



submitted for obtaining EU financial contribution

Annex II: Control programme – Reduction of prevalence of Salmonella serotypes in certain poultry populations

Member States seeking an EU financial contribution for national programmes for eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonosis shall submit online this document completely filled out by the 31 May of the year preceding its implementation (part 2.1 of Annex I to the Single Market Programme Regulation).

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Document version number: 2022 1.0

Member state : BULGARIA

Disease Salmonella

Animal population Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

This program is multi annual :

Request of Union co-financing from beginning :

1. Contact data

Name	Phone
Email	Your job type within the CA :

Submission Date

05/12/2022 17:12:45

Submission Number

1670253166561-19057



Broiler flocks of *Gallus gallus*

A. Technical information

By submitting this programme, the Member State (MS) attests that the relevant provisions of the EU legislation will be implemented during its entire period of approval, in particular:

- Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 on the control of *Salmonella* and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents,
- Regulation (EU) No 200/2012 concerning a Union target for the reduction of *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella Typhimurium* in flocks of broilers,
- Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 as regards requirements for the use of specific control methods in the framework of the national programmes for the control of *Salmonella* in poultry.

As a consequence, the following measures will be implemented during the whole period of the programme:

1. The **aim of the programme** is to implement all relevant measures in order to reduce the maximum annual percentage of flocks of *broilers* remaining positive to *Salmonella* Enteritidis (SE) and *Salmonella* Typhimurium (ST)(including the serotypes with the antigenic formula 1,4,[5],12:i:-)('Union target') to 1% or less.

yes

no

If no, please explain.

The target of the Program is to :

- determine the health status of broilers in Republic of Bulgaria with regard to *Salmonella enteritidis* and *S.Typhimurium*(including monophasic *S. Typhimurium* serotype with antigenic formula 1,4/5/,1 2:i).
- reduce /maintain the prevalence of breeding chicken flocks (*Gallus gallus*) in the country infected with *S.Enteritidis*, *S. Typhimurium* (including monophasic strains), within period 2017 - end 2018.
- monitor *Salmonella* effectively;
- take the action required under Regulation (EC) No. 2160/2003 where target serovars are detected;
- give advice to owners with infected flocks on how to reduce or eliminate *Salmonella* of public health significance on their premises.

2. Geographical coverage of the programme

The programme will be implemented on the **whole territory** of the MS.

yes

no

If no, please explain.

The programme will be implemented on the whole territory of the MS

Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

3. Flocks subject to the programme

The programme covers all flocks of broilers. It does not apply to flocks for private domestic use.

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

The programme covers all flocks of broilers excluding the flocks for private domestic use.

	Number of holdings
Total number of holdings with broilers in the MS	153
Total number of houses in these holdings	920
Number of holdings with more than 5,000 broilers	137
<i>NB : All cells shall be filled in with the best estimation available.</i>	

4. Notification of the detection of target *Salmonella* serovars

A procedure is in place which guarantees that the detection of the presence of the relevant *Salmonella* serotypes during sampling at the initiative of the food business operator (FBO) is notified without delay to the competent authority (CA) by the laboratory performing the analyses. Timely notification of the detection of the presence of any of the relevant *Salmonella* serotypes remains the responsibility of the FBO and the laboratory performing the analyses.

yes

no

If no, please explain.

The Law on Veterinary Activities, Art.124.

The owner of the poultry holdings and the laboratory performed the testing shall notify immediately written the Executive Director of BFSA if there are any positive results for Salmonella. In accordance with instruction, for standard procedures in case of positive results is found for zoonotic diseases, the laboratory which confirmed positive result, must send the isolate to the NRL for serotyping and also to inform the following stakeholders – the person who send the sample to the laboratory – official veterinarian /private veterinarian/ FBO who is responsible for informing the CA (Director of the Regional Food Safety Directorate, Food Safety Directorate on central level, Animal Health Directorate on central level respectively). The informational channel in details is described in the aforementioned instruction.

Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

An infected flock is counted only once, regardless of how often Salmonella is detected in the flock during production.

5. Biosecurity measures

FBOs have to implement measures to prevent the contamination of their flocks.

yes

no

If no, please explain. - If yes, describe the biosecurity measures that shall be applied, quote the document describing them (if any) and attach a copy.

Bio-security is a combination of practices, which are intended to prevent the spread of disease-causing organisms within the poultry farm. Where these are performed in parallel with the sanitation and disinfection procedures, bio-security measures could eradicate or, at least, reduce the level of pathogens to values, at which no hazard of infection would be likely.

The implementation of effective biosecurity measures at primary production to prevent contamination of the flocks under their care is the responsibility of the producer and his/her private veterinary .

The owner/farmer is required to draw up and comply with sanitation rules for their holdings and keep records on all disinfections and preventive actions performed. The biosecurity /sanitary / measures implemented in the farms are subject of CA official checks. It could be part of checks related to the zoonotic disease control , animal welfare , sampling in line of the control programmes (Salmonella, AI), check medicine records . There is a special check list to be used during official inspection on the farms.

The bio-security measures in industrial poultry farms, small farms, and private backyards are in accordance to the manual of Bio- security measures, issued by USAID Bulgaria and with the EC requirements.

Bio-security measures on holdings include:

Health status checks of poultry

On entering to all houses on the farm must be located disinfection barrier

Control of movement of people

Transport hygiene

Feed hygiene

Water hygiene

Rodents, insects and birds control

Cleaning and disinfection of buildings

Recording of all events and operations

For each building own equipment must be designated

In order to implement principles of good farming practice properly, it is necessary to apply "all in/all out" system. Mechanical cleansing of halls and technologies, followed by subsequent efficient disinfection, disinfestation and rat extermination, shall be performed on completion of each production cycle.

The relevant official vets shall perform documentary supervision on efficacy of disinfection carried out by farmers. If necessary official samples of swabs for testing of efficacy of the disinfection shall be taken in each time the official vet considers it necessary.

The frequency of these inspections is based on the annual inspection plan. In case of non-conformities the farmer is requested to take relevant corrective measures.

Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

6. Minimum sampling requirements for food business operators (FBO):

Samples at the initiative of the FBO's will be taken and analysed to test for the target *Salmonella* serovars respecting the following minimum sampling requirements:

All flocks of broilers within three weeks before slaughter.

yes

no

If no, please explain.- Indicate also who takes the FBO samples

Sampling scheme:

All flocks of broilers within three weeks before slaughter.

The CA accepts to derogate from this sampling rule and instead of this the FBOs shall sample at least one flock of broilers per round on holdings with more than one flock where:

- (i) an all in / all out system is used in all flocks of the holding;
- (ii) the same management applies to all flocks;
- (iii) feed and water supply is common to all flocks;
- (iv) during at least the last six rounds, tests for *Salmonella* spp. according to the sampling scheme set out in the first subparagraph in all flocks on the holding and samples of all flocks of at least one round were carried out by the competent authority;
- (v) all results from the testing according to the first subparagraph and point (b) for SE or ST were negative.

yes

no

If yes - Indicate how many holdings and flocks are concerned

The CA accepts to derogate from the general sampling rule and authorises FBO sampling in the last six weeks prior to the date of slaughter in case the broilers are either kept more than 81 days or fall under organic broiler production according to Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008.

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yes

no

If yes - Indicate how many holdings and flocks are concerned

7. **Samples are taken** in accordance with provisions of point 2.2 of Annex to Regulation (EU) No 200/2012

yes

no

If no, please explain.

The FBO samples are taken by the owner of the holding or a person authorized (in most of cases a private vet who has a contract with the owner) in accordance with this Programme for control of Salmonella the official veterinarian responsible for the farm provides the training on sampling for the person responsible for the FBO samples.

Sampling protocol is in compliance with Commission Regulation (EU) No 200/2012.

Two pairs of boot/socks swabs shall be taken. All boot/sock swabs must be pooled into one sample. All sections in a house are represented in the sampling in a proportionate way. Each pair should cover about 50 % of the area of the house. On completion of sampling the boot/sock swabs shall be carefully removed so as not to dislodge adherent material. Boot swabs may be inverted to retain material. They shall be placed in a bag or pot and labeled.

The official vet is responsible to perform training of operators and/or other persons designated by farmers to guarantee the correct application of the sampling protocol.

The records of samples taken by the operator must be made available for inspection to the Competent Authority. The food business operator is required to keep a record of date when each flock is sampled for Salmonella, the identity of the flock sampled, the age of the flock sampled, the laboratory which undertook the analysis and the result of the tests and make these records available to the Competent Authority for inspection where required.

The Competent Authority keeps a record of all official testing carried out during the year. All official samples must be submitted to the official testing laboratory with an official sample submission letter.

The number of samples taken and the results are included in an annual reports forwarded to the Central Competent Authority (CCA).

Samples from poultry flocks are taken by the owner of the holding or a person authorized by the owner (in most of cases a private vet who has a contract signed with the owner) and by the official veterinarians which is a part of the official surveillance program. The official veterinarian responsible for the farm shall provide the training on sampling for the person responsible for the own-check samples.

Each year the RFSDs draft a sampling schedule for all poultry farms and hatcheries included in the scope of the programme and located on the territory within its administrative districts. The schedule is drafted

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for official checks and own-checks.

FBO keeps records of samples taken and made them available for inspection to the Competent Authority. The records shall include data on date when each flock is sampled for Salmonella, the identity of the flock sampled, the age of the flock sampled, the laboratory which undertook the analysis and the result of the tests and make these records available to the Competent Authority for inspection where required.

8.If birds from flocks infected with SE or ST are slaughtered, please describe the measures that shall be implemented by the FBO and the CA to ensure that fresh poultry meat meet the relevant **EU microbiological criteria** (row 1.28 of Chapter 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005): absence of SE/ST in 5 samples of 25g:

Measures implemented by the FBO (farm level)

At farm level:

When a broiler herd is confirmed positive for S. Enteritidis or S. Typhimurium (including S. Typhimurium monophasic serotype with antigenic formula 1,4 / 5 /, 1 2: i) it must be destroyed or allowed to be used for human consumption only if they have been treated in such a way as to ensure the eradication of S. enteritidis or S. typhimurium (including the monophasic serotype of S. typhimurium with antigenic formula 1,4 / 5 /, 1 2: i) and in accordance with Community legislation for food hygiene. (Regulation (EC) N° 2073/2005)

At slaughterhouse level:

In order to provide full information for the slaughterhouses of all test results within the programme the Salmonella control programme for broilers includes the obligation for farmers to provide on FCI information on the results of testing for Salmonella in the case of positive results for all Salmonella serotypes and in the case of a negative result too. Reports of examinations three weeks before slaughtering is be included in the food chain information

Operational rules of slaughterhouse contain mesures taken in the case of slaughtering of flock positive for Salmonella.

Sampling in slaughterhouses shall be performed in compliance with Commission Regulation (EU) No 1086/2011 amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Annex I to Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 as regards salmonella in fresh poultry meat.

Measures taken by FBO when a flock is SE or ST infected:

FBO is required to submit action plan to the regional CA describing:

- type of the product, assessment of the risk to the public health;
- identification and information of the batch;
- revision of the acting procedures, corrective measures to be implemented;
- name, registration number and information on the food business establishment where the heat treatment is to be done;

Measures implemented by the FBO (slaughterhouse level)

written consent of food business establishment where the heat treatment is to be done;

- type of heat treatment to be carried out;

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-laboratory control of the processed products;

The food establishments where the meat is to be processed is required to provide records of the processing of the infected batch, plan for cross-contamination prevention, plan for disinfection of equipment and premises, sampling plan for verification of the heat treatment and disinfection of premises and equipment in order to guarantee that the heat treated meat is not infected and to prevent further contamination of the fresh meat processed FBO is required to submit action plan to the regional CA describing:

Measures implemented by the CA (farm and slaughterhouse level)

In case of suspicion/or detection of Salmonella Enteritidis or Salmonella Typhimurium (including monophasic serotype S. Typhimurium with antigenic formula 1,4/5/,1 2:i), the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) should immediately notify the HQ of the BFSa. When a broiler flock of the Gallus Gallus species is suspected of being infected with Salmonella Enteritidis or Salmonella Typhimurium, it is subject to an epidemiological investigation. Any flock from which Salmonella Enteritidis or Salmonella Typhimurium has been isolated from self-control or self-control samples shall be considered positive without further confirmatory sampling and shall be sent for slaughter. Skins from necks are taken in slaughterhouses, according to Regulation (EU) No. 1441/2007. In most cases it will not be possible to survey the birds in the flock from which Salmonella is isolated because it is expected that the birds will be slaughtered after the results are available. The competent authority shall draw up an order requiring the operator to clean and disinfect the building from which the infected flock originated. After cleaning and disinfecting the building, the official veterinarian should take swabs from multiple places in the building to check the effectiveness of the hygiene measures taken. Samples for official control of the effectiveness of the disinfection are examined at the Center for Environmental Protection, Sofia. When a broiler flock is confirmed to be S. Enteritidis or S. Typhimurium (including monophasic serotype S. Typhimurium with antigenic formula 1,4/5/,1 2:i) it must be destroyed or allowed to be used for human consumption only if they have been processed in a way that guarantees the destruction of S. Enteritidis or S. Typhimurium (including monophasic serotype S. Typhimurium with antigenic formula 1,4/5/,1 2:i) and in accordance with Community legislation on food hygiene. (Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005 (Rule 1.28 of Chapter I of Annex I). If Salmonella spp. are discovered during post-mortem examination of carcasses in a slaughterhouse, all provisions of Regulation No. 854/2004 must be applied. If Salmonella spp. are discovered during the inspection of foods offered on the market, the BFSa must implement the implementation of all the requirements provided for in Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005. Official sampling should be carried out under the control of the Competent Authority in all replacement /restocked/ herds when the previous herd from the same building was positive for S. Enteritidis or S. Typhimurium (including monophasic serotype S. Typhimurium with antigenic formula 1,4/ 5/,1 2:i). This sampling will be carried out in accordance with the procedure set out in the Annex to Commission Regulation (EC) No. 200/2012.

The above-described measures in case of positive results are also indicated in the "Instructions for taking measures in case of positive results for Salmonella in poultry " Annex VI to Order No. RD11-1773/31.08. 2018 of the Executive Director of BFSa.

CA:

Official veterinarian responsible for the FBE is required to:

- issue Restriction Act for the infected batch/products;
- to provide instructions on the measures to be implemented;
- to carry out expertise in accordance with art. 240 of the LVA and to issue an Expertise act where the type of processing of the meat/products is described.
- to approve the above described FBO plan;

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-to prepare report on the implementation of the above described plan (all the relevant documents are attached), the report is provided to the RFSD and to the Food Control Directorate, HQ BFSA. The measures are described in details in a BFSA procedure, approved with Ordinance RD 11-1136/20.09.2011.

The RFSD performs monitoring on presence of Salmonella at poultry slaughterhouses, according to the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005

- a minimum of 15 carcasses shall be sampled at random during each sampling session and after chilling. A piece of approximately 10 g from neck skin shall be obtained from each carcass. On each occasion the neck skin samples from three carcasses shall be pooled before examination in order to form 5 x 25 g final samples.

The samples are taken by the official vet in the slaughterhouse

9. **Laboratories** in which samples (official and FBO samples) collected within this programme are analysed are accredited to ISO 17025 and the analytical methods for *Salmonella* detection is within the scope of their accreditation.

yes

no

If no, please explain.

10. The **analytical methods** used for the detection of the target *Salmonella* serovars is the one defined in Part 3.2 of the Annex of Regulation (EU) No 200/2010 i.e. Amendment 1 of EN/ISO 6579-2002/Amd1:2007. '*Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs - Horizontal method for the detection of Salmonella spp. -- Amendment 1: Annex D: Detection of Salmonella spp. in animal faeces and in environmental samples from the primary production stage*'.

Serotyping is performed following the Kaufman-White-Le Minor scheme.

yes

no

If no please explain.

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For samples taken on behalf of the FBO alternative methods may be used if validated in accordance with the most recent version of EN/ISO16140 may be used.

yes

no

If no please explain.

The same method of detection and serotyping is used for examination of official and FBO samples. The detection method recommended by the Community Reference Laboratory (CRL) for Salmonella in Bilthoven, the Netherlands, shall be used. That method is described in the current version of draft Annex D of ISO 6579 (2002): "Detection of Salmonella spp. in animal faeces and in samples of the primary production stage". In that detection method, a semi-solid medium (modified semi-solid Rappaport-Vassiladis medium, MSRV) is used as the single selective enrichment medium. This detection method is in compliance with Commission Regulation (EU) No 200/2012.

At least one isolate from each positive sample shall be serotyped, following the Kaufmann-White scheme. At least one isolated strain per flock and per year shall be collected and stored for future phagotyping or anti-microbial susceptibility testing, using the normal methods for culture collection, which must ensure integrity of the strains for a minimum of two years.

No other alternative methods are used.

11. Samples are transported and stored in accordance with point 2.2.4 and 3.1 of the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 200/2012. In particular samples examination at the laboratory shall start within 48 hours following receipt and within 4 days after sampling.

yes

no

If no, please explain.

Samples sent for laboratory tests taken as part of official controls or FBO sampling must be accompanied by a cover letter (two templates for samples taken by the official control and FBO) approved by meand of Order of the Executive Director of the BFSA.

The cover letter shall provide the following information on:1) data and address of the poultry keeper; 2) registration number of the holding 2) number of poultry in the flock, age, category of the flock ;4) the number of samples and the type of material collected;45) dates and times of sampling and sending to the laboratory;6) the type of vaccine used in the flock of laying hens and the date of its administration;7) the use of antimicrobials;8) data of the person collecting the samples.

Salmonella NCP samples may only be tested in Competent Authority approved laboratories and these laboratories are required to check the time the sample was taken and ensure that the sample is tested within 4 days of the sampling and within 48 hours of arrival at the laboratory. This is a requirement of

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accreditation to ISO17025 which specifies that the sample must be taken and treated according to the purpose for which it was intended (i.e. be 'fit for purpose' which is considered to mean fully in compliance with the legislation requirements). Samples that do not comply with these criteria may not be tested as Salmonella NCP samples and the testing laboratory must request another sample from the food business operator. This requirement is subject to inspection during the laboratory inspection visits for ISO17025 accreditation.

In case that : 1) the cover letter (both by the official or FBO) did not contain at least the information above or the the information is not completed; 2) the amount or type of test material does not meet the requirements of the testing system specified in the Programme in question; 3) the conditions for transporting the samples to the laboratory do not meet the requirements set out in point 2.2.4 and 3.1 of the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 200/2012 : the official laboratory informs the respective sender (official veterinarian or farmer) as well as the headquarter of the BFSA of this when accepting the samples for laboratory testing. Than the protocol from the laboratory test contain the information that the test cannot be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the program for control of Salmonella serotypes in respective poultry category.

The official at Headquarter of the BFSA immediately communicate the issue with the relevant regional food safety department for investigation and further measures to be taken (for example : additional sampling, training .etc)

12. Please describe the **official controls at feed level** (including sampling).

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

In accordance with the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 and in connection with Art. 3, para. 1, item 4 of the Law on the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency, the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency is designated as the competent authority for the official control of feed in the Republic of Bulgaria.

In connection with the fulfillment of the requirements of Art. 9 and Art. 10 of Regulation (EC) No. 183/2005, on feed hygiene and according to the Feed Act, feed sector operators must be approved or registered by the BFSA and entered in a register in accordance with Art. 19 of the regulation.

The registers of the approved and registered operators in the fodder sector are kept and maintained in the ODBH. BFSA maintains and updates the relevant national registers, which are published on its website. Inspections at the facilities in the feed sector are carried out by inspectors/experts responsible for the official control of feed in the respective regional food safety department.

The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency carries out feed sampling as follows:- feed samples at the level of feed raw material and compound feed producers, as well as from wholesalers who offer feed raw materials and compound feed in packaged and bulk form- feed sampling at farm level. The number of samples is determined on the basis of clearly defined risk assessment criteria and in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) No. 2017/625, as well as on the basis of the data from the studies and analyzes carried out in the previous year. This plan includes also a minimum number of salmonella samples taken from consignments of compound poultry feed received from third countries. No positive results were reported for this parameter.

If a positive result is obtained, the measures and actions to be taken will be based on and in accordance with the Operational Plan for Action in Emergency Situations Arising from Feed and the Procedure for Taking Action in the Event of Detection of Salmonella spp. in feed.

In case of positive findings measures are taken in order to ensure the decontamination of feed such as

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heat treatment or treatment with organic acids or both of them depending on the specific case (sampling reason, type of feed and type of Salmonella serovar, specifically relevant/not relevant). Moreover additional measures have to be put in place by the local veterinary unit: epidemiological investigation, inspection and verification of the good practices, particularly the procedures of cleaning, use of water, storing, pest control program, waste management. If necessary the feed business operator will be requested to increase the checks for Salmonella.

13. Official controls at holding and flock level

a. Please describe the official checks concerning the **general hygiene provisions** (Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004) including checks on biosecurity measures, and consequences in case of unsatisfactory outcome.

(max. 32000 chars) :

According to the National legislation (Law of veterinary activity and Food law) the establishments for production, storage and trade of animal products have to be approved registered by BFSA and entered into the national electronic database. The public registers of approved establishments are kept in the RFSDs and the BFSA.

The official inspections in establishments for production, storage, and trade of animal products are carried out by the official veterinarians at the BFSA/RFSD.

The official inspections in the establishments for production, storage and trade with food are carried out in accordance with the Regulation 2017/625 of the European Parliament and the Council , laying down the specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption. The number of samples has been calculated by the official veterinarians on the basis of risk assessment and the type and quality of the materials included in the food processing and the results of the previous inspections.

The samples from foods of poultry origin shall be taken and preceded as provided in Regulation 2073/2005. The frequency of sample taking could be increased and decreased on the basis of the results of the sample testing.

Annually the Regional Food Safety Directorates (RFSDs) draft a schedule for the number of inspections in the controlled establishments for production, storage, and trade of animal products. The official control of food production, storage and marketing establishments shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council, which lays down specific rules for the organization of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption. The number of samples is calculated by the official veterinarians on the basis of a risk assessment and on the type and quality of the materials involved in the processing of the food, as well as on the basis of the results of previous inspections. Sampling of food of poultry origin should be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) 2073/2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs. The frequency of sampling may be increased or decreased depending on the results obtained from the examination of the samples. Annually, the Regional Directorates for Food Safety prepare programs for the number of inspections of the establishments controlled by them for production, storage and trade in animal products.

The competent authority carries out official controls, where the biosecurity standards are checked. The official controls at the poultry farms are in accordance with the annual control plan drafted by each Regional Food Safety Authority. The plan of official controls applies to all holdings. The official veterinary inspection for Salmonella control (sampling for Salmonella, according to the SCNP) includes a

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biosecurity inspection as well. Additional inspections can be planned based on the risk analysis . The inspections are documented by check list . The official inspections for biosecurity includes also supervision of the disinfection efficacy carried out by farmers. This is carried out by official sampling (swabs for testing the disinfection efficacy) each time the official veterinarian considers it necessary. As mentioned above, the veterinary requirements and biosecurity measures to be implemented by the animal holdings are described in Ordinance 44 concerning the veterinary requirement of animal holdings.

The FBO of poultry holdings are required to draft a bio security plan and contingency plan which are subject of official control.

In case of non-compliances detected during the inspection, official veterinarians gives prescription with corrective measures to be taken by the FBO with a short deadline. Further inspection is carried out by the official to verify the measures taken by the FBO, followed by fines , trade restriction, ban for movement of poultry or eggs or registration withdraw of the holding (depending of the severity of the deficiency) if the results from this inspection are not satisfactory .

b. Routine official **sampling scheme**: EU minimum requirements are implemented i.e. official sampling are performed:

■ in one flock of broilers per year on 10% of holding comprising at least 5,000 birds;

yes

no

If no, please explain. - Indicate also: 1) if additional official sampling going beyond EU minimum requirements is performed give a description of what is done 2) who is taking the official samples (*max. 32000 chars*) :

Sampling scheme to be followed: one flock of broilers per year on 10% of holding comprising at least 5,000 birds per region

c. **Official confirmatory sampling** (in addition to the confirmatory samples at the holding which are systematically performed if FBO or official samples are positive at the hatchery):

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After positive official samples at the holding

- Always
- Sometimes (criteria apply)
- Never

After positive FBO samples at the holding

- Always
- Sometimes (criteria apply)
- Never

When official confirmatory sampling is performed, additional samples are taken for checking the presence of antimicrobials:

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

Please insert any comments. Describe the criteria used to determine if confirmatory sampling is performed. Indicate also which samples (if any) are taken to check the presence of antimicrobials.

d. Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 (**antimicrobials** shall not be used as a specific method to control *Salmonella* in poultry): please describe the official controls implemented (documentary checks, sample taking) to check the correct implementation of this provision. For samples please describe the samples taken, the analytical method used, the result of the tests.

(max. 32000 chars):

The use of antimicrobials (as defined in Regulation (EC) No. 1177/2006) is not applied as a specific method of *Salmonella* control.

Antimicrobial treatment for animal health or welfare reasons. The use of antimicrobials is permitted under the following exceptional circumstances:

- poultry with salmonella infection with clinical signs likely to cause unnecessary animal suffering;
- herds treated with antimicrobial agents infected with salmonella;
- authorization granted by the BFSA on a case-by-case basis and for purposes other than the control of salmonella in a herd suspected of having a salmonella infection, and in particular following an epidemiological investigation of an

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outbreak of food-borne disease, or after establishing the presence of salmonella in a livestock facility. The use of antimicrobial preparations must be subject to supervision by and reporting to the BABH. Whenever possible, use should be based on the results of bacteriological sampling and susceptibility testing. Any use of antimicrobials is verified when an official sample is taken.

In the case of suspicion by the CA about manipulation of the sample and re-sampling, a sample must also be taken to identify residues of antimicrobial substances (whole carcasses - 5 carcasses from a herd, from which parenchymal organs and bone marrow are examined) and the presence of inhibitors/disinfectants (facility washes, faecal and shoe samples).

Official controls on the use of antimicrobials:

- Documentary checks: medicine record documentary checks are carried out during every farm inspection visit (official visits to take official samples, to inspect operator Salmonella NCP sampling records and for other purposes). Therefore inspection of medicine records and operator NCP sampling records is carried out on every breeding chicken premise. If antimicrobials have been used, consideration is given to the validity of the results of samples tested during treatment/withdrawal period which may, depending on the situation, result in more samples being required to be taken by the operator, additional official samples required, a delay in official sampling until antimicrobial treatment is stopped etc. This will depend on the type of antimicrobial used (especially whether it has a known therapeutic effect against Salmonella), the age of the flock, the risk assessment on the farm etc.

The official veterinary inspection for Salmonella control (sampling for Salmonella, according to the SCNP) always includes checks of the record kept in the farm including those related to VMP used.

Antimicrobial samples are taken and tested in a National laboratory for veterinary sanitary expertise and ecology based on the National Residue Plan including number of checks on poultry for antimicrobials (penicillins, sulphonamides and tetracyclines. Samples are taken from a certain number of broiler premises (not 100%) for banned substances .

The sample must be delivered to the laboratory as soon as possible, if necessary the sample can be frozen. From 5 killed birds the samples of breast muscle are taken and tested as a pooled sample. Testing is carried out by microbiological determination of inhibition substances (6 plate method).

Official sampling for antimicrobial treatment is carried out:

- in any case of confirmatory sampling. If antimicrobials or bacterial growth inhibitors are detected, the Salmonella infection shall be considered as confirmed.
- Suspicion of false results - in exceptional cases where the competent authority has reason to question the results of the testing (such as false positive or false negative results), it may decide to repeat the confirmatory sampling.

Where the presence of Salmonella is not detected but antimicrobials or bacterial growth inhibitory effect is detected, the flock is considered as an infected flock for the purpose of the Community target.

14. Please describe the official procedure to test, after the depopulation of an infected flock, the **efficacy of the disinfection** of a poultry house (No of samples, tests, samples taken, etc.)

(max. 32000 chars) :

After a flock infected with relevant serovars is depopulated the house where the birds were kept must be clean and disinfected under the supervision of the CA. Environmental samples have to be taken by the CA (at least five of contact surfaces per premise) inside the house in order to verify the efficacy of the procedure. Samples have to be analyzed in an official laboratory and in case of identification of any

Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

Salmonella serovar e new cycle of cleaning and disinfection must be performed and repeated if necessary up to e negative finding.

Re-stocking may not take place until the cleaning and disinfection has been carried out. Negative results is required to lift the restriction measures in the holding.

B. General information

1. Structure and organisation of the **Competent Authorities** (from the central CA to the local CAs)

Short description and/or reference to a document presenting this description (max. 32000 chars):

Bulgarian Food Safety Agency is the competent authorities responsible for implementation of the Programme for control of Salmonellosis and other infectious agents causing zoonoses.

4.2.1 Department "Infectious diseases" within Directorate "Animal health and Welfare" at the Headquarters of BFSA has the following responsibilities:

1. To draft surveillance programme for Salmonellosis and to submit it for approval to the European Commission.
2. To control the implementation of the surveillance programme.
3. To collect and analyze the data on the animals tested for salmonellosis
4. To summarize the data on positive holdings.
5. To keep a register in the database of all poultry holdings
6. To send annual report to the European Commission containing the data referred to in points 3-6

4.2.2 At regional level the Regional Food Safety Department (RFSD) and the heads of departments "Animal health" have the following responsibilities:

1. To control and to implement the Salmonella surveillance programme at regional level.
2. To collect and analyse the data on the poultry tested for salmonella in the region.
3. To summarize the data on positive animals.
4. To summarize the data on the salmonella surveillance costs incurred at regional level.
5. To keep a register in the database of all poultry holdings.
6. To send annual reports containing the data referred to in points 1-6 to Directorate "Animal health and welfare" at BFSA.

The official veterinarian has the following responsibilities:

1. To control and to implement the programme for surveillance of salmonella in the relevant municipality.
2. To control the sampling of flocks and the sending of samples to the laboratories.
3. To collect and analyze the data on the poultry tested for salmonella in the veterinary units located on the territory of the relevant municipality.
4. To summarize the data on positive animals from the veterinary units located on the territory of the relevant municipality.
5. To summarize the data on the salmonella surveillance costs incurred by the relevant municipality.
6. To keep a register in the database of all poultry holdings with .
7. To send annual reports containing the data referred to in points 1-6 to Directorate "Animal health" at the relevant RFSD.

Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

National Diagnostic Research Veterinary Medical Institute (NDNIVMI) and approved laboratories where samples taken under the program are tested. According to Art. 52 of the Law on the Management of the Agro-Food Chain (ZUAHV), the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry determines by his order, the national reference laboratories for analyses, tests and diagnostics on the proposal of the executive director of the BABH. According to Art. 51, para. 2 of the ZUAHV, the executive director of the BABH determines by Order the official laboratories in which salmonella analyses, tests and diagnostics are carried out. The laboratories are included in a list that is published on the BABH website and must meet the requirements of Art. 37, paragraphs 1, 3, 4 and 5 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625. Laboratories must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. To determine the types of research and analysis that are carried out by them;
 2. To meet the requirements for good laboratory practice;
 3. To carry out rapid communication with the laboratories in the country, the relevant reference laboratories of the member states and the relevant reference laboratory of the European Union.
- Laboratory tests for salmonella are permitted to be conducted only in laboratories accredited for the purpose.

Data on the implementation of the NSCPs is presented to the CCA at by the laboratories and RFSDs each 6 months in terms of preparing the annual and intermediate reports for the implementation on programmes. In case of positive Salmonella results (related to all Salmonella spp detected as well as either FBO or official sampling) the labs are requested to inform immediately the CCA. The CCA orders the relevant RFSD to impose the restrictive measures according to the Salmonella spp detected and based on the Salmonella legislation.

2. Legal basis for the implementation of the programme

(max. 32000 chars) :

The implementation of the Program has been carried out according to the requirements laid down in: COMMISSION REGULATION No 200/2012 of 8 March 2012 concerning a Union target for the reduction of Salmonella enteritidis and S.Typhimurium (including monophasic S. Typhimurium serotype with antigenic formula 1,4/5,1 2:i) in flocks of broilers as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council
REGULATION (EC) No 1177/ 2006, implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards requirements for the use of specific control methods in the framework of the national programmes for the control of salmonella in poultry
REGULATION (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the control of salmonella and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents;

3. Give a short summary of the outcome of the **monitoring of the target Salmonella serovars** (SE, ST) implemented in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 2003/99/EC (evolution of the prevalence values based on the monitoring of animal populations or subpopulations or of the food chain).

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(max. 32000 chars) :

In 2015 – 1 flock for S.typhimurium and 1 flock for S.enteritidis were reported; prevalence - 0,5%
In 2016 - 0 flock was reported positive
In 2017 - 1 positive flock whit S. Infantis
In 2018 - 0 flock was reported positive
In 2019 - 2 positive flock whit S. typhimuriumq prevalence 0.9 %
In 2020-21 - 0 flock was reported positive

4. System for the registration of holdings and identification of flocks

(max. 32000 chars) :

The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency is the official competent authority for the registration of animal holdings.

All poultry holdings are registered in accordance with Ordinance 44 laying down the minimal requirements regarding animal holdings.

The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency is the official competent authority for the registration of animal holdings.

The register commercial holdings are entered into the national electronic database and maintained by Headquarter at the BFSA. The records on registration of farms are kept at central level (Headquarter at BFSA) and local level (RFSDs).

For the purpose of SCNP the size limit for poultry to be registered obligatorily is as follow:

- flocks more than 500 poultry broilers
- flocks more than 250 poultry breeding hens
- flocks more than 350 poultry laying hens
- flocks more than 250 poultry turkeys

The owners of animal holdings shall submit an application of registration, conformed to a specimen to the director of RFSD.

Within a time period of up to 7 days from the submission of the application, the director of RFSD by an order shall appoint a commission for carrying out of a check for compliance of the holdings with the veterinary medical requirements on animal breeding and welfare.

The commission shall in a period of 3-days present to the director of the RFSD the opinion with a proposal for a registration or a refusal.

When upon the check it is being found out that the holding does not meet the veterinary medical requirements, the commission shall give a written prescription to the applicant, wherein shall fix a deadline for adjustment of the omissions.

When the applicant has removed the omissions before the expiry of the indicated in the prescription deadline, he shall inform in writing the director of RFSD, who within a period of seven-days shall send the commission for a re-check of the holding. The commission shall draft a protocol of the results of the check and shall submit it to the director of RFSD.

The director of RFSD shall enter the animal-breeding holding in the register and shall issue a certificate of registration or shall justify the refusal of the registration if the holding does not meet the veterinary medical requirements. The register contains the following information:

1. number and date of the certificate issued;
2. the veterinary registration number of the holding;

Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

3. name and permanent address of the owner of the holding;
4. address/location and type of the holding;
5. capacity of the holding;
6. type, category and use of the birds in the holding;
7. technology of breeding of the birds;
8. number and date of the order for delegation of the registration
9. changes in the circumstances entered.

Record- keeping at farms.

Each animal holding shall keep records with the following information.

Total number of birds in the holding

The new entered birds

The birds for slaughtering.

When a farm is inspected by an official veterinarian, the latter has also to perform a thorough check of all the records /logbooks/ that are kept in respective holding.

Each owner is requested to have way of identification of the flocks so that he/ she to provide traceability of the flocks at each time. The way of identification, the type of unique flock number for the purpose of monitoring and traceability of flock is a decision made by the owner. In major cases the flock is identified by number consist: arrival date of the poultry consignment and number of premises

5. System to monitor the implementation of the programme.

(max. 32000 chars) :

The chain of the competent authority was described in point B 1.

Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

C. Targets

1 Targets related to flocks official monitoring

1.1 Targets on laboratory tests on official samples for year :

2023

Type of the test (description)	Target population	Number of planned tests
Bacteriological detection test	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	35
Serotyping	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	10
Antimicrobial detection test	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	10
Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	10

1.2 Targets on official sampling of flocks for year :

2023

Type of the test (description)	Rearing flocks	Adult flocks
Total No of flocks (a)		8 500
No of flocks in the programme		8 500
No of flocks planned to be checked (b)		35
No of flock visits to take official samples (c)		35
No of official samples taken		35
Target serovars (d)		SE + ST
Possible No of flocks infected by target serovars		2

(a) Including eligible and non eligible flocks

(b) A checked flock is a flock where at least one official sampling visit will take place. A flock shall be counted only once even if it was visited several times.

(c) Each visit for the purpose of taking official samples shall be counted. Several visits on the same flock for taking official samples shall be counted separately.

(d) Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium = SE + ST

Salmonella Enteritidis, Typhimurium, Hadar, Infantis, Virchow = SE+ ST + SH +SI + SV

Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

E. Financial information

1. Identification of the implementing entities - financial circuits/flows

Identify and describe the entities which will be in charge of implementing the eligible measures planned in this programme which costs will constitute the reimbursement/payment claim to the EU. Describe the financial flows/circuits followed.

Each of the following paragraphs (from a to e) shall be filled out if EU cofinancing is requested for the related measure.

a) Implementing entities - **sampling**: who perform the official sampling? Who pays?
(e.g. authorised private vets perform the sampling and are paid by the regional veterinary services (state budget); sampling equipment is provided by the private laboratory testing the samples which includes the price in the invoice which is paid by the local state veterinary services (state budget))

The official sampling is done by the official veterinarians within the BFSA structure. The sampling equipment is provided by the Regional Directorate of Food Safety. The costs for sampling, equipment and transportation of the samples are within the state budget

b) Implementing entities - **testing**: who performs the testing of the official samples? Who pays?
(e.g. regional public laboratories perform the testing of official samples and costs related to this testing are entirely paid by the state budget)

The costs for official testing are covered by the state budget.

Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

c) Implementing entities - **compensation**: who performs the compensation? Who pays?
(e.g. compensation is paid by the central level of the state veterinary services,
or compensation is paid by an insurance fund fed by compulsory farmers contribution)

The compensation scheme for owners is paid by the CA

d) Implementing entities - **vaccination**: who provides the vaccine and who performs the vaccination? Who pays the vaccine? Who pays the vaccinator?
(e.g. farmers buy their vaccine to the private vets, send the paid invoices to the local state veterinary services which reimburse the farmers of the full amount and the vaccinator is paid by the regional state veterinary services)

There is no practice for vaccination against Salmonella in broiler flocks in Republic of Bulgaria

e) Implementing entities - **other essential measures**: who implement this measure? Who provide the equipment/service? Who pays?

n/a

Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

2. Source of funding of eligible measures

All eligible measures for which cofinancing is requested and reimbursement will be claimed are financed by public funds.

yes

no

3. Additional measures in exceptional and justified cases

In the "*Guidelines for the Union co-funded veterinary programmes*", it is indicated that in exceptional and duly justified cases, additional necessary measures can be proposed by the Member States in their application.

If you introduced these type of measures in this programme, for each of them, please provide detailed technical justification and also justification of their cost:

n/a

Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

Attachments

IMPORTANT :

- 1) The more files you attach, the longer it takes to upload them .
- 2) This attachment files should have one of the format listed here : **jpg, jpeg, tiff, tif, xls, xlsx, doc, docx, ppt, pptx, bmp, pna, pdf.**
- 3) The total file size of the attached files should not exceed 2 500Kb (+- 2.5 Mb). You will receive a message while attaching when you try to load too much.
- 4) IT CAN TAKE **SEVERAL MINUTES TO UPLOAD** ALL THE ATTACHED FILES. Don't interrupt the uploading by closing the pdf and wait until you have received a Submission Number!
- 5) Only use letters from a-z and numbers from 1-10 in the attachment names, otherwise the submission of the data will not work.

List of all attachments

		Attachment name	File will be saved as (only a-z and 0-9 and - _):	File size
			Total size of attachments :	