



**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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- 6) You are invited to submit your programmes in English.

Document version number: 2022 1.0

Member state : ELLADA

Disease Salmonella

Animal population Fattening flocks of Turkeys

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**

**09/12/2022 14:20:44**

**Submission Number**

**1670588447033-19245**



# Fattening flocks of Turkeys

## 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 1190/2012 concerning a Union target for the reduction of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium in flocks of turkeys,
- 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 *turkeys* 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. However, for the MS with less than 100 flocks of adult fattening turkeys, the Union target shall be that annually no more than one flock of adult fattening turkeys may remain positive.

yes

no

*If no please explain.*

Comment: Currently in Greece, according to the most recent count, there are 26 turkey fattening holdings with a total of 57 flocks and 7 turkey breeding holdings with a total of 9 flocks. There are 2 types of farmed fattening turkeys:

A) Classical commercial hybrids.

This breed comes as day-old chicks in late August/early September and is slaughtered at four months of age, just before Christmas when its live weight is ideal for Christmas turkeys, at around 5,5kg. The day-old chicks of the above breed originate from other Member States.

B) The traditional turkey.

This breed comes as one-day old chicks in May-June and is slaughtered at six-seven months, just before Christmas when its live weight is ideal for Christmas turkeys, at around 5,5kg.

The day-old chicks of the above breed originate either from other Member States or from Greek hatcheries.

It should be pointed out that since the Christmas turkey market is unpredictable, the number of turkey flocks each year is liable to wide fluctuations.

## Fattening flocks of Turkeys

### 2. Geographical coverage of the programme

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

*yes*

*no*

*If no please explain.*

Comment: Greece is divided into 13 administrative regions and 74 regional units. The programme for control of salmonellosis in flocks of fattening turkeys is implemented in all regional units where these flocks are located.

### 3. Flocks subject to the programme

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

*yes*

*no*

*If no please explain.*

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

	Number of holdings
Total number of holdings with fattening turkeys in the MS	26
Total number of houses in these holdings	57
Number of holdings with more than 500 fattening turkeys	25
<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.

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yes

no

*If no please explain.*

### 5. Biosecurity measures

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

yes

no

*If no, please explain also the biosecurity measures that shall be applied, quote the document describing them (if any) and attach a copy (or indicate the URL address)*

Biosecurity is part of the national salmonella control programme (as an Annex attached to the national decision implementing of national salmonella control programme). There are guidelines in place, but their implementation is not linked to compensation, because no compensation is granted to FBOs of fattening turkeys holdings. Biosecurity measures are regularly assessed by the CA each time an official control for the NSCP is performed, followed by a written report.

In particular:

In the context of the implementation of the NSCP, at least 10% of the holdings with fattening turkeys existing in a region, are officially controlled and sampled every year by the official veterinary authorities. In the framework of the official controls, the implementation of biosecurity measures is also checked and verified with the aid of a specific checklist. The selection of 10% of holdings is based on risk assessment.

The national Decision No 1751/51822/13-05-2013 (Government Gazette, Series II, No 1141) and some of the relevant guidelines can be found at:

[http://www.minagric.gr/images/stories/docs/agrotis/poulerika/progr\\_elenxou\\_salmonelosis210513.pdf](http://www.minagric.gr/images/stories/docs/agrotis/poulerika/progr_elenxou_salmonelosis210513.pdf)

and  
[http://www.minagric.gr/images/stories/docs/agrotis/poulerika/Paroysiaseis\\_Seminaria/6\\_salmo\\_bioasfalia.pdf](http://www.minagric.gr/images/stories/docs/agrotis/poulerika/Paroysiaseis_Seminaria/6_salmo_bioasfalia.pdf).

In particular, at least the following biosecurity measures shall apply:

#### A. HYGIENE MANAGEMENT ON FARM

Pursuant to Annex I of the national decision No 1751/51822/13-05-2013 (Government Gazette, Series II, No 1141), through which the control programme for salmonella in flocks of breeding and fattening turkeys is implemented in Greece, the basic biosecurity measures that must be applied by the owners of such turkey holdings, as well as hatcheries, are described.

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These measures relate to health management, prevention of transmission of infections to farms and hatcheries (by other animals/agents, contaminated feed, drinking water and workers), and compliance with health regulations when transporting animals and eggs to and from farms. In particular:

1. Facilities must be appropriately constructed and surrounded by a fence, with a sign at the entrance for prohibiting entry.
2. Only one species of poultry shall be reared in each establishment and, if possible, the "all in, all out" system should be applied.
3. In case that more than one flock exists in a holding, each one shall be treated as a separate entity.
4. The pen and the feedstuff storage areas must be protected from wild animals.
5. All pen surfaces should be constructed of materials allowing for easy cleaning and disinfection.
6. Each operator must keep a record in which diseases, deaths, treatments and vaccines administered are recorded. These records are available whenever requested in the framework of an official control.

### B. MEASURES TO PREVENT INCOMING INFECTIONS CARRIED BY ANIMALS, FEED, DRINKING WATER, PEOPLE WORKING AT FARMS

1. Pets are not allowed on the premises.
2. After the removal of poultry, the manure must also be removed and the area cleaned and disinfected. It is recommended that a bacteriological examination is carried out to check the effectiveness of the disinfection.
3. Rodents and insects must be dealt with using appropriate programmes for their destruction.
4. Repopulation of sheds should take place with salmonella-free poultry.
5. All feed must be confirmed as salmonella-free prior to being given to poultry. Feed in pellet form or otherwise processed should be properly indicated, as a means of ensuring salmonella-free feed. Feed should then be stored in sealed storage spaces. Vehicles transporting feed must be regularly disinfected and feed must be kept in closed storage areas.
6. The holding's water supply must come from the mains network. In the case of pumped water, its suitability for use must be ensured via regular microbiological controls.
7. Sick and dead birds should be removed as quickly as possible and in the safest and most effective manner.
8. Disinfection baths are to be placed at the entrances and exits of the pens and of the holding for vehicles and the footwear of persons moving about on the premises.

Biosecurity measures for staff and visitors.

Staff and visitors must:

1. wear clean overalls, head and shoe covers,
2. wash their hands with soap and water or disinfectant and dip their shoes in a disinfectant which is regularly changed,
3. avoid direct contact with poultry or poultry products.

### C. HYGIENE DURING TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS TO AND FROM THE HOLDING

Biosecurity measures as regards operations during capture, loading and transportation of poultry.

1. Personnel handling poultry's capture and loading should be trained, wash their hands and change clothing and footwear, both before beginning their work and between different batches of poultry.
2. All equipment used for poultry capture and transport should be cleaned and kept away from dirty equipment.
3. Transport vehicles should be licensed, in accordance with National and Community legislation and decontaminated at regular intervals (or cleaned and decontaminated before the loading of each poultry batch). Drivers must be aware of the basic personal hygiene rules and the role that they might have in

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spreading infections (e.g. through dirty hands).

### 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 fattening turkeys within three weeks before slaughter.

*yes*

*no*

The competent authority may authorise sampling in the last six weeks prior to the date of slaughter in case the turkeys are either kept more than 100 days or fall under organic turkey production according to Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008.

*yes*

*no*

*If no please explain. Indicate also who takes the FBO samples. If the derogation is applied, how many holdings and flocks are concerned.*

Sampling on the initiative of the Food Business Operator is performed either by the farmer himself or by trained samplers.

Although the above mentioned derogation can be applied, no such case was notified to the CCA in 2021. In case there is a need to treat a fattening turkey flock with antimicrobials then sampling for *Salmonella* will be either postponed and samples will be taken after the withdrawal period has been completed or in case it is not feasible to postpone the slaughter of the flock, dust will be collected as this type of sample is not affected by the use of antimicrobials.

As regards the training of samplers, the local veterinary services are responsible for supervising the training of the FBOs, in order to ensure the correct implementation of the sampling protocol.

Additionally, when the NSCPs were launched, the central veterinary services had organized several training courses about the implementation of the programmes and the correct sampling protocol as well.

Finally, on the website of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food there is a video on how to collect samples:

<http://www.minagric.gr/index.php/el/for-farmer-2/animal-production/ptina/208-astheneiesptinon-cat/459-salmonelosi>

### 7. Samples are taken in accordance with provisions of point 2.2 of Annex to Regulation (EU) No 1190/2012

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yes

no

*If no please explain.*

Comment: The competent authority supervises training of poultry establishment operators so as to ensure the proper implementation of the sampling protocol.

In the case of sampling by the competent authority because of suspicion of salmonella infection and in any other case considered appropriate, the competent authority shall satisfy itself by conducting further mandatory sampling tests in slaughterhouses for salmonella and for the use of antimicrobials, as appropriate, that the results of examinations for salmonella in fattening flocks are not affected by the use of antimicrobials in those flocks. Where the presence of Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium is not detected, but antimicrobials or bacterial growth inhibitory effect are detected, it should be accounted for as an infected fattening flock for the purpose of the Community target and the measures set out below should be implemented.

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)*

The FBOs shall notify to the CA each case of positive targeted salmonella serotypes results and reinforce biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of Salmonella infection, conduct an epidemiological investigation to identify the source of the infection and make the necessary arrangements for the accounting slaughter of the infected flock.

*Measures implemented by the FBO (slaughterhouse level)*

The results of the analysis of the samples taken by the FBOs must be known before the birds are sent to the slaughterhouse. These results are part of the FCI, which accompanies the birds to the slaughterhouse according to Annex II, Section III of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 (FCI).

Positive flocks are always slaughtered at the end of the day to ensure proper cleaning afterwards.

*Measures implemented by the CA (farm and slaughterhouse level)*

In case of detection of SE/ST in a fattening turkey flock, the Regional veterinary authorities issue a decision for the:

a) classification of the flock as "salmonella positive".

b) Prohibition of movement for:

i. any entry or exit of poultry of the holding, except for slaughtering or destruction in controlled conditions,

ii. litter and manure from the holding, except for processing, in accordance with the legislation in force.

At the slaughterhouse the Official Veterinarian must check the FCI provided for completeness and contents as part of ante mortem inspection.

The OV is always entitled to request any additional data from the producer. FCI should also be taken into consideration when the post mortem inspection is carried out.

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The OV is to:

- Check which *Salmonella* serotype is detailed on the FCI and ensure that the relevant clean-down procedure is followed (as detailed in the previous subtopics).
- Check that the procedure has been followed in accordance with the FBO's HACCP-based food safety management system.

The FCI information is checked at the slaughterhouse by the official veterinarian of the slaughterhouse. In case of positive SE/ST results, provisions of annex of Reg. (EC) No 1086/2011 are applied (Row 1.28 of Chapter I of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005: absence of SE and ST in 5 samples of 25g of fresh poultry meat).

The carcasses of the poultry from the positive flock shall be sampled for *Salmonella* by the food business operators of slaughterhouses in accordance with Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1086/2011. Products derived from SE/ST (including monophasic ST) may be placed on the market for human consumption, provided they have been heat treated, as set out in food hygiene legislation. If such products are not intended for human consumption, they must be used or disposed of in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009.

According to provisions of Ministerial Decision No 1751/51822/24.04.2013 (Government Gazette No 2640B'), Article 7B2γ, flocks of fattening turkeys found positive for targeted *Salmonella* serovars, as well as flocks where antimicrobials have been detected, are slaughtered in defined slaughterhouses at the end of the slaughter line, taking all necessary measures for prevention of *Salmonella* spread. Further, in all cases, poultry carcasses originating from positive flocks are subjected to sampling for *Salmonella* testing in the slaughterhouse, according to provisions of Regulation (EU) No 1086/2011, Annex I. If those are found positive for targeted *Salmonella* serovars, they can only be destined for human consumption, after heat treatment. If products are not intended for human consumption, as stated in the submitted programme, they must be used or disposed of in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009. Poultry carcasses within the withdrawal period or in which antimicrobial agents have been detected are subjected to the provisions of the aforementioned Regulation.

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.*

Comment: Testing of the official samples collected in the framework of the national salmonella control programmes is performed at the following state veterinary laboratories of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food:

Chalkida Veterinary Laboratory (National Reference Veterinary Laboratory for *Salmonella*),  
Thessaloniki Centre of Veterinary Institutes and  
Ioannina Veterinary Laboratory.

All official samples collected as part of the national salmonella control programmes are examined at the three (3) above mentioned accredited laboratories.

The samples from the FBO checks (own-checks) are tested in 27 private laboratories which are



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designated and supervised by the Department of Zoonoses and the NRL for salmonella and participate in the comparative tests organized by the NRL.

In the case of detection of *Salmonella* spp. isolates, the above laboratories must send the results to the competent veterinary authority of the Region as well as to the Department of Zoonoses.

Our circular No 920/29816/15-3-2017 (which replaced the previous relevant circular) sets out the procedure for the participation of private laboratories, conducting own-check sample analyses under the National Salmonella Control Programmes (NSCPs) and the preconditions that laboratories must meet.

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 200/2012 i.e. Amendment 1 of EN/ISO 6579-2002/Amdl: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 Kauffman-White-Le Minor scheme. For samples taken on behalf of the FBO alternative methods may be used if validated in accordance with the most recent version of EN/ISO 16140.

yes

no

*If no please explain.*

Comments

For samples taken on the initiative of the food business operator, alternative methods may be used instead of the methods for the sample preparation, detection methods and serotyping provided for above, if validated in accordance with the most recent version of EN/ISO 16140.

So far we have no such case.

ISO PN-EN ISO 6579-1: 2017-04 / A1: 2020-09 is applied for testing by all official and private laboratories involved.

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.*

Transportation and storage of samples is carried out in accordance with points 2.2.4 and 3.1 of the Annex to Reg. (EU) No 200/2012.

In particular, samples shall preferably be sent by express mail or courier to the state or private laboratories involved in the NSCPs within 24 hours after collection. If not sent within 24 hours, they shall be stored in a refrigerator. Transportation can be at ambient temperature as long as excessive heat (over 25 °C) and exposure to sunlight are avoided. At the laboratory samples shall be kept refrigerated until

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examination, which must commence within 48 hours following receipt and within 96 hours after sampling.

To ensure this, the sampler shall contact the laboratory prior to each sampling session.

Detailed guidelines have been provided to the samplers on the packaging and transportation of samples.

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

*Comments (max. 32000 chars) :*

The following rules are applied as regards official controls of feed for salmonella:

- Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 laying down requirements for feed hygiene provides for the establishment of microbiological criteria based on scientific risk criteria.
- Therefore, the relevant legislation for the control of Salmonella in feed will be adopted by the competent department of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food once the discussions at Commission level on microbiological criteria in feed have been finalized.

All feed must comply with the requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 on feed hygiene and be confirmed as free from Salmonella before fed to poultry. Feed in pellets or any other form should be specifically indicated, as a means of ensuring salmonella-free feed and should then be stored in sealed storage spaces.

### 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) :*

Please, see also point 5 of this programme.

Biosecurity is part of the national salmonella control programme (as an Annex attached to the national decision implementing of national salmonella control programme). Specific guidelines exist, but their implementation is not linked to compensation, because no compensation is granted to FBOs of fattening turkeys holdings. In addition, they are regularly assessed and at least 10% of the holdings with fattening turkeys present in the region are officially controlled and sampled annually by the CA. The CA evaluates the biosecurity measures each time an official control is carried out under the NSCPs. A risk-based system is applied for the selection of 10% of farms.

In case of significant deficiencies in the implementation of the biosafety measures, written recommendations shall be issued with a deadline for their satisfaction. The timeframe of the deadline for their implementation varies depending on the nature of the infringement. In case of dissatisfaction, sanctions may be imposed.

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

- in one flock of fattening turkeys per year on 10% of holding comprising at least 500 fattening turkeys;

**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.*

A.1 The official sampling complies at least with the minimum sampling requirements as set out in point 2.1.b of Annex to Regulation (EC) No 1190/2012. Official samples are collected by the official veterinarians of the regional veterinary authorities, as part of the official control.

According to the national decision for the implementation of NSCP in flocks of fattening turkeys, additional official sampling is carried out in the following cases:

A.2 On all the other flocks on fattening turkey holdings where one flock tested positive for Salmonella Enteritidis or Salmonella Typhimurium in samples taken by the operator of the holding, unless the meat of turkeys in the flocks is destined for industrial heat treatment or another treatment to eliminate salmonella.

A.3 On all the flocks on the holding where one flock tested positive for Salmonella Enteritidis or Salmonella Typhimurium during the previous round on samples taken by the operator of the holding.

B. Based on risk assessment:

B.1 If there is a suspicion of Salmonella Enteritidis or Salmonella Typhimurium infection resulting from an epidemiological investigation of food-borne outbreaks pursuant to Article 8 of Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council.

B.2 In the event of positive results for Salmonella Enteritidis or Salmonella Typhimurium in sampling carried out by the slaughterhouse operator in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005.

B.3 In the event of positive results for Salmonella Enteritidis or Salmonella Typhimurium during the official control at the slaughterhouse.

B.4 Where antimicrobials are detected under the residue examination programme during the official controls at the slaughterhouse.

**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):

After positive official samples at the holding

Always

Sometimes (criteria apply)

Never

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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.*

According to the national decision for the implementation of NSCP in flocks of fattening turkeys, official confirmatory sampling does not take place in any case of positive results.

- 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 is prohibited in the framework of NSCP, except from the cases foreseen in Reg. (EC) No 1177/2006.

When an antimicrobial treatment is applied to fattening turkeys, official samples are taken only before the application of the treatment or after the end of the withdrawal period.

In case of FBO's sampling: in general the recommendation is to postpone the sampling until the end of the withdrawal period, if possible. If this is not possible, then routine sampling is going to be implemented and this information is illustrated in the FCI which accompanies the birds to the slaughterhouse.

In case the CA has a suspicion that the results are altered by the presence of antimicrobials or other substances inhibiting the growth of bacteria, there is always the possibility to take additional samples or to perform official control and sampling on the holding in question.

In order to control the use of antimicrobials, the following controls are taking place:

Official sampling is always part of an official control in order to verify if the FBO complies with the

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requirements of the NSCP. One of the duties of the official veterinarian during the official control is to check the flock treatments. Due to this, documentary checks on the use of antimicrobials are routinely performed during official controls in the framework of NSCP.

In addition to the above mentioned, in cases of suspicion, the CA collects 1-5 live birds from the shed or a greater number if considers it necessary.

Testing for the use of antimicrobials is carried out on a mixed muscle sample from these birds (muscles from the chest of the birds).

Initial testing for the use of antimicrobials is first carried out in a screening test. The screening method used is an in house method based on the LMV/RMV/BIO/TC/15.AN Version 06/17-10-2006 Guidance of Community Reference Laboratory ANSES for detection of antimicrobial agents (quinolones, cephalosporins, penicillins, macrolides, tetracyclines, aminoglycosides, sulfonamides) in meat.

The results of the methods used for confirmation, where necessary, are presented in the attached table 4.

Where the presence of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium is not detected, but antimicrobials or bacterial growth inhibitory effects are detected, the flock shall be considered to be an infected flock of fattening turkeys for the purpose of the Union target referred to in Article 1 of Regulation (EC) No 1190/2012.

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, of tests, sample taken, etc)

*(max. 32000 chars) :*

Confirmation of the effectiveness of disinfection is conducted by collecting environmental samples from the infected shed after cleaning and disinfection procedures have been completed. The verification of the effectiveness of disinfection can be conducted either by the FBO or by the Regional Veterinary Authority.

The sample is obtained after disinfection from drying surfaces of the shed.

Sampling is performed in such a way that a representative sample is obtained.

The parts to be sampled are walls, floor, drinkers, feeders, nests, vent piping, beams, partitions, the conveyor belts, and other surfaces and devices.

Large surfaces

Minimum sampling area is 1m<sup>2</sup>

- Sampling is performed with sterile swabs, as gauze or cellulose sponges, using disposable gloves or the technique of "overturned bag" (The plastic bag containing the swab is held from the outside so that the swab is exposed when the bag is overturned and then covering the swab when the bag is inverted again). The surface is swabbed until it looks dirty.

- To monitor the effectiveness of floor disinfection, bootswabs can be used as in the case of fecal material.

When samples are taken from dry surfaces, the swabs must be moistened.

After sampling the containers shall be sealed and appropriately marked.

Small surfaces

The sampling can be done with sterile cotton-rods or any wooden or plastic stick with a cotton tip, or synthetic, insisting where cracks, corners, uneven surfaces. Before use, they must be moistened. The rod

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is removed from the sterile container and the end of it, is immersed into a tube containing a suitable liquid.

A new flock is placed in the previously infected shed only in case of negative results for salmonella.

### 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) :*

The authorities responsible for implementing the salmonella control programme in fattening turkeys are:

1. The Department of Zoonoses of the Animal Health Directorate / General Veterinary Directorate/ (Ministry of Rural Development and Food).
  2. The regional veterinary authorities.
  3. The Thessaloniki Centre of Veterinary Institutes (Ministry of Rural Development and Food) and the Ioannina Veterinary Laboratory (Ministry of Rural Development and Food).
  4. The Chalkida Veterinary Laboratory, which is the National Reference Laboratory for Salmonella.
- All official samples collected as part of the national salmonella control programmes are examined at the three (3) above mentioned accredited laboratories.

Other bodies involved in the implementation of NSCP are:

5. The fattening turkey operators and the private veterinary laboratories which perform the self-checks, as well, in accordance with the details set forth in Annex I to Decision No 1751/51822/13-05-2013 on a "Control programme for Salmonella in flocks of breeding and fattening turkeys".

Responsibilities:

1. The Department of Zoonoses of the Animal Health Directorate constitutes the central veterinary authority responsible for control and coordination of all the bodies involved in implementing the programme throughout the country.
  - (i) nominates the programme implementation authorities and bodies and lays down their respective responsibilities in accordance with the needs of the programme;
  - (ii) provides the appropriate instructions and clarifications to the Programme's implementing bodies with a view to facilitating and bolstering their work;
  - (iii) collects data and results from the programme, evaluates data/results, and informs the competent departments of the Commission of the European Union.
  - (iv) Together with the NRL, it is responsible for the designation and supervision of the private labs involved in the NSCPs.
2. The regional veterinary authorities are responsible for:
  - (i) nominating the person responsible for implementing and monitoring the programme;
  - (ii) carrying out the official controls. These official controls include controls of the correct

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- implementation of the programme by the operators, taking official samples, adopting the necessary measures and keeping the competent central authority informed;
- (iii) evaluating implementation of the programme at prefectural/regional level;
- (iv) dispatching the requested statistics for the programme to the Zoonoses Department of the Animal Health Directorate;
- (v) supervising the training of fattening turkey farm operators to ensure proper application of the sampling protocol;
- (vi) cooperating with and notifying all the competent authorities and bodies about the implementation of the programme.
- (v) collaborating with the official veterinarian at the slaughterhouse who is obliged to send the data specified in Article 8(5) of the Decision every month.

According to Article 8(5) of the national decision for the implementation of NSCP in flocks of fattening turkeys the FBO of the slaughterhouse is required to keep records or computerized system, which recorded the information contained in the accompanying documentation accompanying the birds to the slaughterhouse and which contain also the FCI.

Then, the official veterinarian of the slaughterhouse is obliged to report all the relevant information (regarding NSCP information) to the competent regional veterinary authority, in order to enable the official veterinarian, responsible for the implementation of the NSCP to:

- evaluate the program in the area of his responsibility and
- select the holdings on which he is going to carry out official controls and official sampling.

3. The Ioannina Veterinary Laboratory and the Thessaloniki Centre of Veterinary Institutes receive the samples from the veterinary directorates under their responsibility and carry out the necessary laboratory tests for the detection of salmonella. They must also send the salmonella-positive cultures to the National Reference Laboratory for Salmonella in Chalkida.

4. The National Reference Laboratory for Salmonella in Chalkida is responsible for:

- (i) serotyping salmonella-positive cultures sent to it by the other state veterinary laboratories and the private laboratories and ensuring that the results of serotyping are sent immediately to the senders,
- (ii) receiving the samples from the veterinary directorates under their responsibility and carrying out the necessary laboratory tests to detect and serotype salmonella,
- (iii) submitting the data and results to the Zoonoses Department of the Animal Health Directorate / Ministry of Rural Development and Food.
- (iv) cooperating with the Community Reference Laboratory for Salmonella,
- (v) communicating the information provided by the Community Reference Laboratory for Salmonella to the Department of Zoonoses and the salmonella diagnosis laboratories,
- (vi) providing scientific and technical assistance to the central competent authority responsible for implementing coordinated salmonella control programmes,
- (vii) observing developments in the field of salmonella epidemiology,
- (viii) notifying the Community Reference Laboratory on matters concerning strains of the salmonella vaccine and other special control methods on a case-by-case basis,
- (ix) coordinating the diagnostic standards and methods implemented by each individual salmonella diagnosis laboratory. To this end it:
  - organizes at least one ring test per year,
  - keeps salmonella isolates for two years and is responsible for optional phagotyping and anti-microbial sensitivity tests on positive samples,
  - cooperates with the other national laboratories in Greece responsible for the isolation of salmonella in humans,

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- organizes, where necessary, training for the staff of the Greek salmonella diagnosis laboratories.

5. Our circular No 920/29816-15-03-2018 which has replaced the previous No 383/11852/29-01-2013, sets out the participation procedure for private laboratories conducting own-check sample analyses under the National Salmonella Control Programmes (NSCPs) and the preconditions to be met by laboratories.

At present, all the private laboratories carrying out analyses of own-check samples are also accredited.

### Notifications of laboratory results

Food Business Operators (FBOs), private laboratories involved in self testing and national laboratories involved in official sample testing, in the framework of NCSPs, immediately notify to the local and the central competent veterinary authorities any suspicion and/or positive result for the detection of:

- a) Salmonella spp or
- b) one or more of the targeted serovars included in the respective NCSP and
- c) antimicrobial agents.

More specifically, the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for Salmonellosis is responsible for the notification of the local and central competent veterinary authorities in case of suspicion of a targeted serovar, as it is the only laboratory which performs full serotyping. Moreover, the official laboratories notify the competent authority (CA) and the NRL regarding a positive sample (Salmonella spp.), immediately, on the day that the detection testing is finalized.

## 2. Legal basis for the implementation of the programme

*(max. 32000 chars) :*

The national salmonella control programme on fattening and breeding turkeys is implemented pursuant to:

- Article 5 of 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,
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 of 15 November 2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs,
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 of 1 August 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,
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 213/2009 of 18 March 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EC) No 1003/2005 as regards the control and testing of Salmonella in breeding flocks of Gallus gallus and turkeys,
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1190/2012 of 12 December 2012 concerning a Union target for the reduction of Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium in flocks of turkeys, as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council,
- Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin,



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- Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, amending Council Decision 90/424/EEC and repealing Council Directive 92/117/EEC.
- The national decision for the implementation of the programme is the Ministerial Decision No 1751/51822/13-05-2013 (Government Gazette, Series II, No 1141) on the "Control programme for Salmonella in flocks of breeding and fattening turkeys".

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).

(max. 32000 chars) :

Please, follow information of table 4 and graph 4 for the monitoring of zoonotic Salmonella in flocks of fattening turkeys since 2010.

In 2021, in Greece there were 57 flocks of fattening turkeys in 26 holdings. 50 of them were tested for zoonotic salmonella in the context of NSCP. The rest were not tested because they were not at the proper age. Two (2) out of 50 were positive for Salmonella spp., but none of them was positive for the targeted salmonella serovars.

Due to these results, the community target was achieved in 2021.

Information on the surveillance of salmonella in several food and feed categories in Greece can be found at Efsa's annual summary reports on zoonoses, zoonotic agents, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreaks, which are published at EFSA's website.

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

All fattening turkey holdings must be authorized.

All holdings keeping fattening turkey flocks should keep a register in which all information on hygiene is recorded. A detailed record of the implementation of the programme and all treatments must be recorded.

Each shed is identified by a unique code number consisting of the following elements: code number of the holding/number of the house/date of flock placement in the house.

There is no official registration of the turkey fattening flocks, but the FBOs are obliged to forward detailed information on each flock on their holding (date of placement, dates of slaughter, own-check results) to the competent regional veterinary authority.

### 5. System to monitor the implementation of the programme.

(max. 32000 chars) :

Each positive salmonella spp. result is notified without delay to the competent regional veterinary

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authority in order to take measures in case of suspicion and to the Department of Zoonoses. In addition, every 6 months, the state veterinary laboratories report the results of official tests performed in the context of NSCP to the Department of Zoonoses and the approved private laboratories report the results of the own-check received in the context of NSCP to the NRL, which then report them to the Department of Zoonoses.

Moreover, all the Regional Veterinary Units report four times per year to the Department of Zoonoses detailed information for every fattening turkey flock within their area.

This information includes data on the official and own-check controls (dates, results, type of sampling), number of infected birds slaughtered or heat treated, etc.

In addition, the FBOs of the slaughterhouses are required to keep records or a computerized system, which recorded the information contained in the accompanying documentation accompanying the birds to the slaughterhouse and which contain also the FCI.

Then, the official veterinarians of the slaughterhouses are obliged to report all the relevant information (regarding NSCP information) to the competent regional veterinary authority, so that the official veterinarian responsible for implementing the FCI are able to:

- evaluate the programme in the area of his responsibility and
- select the holdings on which official controls and sampling are to be carried out.

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## 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	Fattening flocks of Turkeys	4
Serotyping	Fattening flocks of Turkeys	2
Antimicrobial detection test	Fattening flocks of Turkeys	0
Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	Fattening flocks of Turkeys	0

#### 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)	57	57
No of flocks in the programme	57	57
No of flocks planned to be checked (b)	0	4
No of flock visits to take official samples (c)	0	4
No of official samples taken	0	8
Target serovars (d)	SE + ST	SE + ST
Possible No of flocks infected by target serovars	0	1

(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

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## *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 in the framework of NSCP is performed by the veterinarians of the regional veterinary services and the samples (properly packed and labeled) are sent shortly after collection to the three (3) designated state veterinary laboratories, as already mentioned.

The costs for these procedures (sampling, packing materials, transport costs) are covered by the state budget and co-financed by the EC.

In general, national funding is provided by the country's annual budget. To this end, a relevant request is submitted to the Greek Ministry of Development in order to secure all necessary funds for the purposes of animal disease control, surveillance and eradication and other related expenditure. Following a positive reply as regards the total sum to be allocated for the year in question, an annual Joint Ministerial Decision is issued on supplies and procurements. Once issued this Decision is the base for funding of all official animal disease activities including approved National Veterinary programmes and those co-financed by the EC.

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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 official veterinarians working in the three (3) designated state veterinary laboratories involved in the NSCPs, in collaboration with the technical staff perform all the analytical tests. The salaries of the staff are paid exclusively by the state budget. The costs related to this testing is covered by the state budget (Ministry of Development, together with the Directorate General of Financial Service of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, in cooperation with the Animal Health Directorate of the same Ministry, according to the Joint Ministerial Decision on supplies and procurements issued each year) and co-financed by the EC.

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)

N/A

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)

N/A

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

N/A

### 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

# Fattening flocks of Turkeys

## 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 :	