterinary degree
- post graduate qualification in veterinary public health
- documentary evidence of past experience

The candidate should contact a university providing OV courses if they wish to submit themselves direct for the examination.

If the OV fails the university examination, they may be required to sit the entire OV course before reassessment.

1.5.6 **Assessment of Competence**

On successful completion of the University examination, OVs are required to successfully undertake an in-plant assessment of competence, irrespective of whether they have been required to undertake the minimum 200 hours practical experience.

The OV must demonstrate experience of FSS documentary procedures and certification (for example, audit of FBOs, wild game, meat products, meat preparations, ready to eat etc). These documents will form part of the assessment.

Whilst experience of working as an OV in a country outside GB may be counted towards/ in lieu of the 200 hour practical experience period, such hours must be certified (by letters of reference or endorsement from the Competent Authority or governing body) and documented in the portfolio of practical experience.
Letters of reference should specify relevant information such as length of time working as an OV, type of premises, etc.

The OV must follow the procedure outlined in topic 1.4 on ‘Assessment of NOVs’ by submitting their portfolio of practical OV experience and essay to FSS, in order that an in-plant assessment may be arranged.

The OV must be able to demonstrate competence in line with the ‘Day one competencies’ detailed in annex 9.

If the OV passes the FSS assessment, they may be appointed as a fully qualified OV.

If the OV fails the FSS assessment, they will be required to undertake plant based practical experience in the areas where they failed to achieve the necessary standard as outlined by the assessor, then be re assessed.
2. UAI training for FSS MHIs

2.1 Introduction

To enable MHIs to undertake enforcement action whilst conducting unannounced inspections (UAIs), FSS requires the MHI to carry out theoretical and practical training for a probationary period as required.

During this period, the MHI will undertake at least 10 UAIs under the supervision (not necessarily accompanied by) of the Veterinary Manager (VM).

EC law indicates OAs ‘may only collect information regarding good hygienic practices and HACCP-based procedures’ in their role of assisting the OV in the specified audit and inspection tasks.

2.2 Classroom training and examination

An MHI must have adequate knowledge of the following areas when carrying out enforcement activity:

- knowledge of legislative requirements, such as minced meat/meat preparations temperature control limits
- essentials of food processing and food technology
- principles, concepts and methods of good manufacturing practice and quality management
- promotion and use of food hygiene, food related safety (good hygiene practices)
- principles, concepts and methods of risk-analysis
- principles, concepts and methods of HACCP, use of HACCP in food production and processing
- prevention and control of food-borne hazards related to human health
- assessment of food safety management systems
- investigations of outbreaks of food-borne diseases in humans
- relevant aspects concerning TSEs and ABP
- enforcement procedures

After undertaking the classroom training course the MHI will undertake tests to confirm knowledge of the subjects detailed above via a range of enforcement scenarios during the classwork. Once the MHI has passed the classroom enforcement scenarios they must carry out practical training and be assessed by a VM.

**Note:** MHIs must pass each classroom enforcement scenario in addition to the VM assessment before they can carry out enforcement during UAIs.

### 2.3 Probationary period: practical experience

During their probationary period, the MHI should gain experience in all areas covered in the training.

Additionally, they should develop knowledge of:

- FSS working practices
- FSS audit of FBO food safety management systems

The MHI must work under supervision of a VM during the probationary period. Regular contact must be maintained between VC and MHI.

Both VM and MHI must demonstrate that they have followed up the issues discussed between them (for example, by way of entries in action plans and portfolios of evidence created by the MHI - see topic 2.4 on ‘Portfolio experience’)

The VM is responsible for ensuring that the required 10 unannounced inspections, under their supervision, have been conducted by the MHI. This should include a minimum of 2 accompanied inspections.
2.4 Portfolio of experience

The MHI must maintain a portfolio which demonstrates appropriate experience.

An assessment of competence will take place at the end of the probationary period and the portfolio will be one of the main components of the assessment. It should therefore be completed as fully as possible, making sure that entries are made for areas where experience has been gained.

The MHI should demonstrate through their portfolio that all of the learning areas listed below are covered, including details of what has been found, discussed, researched, (for example, phone calls, liaison with other enforcement bodies, FBOs, other colleagues):

- environmental issues related to food production (including waste management)
- precautionary principle and consumer concerns
- principles of training of personnel working in the production chain
- an aptitude for multidisciplinary cooperation

These areas are incorporated in the MHI theoretical classroom training programme.

Performance evidence can include records of ‘live’ observations carried out by the MHI. These observations can be collated on reports and will be assessed after the event.

Variety is also important. The evidence should include a range of conversations or meetings with different people and about different topics. It is acceptable for the MHI to use the same evidence more than once.

The MHI may obtain witness testimonies from supervisors or colleagues to show evidence that they may not have been able to demonstrate to the assessor through observation.

There may be times when an MHI will produce several samples of evidence, but if the assessor is still not confident that they clearly show the candidate’s competence, they will ask for additional evidence to be provided.

Quality of evidence is considered more important than quantity to avoid the assessors time be taken up with sifting through large volume of evidence.
### Evidence requirement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence requirement</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appropriate</td>
<td>Content is appropriate to the level required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliable</td>
<td>Is produced unaided and represents the normal standard of the MHIs work and work of the same quality can be reproduced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>Meets the performance criteria in the syllabus, for the range of knowledge and skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Meets the performance criteria, for the range of knowledge and skills set out in the syllabus. An assessor would ask the MHI to provide new evidence to ensure that their skills and knowledge are still up to date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>The VM must be satisfied that evidence of prior achievement is good enough to show that the candidate is currently competent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sufficient</td>
<td>There are enough samples of evidence to show competence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>That the samples show consistency in competent performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consistent</td>
<td>The VM is satisfied that the candidate will be able to perform at this standard in future.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2.5 Assessment procedure

Once the MHI has completed the required training programme, passed the enforcement scenario exercises and completed the required amount of practical visits they should request an assessment from the VM and liaise with the OM to allocate an appropriate time at an appropriate venue.

On the assessment day, the MHI needs to present their portfolio of experience to the assessor. The VM will conduct the assessment through observation, questioning, exploration of actions taken, evidence of liaison with establishment teams(s) and discussions regarding the practical experiences that the MHI has undertaken during the probationary period.

The VM may also ask questions in relation to the contents of the completed portfolio of experience. After the assessment, the VM will complete a ‘VM assessment of MHI’ report (Annex 10), giving feedback regarding the evidence gathered during the assessment day.

The outcome of the assessment will be stated; the individual will either have been successful or will require further experience. In the case of the latter,
the VM should advise as to the amount and type of further experience required.

MHIs will be notified of the outcome by the VM at the earliest opportunity following assessment.

FSS Operations will forward the completed VM assessment of MHI’ report to the MHI within 5 working days of receipt.

Where the MHI is unsuccessful the ‘VM assessment of MHI’ report will define the areas requiring further attention, and the suggested additional hours of experience required. Arrangements to cover any skills gap(s) need to be organised between the MHI and the VM.

The MHI should continue to complete their ‘Portfolio of evidence’ during the additional hours required.

**Note:** Authorisation to carry out enforcement work will not be granted by FSS to any MHI who does not successfully complete the practical training and VM Assessment within three assessment attempts.

When the VM is satisfied that the further experience required following the initial assessment has been gained, they should inform the MHI to request a re-assessment, following the process as defined in sub-topic 1.4.2 on ‘Assessment procedure’ above.

If, after their third unsuccessful assessment, an MHI disagrees with the outcome of the assessment, they may appeal in writing, outlining their grounds for appeal, to FSS Operations in Aberdeen within 10 working days of the receipt of the assessment decision.

The appeal will be considered by a panel consisting of a VM (different than the assessor) and the HOD, as a minimum.

If the appeal is considered to have merit, a re-assessment will be arranged by FSS, which will be carried out by a different VM. The outcome of this re-assessment will be final.

### 2.6 Internal verification

An internal verifier from within FSS will check the quality of the VM work.

They may wish to review the MHI’s portfolio of evidence to sample evidence assessed, or may wish to speak to MHIs to check how well they feel they are being supported to achieve the authorisation to carry out UAIs.
There will also be a verification check by VMs of MHI’s activities and overall quality of unannounced inspections and resulting enforcement activities taken. Furthermore, verification visits will be conducted for live field-based checks at least once a year.

2.7 CPD requirement

A CPD requirement of two days per year must be completed by MHIs who carry out enforcement activity. The criteria for training will be established via the Personal Development Programme and publicised appropriately.
3. **PIA training**

3.1 **Introduction**

3.2 Overview and process map

3.3 PIA qualification

3.4 Assessment of PIA competency

3.5 Appointment of successful PIA

3.6 Monitoring PIA performance

3.1 **Introduction**

3.1.1 **Introduction**

This document contains information in relation to the training and authorisation of slaughterhouse staff to perform official control duties in white meat slaughterhouses as Plant Inspection Assistants (PIAs).

FSS is not responsible for training PIAs, but is the competent authority to authorise PIAs to form part of the independent inspection team under the supervision, direction and responsibility of the OV.

There are three different groups of slaughterhouse staff qualified to work as part of the independent inspection team:

- those trained and assessed by OVs before 2006 (pre 2006 PIAs);
- those trained and qualified under the award scheme operating between 2006 – March 2009, and
- those trained and qualified under the new award scheme since March 2009

**Note:** PIAs already authorised under previous arrangements will remain authorised, subject to on-going satisfactory performance of official control duties.

The training course will be provided by training centres that have been approved by awarding bodies. FBOs interested in training PIAs should contact the approved awarding bodies for further information on approved training centres. Alternatively, please contact FSS at Approvals@fss.scot for further support.
Once an individual has successfully passed the examination to become a PIA, FSS may authorise them to work as part of the inspection team.

### 3.1.2 Legislation

Regulation (EC) 854/2004, Annex I, Section III, Chapter III allowed Member States to permit slaughterhouse staff to take over the activities of OAs in controlling the production of poultry and rabbits provided that they have been trained in the same way as the OAs and have passed the same examination to carry out tasks of the OAs.

Regulation (EC) 1021/2008 amending Regulation (EC) 854/2004 has made the transitional arrangement permanent and allows the competent authority to grant authorisations to slaughterhouse staff if they have been trained to the satisfaction of the competent authority for the specific tasks they are to perform.

### 3.2 Overview and process map

#### 3.2.1 Use of slaughterhouse staff

The Regulations permit the use of slaughterhouse staff to carry out tasks of the official auxiliaries (OAs) and form part of the competent authority’s independent inspection team only at establishments producing poultry and rabbit meat that have a proven record of use of good hygiene practices and a HACCP procedure for at least 12 months.

#### 3.2.2 FBO role

FBOs wishing to use PIAs for the first time should notify the OM at the earliest opportunity.

Where a PIA system is already in place and new staff is being trained to be PIAs, the FBO should advise the OV so that arrangements can be put in place for an assessment to be made once the qualification has been obtained.

It is recommended that the FBO, the PIA candidate, the slaughterhouse OV and the training provider consult each other during the process.

#### 3.2.3 PIA Role

PIAs can work in place of OAs with regard to the specific tasks that they are authorised to perform. PIA authorisations are now species specific (broilers and hens; ducks and geese; turkeys; farmed wild game) and not plant specific. Any previous authorisation will need to be amended to reflect this
change. All PIAs must be subject to regular checks by the OV to assess their on-going competency to carry out official duties.

### 3.2.4 OV role

PIAs work under the supervision, direction and responsibility of the OV. They are subject to regular checks by the OV to assess their on-going competency to carry out official duties.

Additional information in Chapter 2.10, Section 2.

### 3.2.5 Process map

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FBO</th>
<th>Establishment has PIA authorisation</th>
<th>1. FBO recruits/ selects a trainee PIA candidate.</th>
<th>2. FBO contracts FDQ/ RSPH accredited training body to access the PIA training course.</th>
<th>3. PIA candidate contacts OV and requests authorisation.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PIA candidate</td>
<td>4. Practical and written examinations undertaken PIA candidate.</td>
<td>5. OV conducts competency assessment.</td>
<td>6. PIA candidate contacts OV and requests authorisation.</td>
<td>7. OV completes Competency verification form and send to PIA candidate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Body</td>
<td>8. OV provides feedback regarding performance and agrees an action plan.</td>
<td>9. PIA candidate send documents to Approvals and Certification Team: - Qualification certificate - Competency verification form - Application for PIA appointment</td>
<td>10. PIA candidate send documents to Approvals and Certification Team:</td>
<td>11. Approvals and Certification Team issues authorisation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Chapter 10 – Operational Training**
Food Standards Scotland
3.3 PIA Qualification

3.3.1 Level 2 award for proficiency in poultry meat inspection

FSA worked with Improve (the Sector Skills Council covering the meat sector) as well as the British Poultry Council, awarding bodies and sector employers to develop a new qualification for slaughterhouse staff (Plant Inspection Assistants).

The Level 2 Award for Proficiency in Poultry Meat Inspection has been designed to equip individuals with the knowledge and understanding to enable them to work as members of teams that carry out official controls in poultry slaughterhouses.

3.3.2 PIA syllabus

The Level 2 award is divided into three units:

1. introduction to food safety management;
2. regulations and responsibilities; and
3. post mortem inspection of poultry with a choice of either:
   - broilers and hens
   - turkeys
   - ducks and geese
   - non-hunted game birds

Each unit is assessed by an examination.

Holders of the qualification will have a broad knowledge and understanding of food safety and food hygiene, and understand the regulatory framework within which the meat industry operates. They will also have a good appreciation of the anatomy, physiology, pathology, production methods and inspection procedures for the specific species chosen for unit 3.

3.3.3 Provision of training

Training is provided by trainers that have been approved by an awarding body, such as: the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH), the Food and Drinks Qualifications (FDQ), Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) etc.

Anyone seeking information about the training and qualification should contact:

- RSPH - [www.rsph.org.uk](http://www.rsph.org.uk)
- FDQ – [www.fdq.org.uk](http://www.fdq.org.uk)
3.4 Assessment of PIA competency by the OV

3.4.1 OV evaluation of candidate

Once a PIA candidate has obtained a Level 2 Award for Proficiency in Poultry Meat Inspection, the OV will carry out an initial evaluation to verify the candidate’s competence to perform their duties to a satisfactory standard as part of the inspection team. This is particularly important at establishments where the OV has no previous knowledge of the candidate.

3.4.2 Authorisation request

The FBO or PIA candidate is responsible for requesting authorisation. This request will normally be made once the candidate has obtained the PIA qualification. This request should be made to the slaughterhouse OV, allowing enough time for all the necessary arrangements to be made.

The OV must make a note of such a request in the daybook and inform the VM.

3.4.3 OV requirements

The assessment of competency can only be carried out by OVs that:

- have successfully finalised their probationary period as a Novice Official Veterinarian (NOV) and are fully appointed
- have appropriate experience (not less than 6 months) in the relevant species that the PIA candidate is to handle

The OV may at their own discretion seek assistance from OAs in conducting the assessment of PIA candidates.

3.4.4 Assessment

The OV will conduct the assessment of the candidate through questioning and observation, including on-line post-mortem inspection for a period under the direct supervision of the OV. The OV may at their discretion seek information from poultry meat hygiene inspectors (PMHIs) for this assessment.

Candidates must demonstrate that they:

- understand the responsibilities of the FSS particularly in relation to their duties
• recognise the different conditions found at post-mortem inspection as described in the 21 ‘poultry condition cards’
• are able to record the above conditions in a satisfactory manner
• are able to cope with the speed of the line in which the carcases are presented
• follow good hygiene practices
• understand and are able to complete any paperwork associated with the performance of their official duties

PIAs have already demonstrated competency to obtain their qualification certificate. The OV should nevertheless be satisfied that they can carry out their duties effectively at the establishment where they will be working. The duration of the assessment will therefore depend on the particular circumstances of the establishment, including whether the OV has previous knowledge of the candidate or whether training was carried out at the plant or elsewhere.

The OV will complete a ‘Verification of competency’ form recording the outcome of the assessment.

Reference: See annex 11 on ‘Verification of competency’.

If unsuccessful see sub topic 3.5.2 on ‘Unsuccessful PIA candidate’.

Note: There will be no PIA rebate until the PIA has been authorised by the OV to work as part of the competent authority independent inspection team, and appears as such on the FSS central database. The OV must be under no pressure to authorise a PIA until confident that the required criteria have been fulfilled.

3.4.5 Transferring of PIAs between establishment

PIAs may move between establishments under the control of the same employer (within the same group), providing these are processing the same species for which the PIA is authorised.

PIAs can carry out post-mortem inspection duties only in establishments that have been authorised to operate a PIA system. PIAs may be used to carry out these duties provided the OM is notified in advance and OVs at the receiving establishment are provided with a proof of qualification and an evidence of their fitness for purpose (for example, report from the OV at the PIA’s base establishment).

Note: Establishments operating a PIA system require full time OV supervision and the transferring PIAs are subject to standard performance monitoring checks of the resident OV.
3.5 **Appointment of successful PIA**

3.5.1 **Appointment procedure**

The successful candidate should request official authorisation as a PIA for the relevant species and send the following information to the FSS:

- application for PIA authorisation form (Annex 12)
- copy of Level 2 Award certificate
- the ‘Verification of competency’ form signed by the OV (Annex 11)

Send to: approvals@fss.scot

The PIA will receive an authorisation from FSS, with information on their duties and responsibilities.

3.5.2 **Unsuccessful PIA candidate**

If the OV is not satisfied that the PIA candidate has demonstrated the knowledge and skills required to become authorised, the OV will document the areas requiring further training or development in the last section of the ‘Verification of competency’ form.

When the PIA candidate is satisfied that the further training required from the initial assessment has been undertaken, a re-assessment may be requested - see previous sub topic 3.4.2 on ‘Authorisation request’.

3.5.3 **Appeal procedure**

If a PIA disagrees with the outcome of an assessment, they may appeal, in writing, within 10 working days of the receipt of the assessment decision. The appeal should outline their grounds for appeal and be sent to FSS Approvals and Certification Team.

The Approvals and Certification team will pass the appeal to the HOD. The HOD and another VM, after considering the case and available evidence, may organise a re-assessment by a different assessor. The outcome of this re-assessment will be final.

3.6 **Monitoring PIA performance**

3.6.1 **On-going review and assessment of PIA performance**

Where an FBO has a PIA system in place, OVṣ must monitor PIA performance on an on-going basis and identify issues where their performance affects the level of hygiene at the premises, with a special emphasis on the product being processed.
The OV must supervise the PIA’s work and carry out regular performance tests to ensure their suitable performance.

The OV must supervise the PIAs daily. The OV should initial the AUD 9-2 form to record that they have supervised the PIA. In addition to the daily supervision the OV is to conduct PIA performance checks weekly and record the results of the tests on the FSS IT system, PMI verification module.

The OV can ask a PMHI to assist in monitoring PIA performance on each shift for sites where PMHIs assist with the official controls. The PMHI should record their monitoring on the PIA PM-1 form and report any deficiency to the OV. Completed PIA PM-1 forms should be kept in the plant file.

Where the OV considers the performance of the PIAs to be unsatisfactory then the PIAs shall be replaced by Official Auxiliaries.

At an individual level, OVs must monitor the effectiveness of post-mortem inspection carried out by PIAs, using the same measures as for assessing MHIs. Please refer to MOC chapter 2.4 on ‘Post-mortem, health and identification marking’ for details.

3.6.2 Withdrawal of PIA authorisation (as per chapter 2.10)

In cases where the performance of a PIA is found unsatisfactory during an establishment assessment visit or daily OV supervision and/or performance monitoring of the PIA, FSS can suspend or revoke the PIA authorisation following the required protocol.

All records and letters regarding PIA performance and supervision/monitoring should be saved on FSS IT system, PMI verification module.
See below process summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process summary</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The OV informs the PIA about all observed deficiencies and areas of poor PIA performance. A clear timeframe for improvement is agreed, if necessary. All discussed deficiencies and actions are summarized in a letter to the PIA, with a copy of the letter given to the FBO.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The OV monitors the PIA performance and records evidence of good and poor practices (Day Book entries, IT system PMI verification module, AUD 9-2).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>OV writes to the PIA to inform him/her about the observed improvement of the performance, closing the case.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Should the PIA performance fail to improve the OV recommends the revocation of the PIA authorisation to the Approvals and Certification Team and informs the FBO/PIA about the recommendation in writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>FSS gathers required evidence and makes a decision, following consultation with the local team. FSS will inform the FBO and the PIA of his decision in writing. If the PIA authorisation is withdrawn FSS will notify the FBO and PIA, copying the OV.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The FBO / PIA returns the authorisation by recorded / registered post to FSS Approvals and Certification Team in Aberdeen.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In cases where serious concerns are raised regarding the performance of a PIA their authorisation can be immediately suspended by an OV following consultation with the VM. In these instances the FBO has to be informed about the reason of suspension and requested to remove the person from the PIA duty until a decision is made on further steps.
4. **Wild game training**

4.1 Introduction

4.2 The wild game course

### 4.1 Introduction

#### 4.1.1 Purpose

This document contains information on the training available for OVs that will carry out official duties at Approved Game Handling Establishments (AGHEs) and that gained their authorisation prior to 2006.

This training will enable them to become appointed in wild game under Regulation (EC) 854/2004. OVs appointed after 2006 should follow the NOV guidance.

#### 4.1.2 Pre requisites

To be eligible to become appointed for wild game the candidate should:

- hold a veterinary degree

- be a member of the RCVS

#### 4.1.3 Working arrangements

Authorisation will only be issued after both parts of the training have been completed and the individual assessed, therefore, all wild game candidates should complete both theoretical and practical training prior to carrying out inspection duties in AGHEs.

#### 4.1.4 OV wild game inspection role

The table below summarises the main inspection duties and responsibilities of FSS staff specific to wild game.
### OV Role

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inspection tasks</th>
<th>Other tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• wild game food chain information (FCI)</td>
<td>• communication of inspection results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• animal welfare</td>
<td>• decisions concerning wild game FCI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• wild game post-mortem inspection</td>
<td>• decisions concerning wild game meat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• wild game animal by products</td>
<td>• enforcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• health marking of large wild game, as well as half-carcasses, quarters and cuts produced by cutting half-carcasses into three wholesale cuts</td>
<td>• OV supervision of OAs carrying out official controls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4.2 The wild game course

#### 4.2.1 Legislation

This training enables the OV to have adequate knowledge of wild game topics, to maintain up to date knowledge and to keep abreast of new developments up to the training date.

#### 4.2.2 Theoretical training

The OV should have an adequate knowledge of the following areas:

- background knowledge of the wild game meat industry including processing and inspection of wild game
- small and large wild game animal identification
- hunting seasons
- post-mortem inspection of small and large wild game
- storage and transport of small and large wild game
- notifiable diseases of small and large wild game
- HACCP principles applied to wild game
- wild game traceability
- health marking of large wild game
- ID marking of small wild game
- handling of ABPs at AGHEs
• record keeping at AGHEs
• export of wild game

The OV theoretical training and assessment has to be delivered by a wild game appointed VM.

The OV theoretical training can also be delivered by a wild game appointed OV (but not an NOV). However, this needs to be cleared with the VM and OM prior to the training taking place.

4.2.3 Practical training

Once the OV has been given the theoretical training and been assessed and signed off by the trainer as being competent they will have to carry out practical training for a minimum time of:

• 2 hours observing the dressing in large game
• 2 hours observing the dressing in small game
• 1 hour observing the cutting of small and/or large wild game

Practical training and assessment of practical training must be carried out by a wild game appointed OV (but not an NOV) or the VM.

Ideally, practical training should occur after the candidate has undergone the theory part; however, this is not compulsory and practical training may be carried out before the theory takes place. Please discuss this with your trainer prior to commencing the training.

4.2.4 Assessment

The delegate is responsible for ensuring that the ‘Certificate of wild game experience’ is signed by the trainer.

The assessment may be done at the end of each training period.

Note: Where candidates feel they would like further training before being assessed, they should inform the trainer and agree with them subsequent training sessions and the date when the assessment will take place.

The assessor will conduct the assessment through observation, questioning, exploration of actions taken, and discussions regarding the practical experiences that the candidate has had during the training period.

The candidate should bring the ‘Certificate of wild game experience’ with them to all training sessions so that it can be signed off by the trainer. The assessor will complete the ‘Certificate of wild game experience’ giving feedback as regards the evidence gathered during the assessment day and
the outcome in relation to the individual either being successful or requiring further experience.

In the case of the latter, the assessor will have to provide an estimate of the amount and type of further experience required.

When the candidate and trainer are satisfied that the further experience required from the initial assessment has been gained, a re-assessment should be requested at the end of the final training session.

It should be noted that where an individual has reached 35 hours within their training period and has not successfully passed the assessment, the assessor will make a decision with regards to their future as a wild game appointed OV within FSS.

4.2.5 Appointment

Once the OV has completed the theoretical and practical training and each aspect of the training has been signed off by the trainer they should send a copy of the ‘Certificate of wild game experience’ to the Admin Team in FSS Aberdeen at: admin@fss.scot

The OV will receive an amended authorisation covering wild game.

4.2.6 Appeal procedure

If a candidate disagrees with the outcome of an assessment, they should put their appeal in writing outlining their grounds for appeal to FSS Operations within 10 working days of the receipt of the assessment decision.

If FSS considers the appeal to have merit, a re-assessment will be arranged to be carried out by a different assessor. The outcome of this re-assessment will be final.
5. Annexes

Annex 1  OV Training – Theoretical syllabus
Annex 2  OV Training – Application for OV appointment and authorisation
Annex 3  OV Training – Sample OV appointment letter
Annex 4  OV Training – Learning log and portfolio of experience
Annex 5  OV Training – Certificate of practical application experience
Annex 6  OV Training – Assessment request form
Annex 7  OV Training – Assessment of practical application experience
Annex 8  OV Training – Sample OV confirmation letter
Annex 9  OV Training – Day one competencies
Annex 10 UAI Training – VM assessment of MHIs
Annex 11 PIA Training – Verification of competency
Annex 12 PIA Training – Application for PIA appointment
Annex 13 Wild Game Training – Certificate of wild game experience
Annex 14 NOV Log of hours & calculator