



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 : HRVATSKA

Disease Salmonella

Animal population Laying 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

06/12/2022 15:11:12

Submission Number

1670335872561-19133



Laying 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 517/2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a Union target for the reduction of the prevalence of *Salmonella* serotypes in laying hens of *Gallus gallus*,
- 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. Aim of the programme

It is to implement all relevant measures in order to reduce the prevalence of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium (including the serotypes with the antigenic formula 1,4,[5],12:i:-) in adult laying hens of *Gallus gallus* ('Union target') as follows:

- An annual minimum percentage of reduction of positive flocks of adult laying hens equal to at least 10% where the prevalence in the preceding year was less than 10%.
- An annual minimum percentage of reduction of positive flocks of adult laying hens equal to at least 20% where the prevalence in the preceding year was more than or equal to 10% and less than 20%.
- A reduction of the maximum percentage equal to 2% or less of positive flocks of adult laying hens.
- The Member States has less than 50 flocks of adult laying hens: the target is to have not more than one adult flock remaining positive.

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

The Union target shall be achieved every year based on the monitoring of the previous year.

Comments(max. 32000 chars) :

The aim of the national control programme is to reduce the prevalence of S. Enteritidis and S. Typhimurium (including monophasic Salmonella Typhimurium with the antigenic formula 1,4,[5],12:i:-) in flocks of laying hens of Gallus gallus in accordance with Article 4 of the Regulation 2160/2003 for at least 10 % annually in all agricultural holdings in the country which produce table eggs.

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

yes

no

If No, please explain :

n/a

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3. Flocks subject to the programme

The programme covers all flocks of adult laying hens of *Gallus gallus* but does not apply to flocks for private domestic use or leading to the direct supply, by the producer, of small quantities of table eggs to the final consumer or to local retail establishments directly supplying the eggs to the final consumer. For the latter case (direct supply), national rules are adopted ensuring *Salmonella* control in these flocks. The programme covers also all rearing flocks of future laying hens.

yes

no

If No, please explain :

All flocks, regardless of the category and registration, the products of which are intended for public consumption are included in the implementation of the Programme. Program covers adult and rearing flocks that are sampled routinely during rearing and production phase.

"Flock" means all poultry of the same health status kept on the same premises or in the same enclosure and constituting a single epidemiological unit; in the case of housed poultry; this includes all birds sharing the same airspace.

	Total number of flocks of layers in the MS	Number of flocks covered by the programme	Number of flocks where FBO sampling shall take place	Number of flocks where official sampling will take place
Rearing flocks	85		85	60
Adult flocks	400	400	400	172
Number of holdings with more than 1,000 laying hens				95
Number of flocks in these holdings				220
<i>NB : All cells shall be filled in with the best estimation available.</i>				

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

n/a

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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 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 food business operator and the laboratory performing the analyses.

yes

no

if no, please explain :

n/a

5. Biosecurity measures

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

yes

no

if no, please explain. If yes, please describe the biosecurity measures that shall be applied, quote the document describing them (if any) (max. 32000 chars) :

General biosecurity measures are obligatory for FBO and are prescribed in Order on measures to protect animals from contagious and parasitic diseases and their financing for th calender year (last one published for 2021 in Official Gazette No 2/21

Due to that for the purpose of effective prevention of disease introduction flock holders are obliged to carry out appropriate biosecurity measures. The implementation of biosecurity measures is also mandatory for animals transporters, veterinarians, veterinary inspectors and all other persons who come into contact with animals due to the nature of the work.

In order to prevent the introduction and spread of poultry disease, farms with 1000 birds and more should implement following minimum biosecurity measures:

- disinfection of vehicles and establishments in accordance with technological requirements, using an approved disinfectant in the prescribed concentration and keep records thereof;
- disinfection barrier for staff and visitors shall be placed at the entrance into the farm;
- records shall be kept on all vehicles entering the farm, with the date of entrance and exit from the farm and reason for the visit;
- records shall be kept on all visitors entering the farm, with the date of entrance and exit from the farm and reason for the visit;
- during each entrance of a worker or a visitor into a poultry farm, biological safety measures to prevent

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the introduction and spreading of the influenza virus shall be implemented, in particular: use of protective footwear and clothing, hand and footwear disinfection when entering the farm; cleaning, washing and disinfection of footwear when leaving the farm;

– workers and visitors of the farm shall be provided with protective clothing and footwear for that purpose only, and it is prohibited to leave the farm in the same protective clothing and footwear;

– farm employees shall not keep poultry in their household;

– farm employees shall not work in the poultry breeding establishments outside those at the farm.

Also according to GMP every producer should obey general biosecurity and zoo technical rules. In case where necessary, veterinary inspectors have the right to order the establishment of additional biosecurity measures on the holding.

General hygiene measures applied at the farm are (regardless of size and number of animals):

a) evidence of all entrances on the farm should be kept (including animals, eggs, people, feed)

b) unauthorized personnel and visitors may enter to the poultry house only when is necessary and under strict hygiene measures that includes use of special protective clothing and use of disinfectants

c) disbarriers should be used at the entrance on the farm and in the establishments the environment around poultry establishments and farming area should be clean and tidy

d) facilities should be made of materials that are easy to maintain and clean

e) use of appropriate protection from wild birds (e.g. nests on the windows)

f) use of appropriate protection from wild animals on the farm (e.g. fenced farms)

g) no pets, other animal species or (other) poultry are allowed to be kept in the poultry house (in case pets or other animal species are kept on the farm the same should be in separated units)

h) regular deratisation and desinsection should be done

i) at least once per year regular control of water quality should be done in case water is not supplied from waterworks and if necessary to use chemicals

j) Feed and litter should be stored in a way that it stays clean, dry and mould free as well as protected from rodents and wild birds

k) The feed silo should be placed on a paved underground and easy to clean

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

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

a. Rearing flocks: day-old chicks, two weeks before moving to laying phase or laying unit

b. Adults laying flocks: every 15 weeks during the laying period

yes

no

if no, please explain - Indicate also who takes the FBO samples, and, if additional FBO sampling, going beyond the minimum sampling requirements, is performed, please describe what is done.

All flocks, regardless of the category and registration, the products of which are intended for public consumption are included in the implementation of the Programme.

Eggs for human consumption ("A" class eggs) may be placed on the market only if they come from salmonella-free flocks (*S. Enteritidis* or *S. Typhimurium* other than vaccine strains), or if flock holders

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possess health certificates for the flock issued by an official laboratory. The certificate is issued on the basis of samples submitted to the official laboratory by authorised veterinarian.

The sampling scheme is more frequented than prescribed by legislation. For the purpose of the programme routine samples are taken not by FBO but Authorised veterinary organizations (AVO).

All flocks, regardless of their category and registration, the products of which are intended for public consumption, must be examined by submitting official samples to an official laboratory.

From poultry for table egg production of Gallus gallus, samples are taken:

- From day-old chicks;
- Samples of transport liners (1 liner/500 day-old chicks, maximum 10 liners) and chickens (1 chick / 500 birds or maximum 60 day-old chicks) are taken in sites in the building in which the birds are kept at each delivery of chicks.

- From 12-week old chicks;
- Two pair of boot swabs samples are taken in sites in the building in which the birds are kept once when they are 12 weeks old.

- Two weeks before moving to laying phase or laying unit;
- Two pair of boot swabs samples or faeces samples are taken in sites in the building in which the birds are kept once in that period.

- During the laying phase;
- Samples are taken in the laying unit. If poultry is not vaccinated against salmonellosis, in poultry flocks with 350 and more birds samples are taken every four weeks, and in poultry flocks with less than 350 birds samples are taken four times/year in three-month periods. If poultry is vaccinated against salmonellosis, in poultry flocks with 350 and more birds samples are taken every eight weeks, and in poultry flocks with less than 350 birds samples are taken four times/year in three-month periods.
- A sample type which is submitted for laboratory testing depends on the type of keeping of birds (cage/free range/floor system). Two pair of boot swabs samples or at least two pooled faeces samples are taken.

Within the framework of national control programme (routine active monitoring) all samples are taken by authorized veterinarians. FBO are not allowed to take samples within national monitoring programme (for the purpose of the routine active monitoring).

7. Samples are taken in accordance with provisions of point 2.2 of Annex to Regulation (EU) No 517/2011

yes

no

if no, please explain :

n/a

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8. Specific requirements laid down in Annex II.D of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 will be complied with where relevant. In particular:

- due to the presence or the suspicion of the presence of SE or ST (including monophasic ST I,4,[5],12:i:-) in the flock, eggs cannot be used for human consumption unless heat treated;
- eggs from these flocks shall be marked and considered as class B eggs.

yes

no

if no, please explain - Indicate also if prompt depopulation of the infected flocks is compulsory.

All flocks, regardless of the category and registration, the products of which are intended for public consumption are included in the implementation of the Programme.

Eggs for human consumption ("A" class eggs) may be placed on the market only if they come from salmonella-free flocks (*S. Enteritidis* or *S. Typhimurium* other than vaccine strains), or if flock holders possess health certificates for the flock issued by an official laboratory. The certificate is issued on the basis of samples submitted to the official laboratory by authorised veterinarian.

The sampling scheme is more frequented than prescribed by legislation. For the purpose of the programme routine samples are taken not by FBO but Authorised veterinary organizations (AVO).

All flocks, regardless of their category and registration, the products of which are intended for public consumption, must be examined by submitting official samples to an official laboratory.

From poultry for table egg production of *Gallus gallus*, samples are taken:

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- Samples of transport liners (1 liner/500 day-old chicks, maximum 10 liners) and chickens (1 chick / 500 birds or maximum 60 day-old chicks) are taken in sites in the building in which the birds are kept at each delivery of chicks.
- From 12-week old chicks;
- Two pair of boot swabs samples are taken in sites in the building in which the birds are kept once when they are 12 weeks old.
- Two weeks before moving to laying phase or laying unit;
- Two pair of boot swabs samples or faeces samples are taken in sites in the building in which the birds are kept once in that period.
- During the laying phase;
- Samples are taken in the laying unit. If poultry is not vaccinated against salmonellosis, in poultry flocks with 350 and more birds samples are taken every four weeks, and in poultry flocks with less than 350

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birds samples are taken four times/year in three-month periods. If poultry is vaccinated against salmonellosis, in poultry flocks with 350 and more birds samples are taken every eight weeks, and in poultry flocks with less than 350 birds samples are taken four times/year in three-month periods.

- A sample type which is submitted for laboratory testing depends on the type of keeping of birds (cage/free range/floor system). Two pair of boot swabs samples or at least two pooled faeces samples are taken.

Within the framework of national control programme (routine active monitoring) all samples are taken by authorized veterinarians. FBO are not allowed to take samples within national monitoring programme (for the purpose of the routine active monitoring).

9.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 following measures are ordered to FBO at farm level:

- it is prohibited to use antimicrobials for the treatment of breeding flocks;
- the owner/holder of the flock is bound to conduct relevant bio-safety measures on the holding so as to reduce the possibility of introducing the infection as much as possible.
- It is prohibited to move poultry and eggs from the holding except with a special authorisation issued by a competent veterinary inspector;
- It is prohibited to hatch eggs originating from infected flocks. Eggs hatched during the treatment must be collected and destroyed in accordance with the Regulation 1069/2009. Where eggs for hatching from flocks infected flock are still present in a hatchery, they must be destroyed in accordance with the Regulation 1069/2009;
- It is prohibited to move feed from the holding;
- Cleaning and disinfection, disinfestation and deratisation of infected facilities for breeding and keeping of poultry must be conducted; when disinfection is completed, its efficiency should be bacteriologically controlled;
- Cleaning, washing and disinfection of vehicles must be conducted by appropriate disinfection means;
- Removal and sanitary treatment of manure must be conducted in a prescribed manner.

Measures implemented by the FBO (slaughterhouse level)

1. Slaughter shall be carried out at the end of regular daily slaughter;
2. After the slaughter, washing and enhanced sanitation, disinfection shall be carried out;
3. Next day, prior to the slaughter, swabs shall be taken in order to control disinfection efficiency of the production facility;
4. Washing and enhanced sanitation, disinfection of the vehicles and cages for the transport of birds shall be carried out;
5. Meat of birds shall be deboned and goes solely in processing, including heat treatment;
6. Offal goes solely in processing;
7. Before the processing, samples shall be taken for laboratory analysis;
8. Production process includes processing with heat treatment;
9. After completed production, final products are stored in a separate area and samples for laboratory

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analysis shall be taken;

10. The product can be placed on the market only upon completion of laboratory analysis and compliant results of analytical report.

If fresh meat from infected flocks is put on the market, it must comply with the requirements under 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. Slaughterhouses which decide to slaughter flocks infected with SE or ST shall include in their sampling plans poultry carcasses from such flocks.

Due to fact that FBO are responsible to ensure that food satisfy the requirements of food law at all stages of production, processing and distribution (art. 17. Reg. 178/2002) slaughterhouse should take steps to minimize cross contamination and spread of contamination to other carcasses and this is normally achieved by scheduling the slaughter at the end of a slaughtering session just before a clean down. This slaughterhouse should also assess the risk of slaughtering birds that may result in contaminated carcasses, the details of any additional procedures they may put in place should already be detailed in the HACCP plans.

As Regulation 2073/2005 requires, each slaughterhouse should implement a sampling and testing programme to demonstrate compliance with the PH criteria for salmonella spp and FSC for SE and ST. Taking into account that there is no requirement to target the positive flock for sampling (but it only must be minimum number of samples as Reg. (EC) No 2073/2005 says) the FBO as part of his HACCP plans may decide to take extra samples and target the flock in addition to his normal sampling. The results of sampling the fresh poultry meat should comply with the FSC at all points in the food chain after slaughter.

During the slaughtering process, there is an obligatory presence of state veterinary inspector (employee of the Croatian State Inspectorate) which takes records of the performed slaughtering of birds from flocks infected with SE or ST.

Measures implemented by the CA (farm and slaughterhouse level)

All measures related to eradication of salmonella from positive flock are ordered by competent veterinary inspector.

Additionally, veterinary inspector must conduct epidemiological investigation in order to determine a source of infection focusing on determining the implementation of bio-safety measures;

If fresh meat from infected flocks is put on the market, it must comply with the requirements under 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.

Approved official laboratory shall submit information on the findings positive for Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium to the competent veterinary inspection office which then informs branch office.

The veterinary inspection determines facts on site and issues a decision on further actions and measures. The decision shall be issued to the animal holder and to the control body responsible for inspection in the slaughterhouse.

The control body is present at ante-mortem and post-mortem examination.

FBO shall submit to the control body documents relating to the above mentioned actions and control body shall make a report accordingly.

All of the above mentioned actions and activities are controlled by the veterinary inspection of the competent authority which prepares a report accordingly and results of salmonella testings are included in the FCI.

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

yes

no

If no, please explain :

n/a

11. 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.

n/a

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

yes

no

If no please explain.

FBO are not allowed to take samples for the purpose of this programme.
Due to the above mentioned all official laboratories providing diagnostic testing of the samples taken

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from poultry within this programme are accredited in accordance with the current version of the norm Salmonella isolation standard (proof of salmonella presence): HRN EN ISO 6579-1: 2017 / Amd 1: 2020. Microbiology of the food chain - Horizontal method for the detection, enumeration and serotyping of Salmonella - Part 1: Detection of Salmonella spp. and the norm Salmonella serotyping standard HRI CEN ISO / TR 6579-3: 2014. Microbiology of the food chain - Horizontal method for the detection, enumeration and serotyping of Salmonella - Part 3: Guidelines for serotyping of Salmonella spp. - Amendment 1. At least one isolate is serotyped according to the Kaufmann-White scheme. The norm states that one colony for serotyping - determination of salmonella serotype - is selected and inoculated from selective agar plates (XLD and RAMBACH AGAR). If one colony is not sufficient, 4 more suspected colonies are inoculated and the serotype determined. In the case of epidemiological studies, it is desirable to serotype 5 inoculated colonies.

12. Samples are transported and stored in accordance with point 3.1 of the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 517/2011. In particular, samples examination shall start in the laboratory within 4 days after sampling.

yes

no

If no, please explain :

n/a

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

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

Official controls are carried out regularly according to a risk based determined frequency using appropriate control methods and techniques such as monitoring, surveillance, verification, audit, inspection, sampling and analysis.

State inspectorate prepare, coordinate and monitor the implementation of the annual feed monitoring plan in order to determine compliance with food safety requirements and relevant regulations regarding feed. State Inspectorate implements plan on the field and carry out inspection tasks. Veterinary inspection Annual Plan for official controls includes the official controls of Feed business operators.

Sampling:

Annual feed monitoring plan is prepared to determine level of undesirable and prohibited substances in feed, to check microbial feed safety, to determine ingredients of animal origin in feed and determination of genetically modified feed. Samples are exclusively taken from feed intended for food production animals.

Sampling is carried out in approved and registered feed business operators and feed producers facilities at all stages of production, processing and distribution of feed, including farms registered in the Register

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as feed primary producers.

According to the Annual feed monitoring plan, a monthly feed sampling plan is prepared at a regional veterinary inspection level by the Feed Coordinators. Sampling is carried out by veterinary inspectors within their territorial jurisdiction. The sampling frequency is determined regionally on the basis of results obtained in previous official controls and objects that are classified as higher risk and the facilities in which they were obtained inconsistent results within National Residue Monitoring Program. Sampling is carried out on the premises without prior notice to the feed business operator (producers). Feed samples are sent to the laboratory without delay on the sampling day followed with a Sampling form. Additionally, at least one sample is taken at the same time which properly packaged and labeled remains to the feed operator for the purpose, if necessary, for a further expert opinion (laboratory testing).

14. Official controls at holding, flock and hatchery 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) :

Official controls are carried out regularly according to a risk based determined frequency using appropriate control methods and techniques such as monitoring, surveillance, verification, audit, inspection, sampling and analysis.

Veterinary inspection Annual Plan for official controls includes official controls at a level of primary production.

Every official control covers all relevant requirements including animal health, welfare, using of VMP, feed, waste disposal and at the farms with 5000 or more poultry implementation of a prescribed biosecurity measures.

Additionally, official controls at a level of primary production includes control of general hygiene conditions according to the Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004.

In the case of identified non compliances veterinary inspectors must take appropriate measures according to the Regulation (EC) no. 2017/625 in the shortest possible time frame.

All routine samplings must be done at the holding, and routine sampling at the hatchery is additional cross control of national breeding flocks therefore all official controls are done at the holding.

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

- in one flock per year per holding comprising at least 1,000 birds;
- at the age of 24 +/- 2 weeks in laying flocks housed in buildings where the relevant Salmonella was detected in the preceding flock;
- in any case of suspicion of Salmonella infection when investigating food-borne outbreaks in accordance with Article 8 of Directive 2003/99/EC or any cases where the competent authority considers it appropriate, using the sampling protocol laid down in point 4(b) of Part D to Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003;
- in all other laying flocks on the holding in case Salmonella Enteritidis or Salmonella Typhimurium is detected in one laying flock on the holding;
- in cases where the competent authority considers it appropriate.

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

Official sampling will be implemented according to the EU minimum requirements.

Additionally all holdings that are/were in previous year under restriction measures due to suspicion/confirmation of relevant Salmonella shall be included in official controls.

Official samples will be taken by authorized veterinarians under control and supervision of competent veterinary inspector. All samples taken for the purpose of the official control must be tested in NRL for Salmonella in poultry.

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.

FBO sample is not considered as the official routine sample for the purpose of the programme.

Therefore after obtaining the positive finding from the sample taken by FBO at his private initiative and for the purpose of excluding/confirming the suspicion, a competent veterinary inspector must order the approved veterinary organisation to take additional samples from the suspicious flock and to deliver them promptly to NRL.

The additional sample must be examined in a manner described in Regulation 517/2011, it must not derive from birds treated with antimicrobials which may affect the results of laboratory examination, and it consists of:

1. In cage flocks:

- five pooled samples of naturally mixed faeces shall be taken from all belts or scrapers in the house after running the manure removal system; however, in the case of step cage houses without scrapers or belts five pooled samples of mixed fresh faeces must be collected from 60 different places beneath the cages in the dropping pits

- two pooled samples of dusty material (dust) in the quantity of 2x100 g collected in the facility

- Samples of cloacal swabs collected from 300 hens (bacteriological examination). If there are less than 300 hens in a facility, it is necessary to take a sample of cloacal swabs from all hens, and

- Five randomly selected hens /facility, whereby all organs must be laboratory examined both on Salmonella and use of antimicrobials.

2. In barn or free-range houses:

- five pairs of boot swabs or socks shall be taken. Boot swabs used must be sufficiently absorptive to soak up moisture. The surface of the boot swab must be moistened using appropriate diluents. The samples must be taken while walking through the house using a route that produces representative samples for all parts of the house or the respective sector. This shall include littered and slatted areas provided that slats are safe to walk on. All separate pens within a house must be included in the sampling. On completion of the sampling in the chosen sector, boot swabs must be removed carefully so as not to dislodge adherent material,

- One sample of dusty material (dust) in the quantity of 100 g collected in the facility

- Samples of cloacal swabs collected from 300 hens (bacteriological examination). If there are less than 300 hens in a facility, it is necessary to take a sample of cloacal swabs from all hens, and

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- Five randomly selected hens /facility, whereby all organs must be laboratory examined both on Salmonella and use of antimicrobials.

Such confirmatory sampling can be done only once. During the period of confirmatory sampling no eggs or animals can leave the holding so no public health is endangered .

Additionally, in case of a suspicion of S. Enteritidis or S. Typhimurium in a flock of laying hens, a competent veterinary inspector must order the implementation of the following measures to the bird holder:

- Prohibition of use of antimicrobials for the treatment of flocks of adult laying hens (flock in production) suspicious of salmonella infection caused by S. Enteritidis or S. Typhimurium,
- Prohibition of movement of poultry and eggs from the holding except with a special authorisation issued by a competent veterinary inspector,
- Prohibition of movement of feed from the holding,
- Prohibition of removal of manure from the holding,
- Appropriate cleaning, washing and disinfection of premises, devices and equipment in the sites for production and storage of poultry feed,
- Disinfection and cleaning of vehicles by appropriate means;
- A competent veterinary inspector must conduct epidemiological investigation to determine a source of infection.

The measures remain in force until the presence of S. Enteritidis or S. Typhimurium serotype is excluded by repeated laboratory testing (confirmatory testing). All samples mentioned must be taken in case when confirmatory sampling is done. The flock is considered positive if relevant Salmonella is detected in any of samples taken for the purpose of confirmatory sampling. In case of confirmatory sampling use of antimicrobials must be checked so if no salmonella is confirmed but antimicrobials are detected the flock is also considered positive.

The flock is considered as negative if all samples tested on Salmonella are negative and if testing on antimicrobials is negative.

1	2	3	4
For routine samples taken at the holding	No of flocks positive to SE / ST	Out of the flocks in column 2, No of cases where official confirmatory samples ³ were taken	Out of the cases in column 3, No of cases where confirmatory samples were negative
FBO samples ¹	0	0	0
Official samples ²	10	0	0

¹ Reg 517/2011, point 2.2.1 of the Annex

² Reg 517/2011, point 2.2.2 of the Annex

³ Reg 2160/2003, point II.D.4 of the Annex

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What happened to the flocks counted under 4 (re checked for the presence of Salmonella? Checked for the presence of antimicrobials?) (max. 32000 chars):

The flock is considered as negative if all samples tested on Salmonella are negative and if testing on antimicrobials is negative.

- 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, sampletaking) to check the correct implementation of this provision. For samples please describe the samples taken, the analytical method used, the result of the tests.

Comments - Describe also if any other measures are implemented(max. 32000 chars) :

Official controls of holdings are done according to Annual plan of the State veterinary inspection and are based on supervision of the work done by authorised veterinarians and supervisions of poultry holdings. The use of antimicrobials is done according to Regulation 1177/2006. Antimicrobials are not used routinely; the application of the same is under strict control of authorised veterinarians and veterinary inspectors. Antimicrobials should be used on the basis of results of bacteriological examination and antibiograms whenever possible. Each treatment of a flock must be recorded in the official document called Records on Animal Treatment and Waiting Period. A competent veterinary inspector or official veterinarian is carrying out controls on the use of antimicrobials on farms regularly. Specific sampling is done in case of confirmatory sampling or in case when there is suspicion on the results of testing. In such occasions additional samples will be taken (at least 5 randomly selected birds/ establishment). When presence of relevant Salmonella serotypes is not detected, but antimicrobials or bacterial growth inhibitors have been detected in the flock, and at the same time there is no relevant evidence on treatment of other diseases the flock is considered Salmonella positive.

15. Salmonella vaccination

Voluntary

Compulsory

Forbidden

Use of *Salmonella* vaccines is in compliance with provisions of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006.

yes

no

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

If no, please explain. - If performed please describe the vaccination scheme (vaccines used, vaccines providers, target flocks, number of doses administered per bird, etc) (max. 32000 chars) :

The use of vaccines as the use of any veterinary medicinal product is in line with Regulation (EC) No. 1177/2006.

Live salmonella vaccines shall not be used in the framework of national control programmes where the manufacturer does not provide an appropriate method to distinguish bacteriologically wild-type strains of salmonella from vaccine strains. Only the use of approved vaccines is allowed. The vaccination scheme is chosen by the veterinarian responsible for the farm according to the indications of the producer.

For the purpose of organizing the implementation of the vaccination of poultry, the holders are obliged to timely announce the arrival of poultry on the farm to authorized veterinary organization and submit the information about the vaccine scheme against the salmonellosis that will be carried out in the flock. Vaccination is performed on all birds in the flock according to the vaccination scheme from the manufacturer's instructions.

The vaccination scheme may consist of:

- The use of an inactivated vaccine against *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium* applied no more than twice during the rearing phase,
- administration of attenuated vaccine against *S. Enteritidis* and/or *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium* applied no more than three times during the rearing phase,
- Combined administration of attenuated and inactivated vaccine against *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium* applied no more than three times during the rearing phase

After the vaccination authorized veterinarians is obliged to:

- enroll vaccination in the Animal Health Record,
- issue a certificate to the owner about the performed vaccination.

The data on vaccination includes at least the following:

- name, type and batch NO of vaccine,
- number of birds vaccinated by type of poultry and flock age,
- the number of vaccine doses used,
- date of vaccination, and
- Name and surname of the authorized veterinarian responsible for the implementation of the measure.

16. System for **compensation to owners** for the value of their birds slaughtered or culled and the eggs destroyed or heat treated.

Describe the system for compensation to owners. Indicate also how improper implementation of biosecurity measures can affect the payment of compensation (max. 32000 chars) :

Compensation for owners of slaughtered or killed flocks/eggs is prescribed by the Veterinary Act. Measures of killing or in certain cases emergency slaughter of infected animals or of those suspected of infection, and in the cases of animal welfare protection, disposal of the contaminated objects shall be ordered when the infectious disease cannot be successfully and without the risk of spread thereof, be suppressed with the implementation of other measures stipulated by the Act or when there is no economic justification for the implementation of other measures for the suppression of the disease. For animals killed, slaughtered or for animals which have died due to the implementation of the ordered measures, as well as for the objects that were damaged or destroyed in the course of the implementation of the ordered measures referred to Veterinary Act, the animal holder or the owner of

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

the object are entitled to the compensation in the amount of the market value on the day of the implementation of the measure.

The assessment of the value of the animals and objects is carried out by the commission appointed by the CVO, the composition of which must include the competent veterinary inspector. The decision on the entitlement to the damage compensation and on the amount of damage compensation is passed by the CVO upon the proposal of the commission within 60 days, while payment must ensue not later than 90 days from the day of implementation of the measures.

The animal holder or owner of the object is not entitled to damage compensation referred:

- if he failed to immediately report the appearance of the infectious disease and did not treat the animal in the manner stipulated by the of the implementing legislation.
- if he failed to undertake the stipulated or ordered measures for the prevention and control of infectious or parasitic diseases,
- if he transfers the animal from an uninfected to an infected or endangered area or from the infected or endangered area to the uninfected area,
- if he conducts trade of animal contrary to the provisions of Veterinary Act,
- if the animal disease appeared during import or within the duration of quarantine of the imported animal.

Since biosecurity is measure obligatory prescribed by annual order, in case owner failed to undertake the stipulated or ordered measures for the prevention and control of infectious disease, he will lose the right on compensation.

17. 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, No of tests, samples taken, etc).

(max. 32000 chars):

After depopulation of an infected flock appropriate cleaning, washing and disinfection of premises, devices and equipment in the sites for production and storage of poultry feed must be done. Vehicles used for transport have to be cleaned, washed and disinfected by appropriate disinfection means. Disinfection, disinfestation and deratisation of infected facilities for breeding and keeping of poultry has to be done.

When disinfection is completed, its efficiency should be bacteriologically controlled by taking of environmental swabs from different places. It is prohibited to introduce new poultry into the establishment until a negative control result of disinfection efficiency is obtained. Manure has to be removed and sanitary treated in a prescribed manner.

Restocking of the poultry is allowed after the negative results of bacteriological tests.

A sampling protocol for the verification of efficacy of disinfection is not defined in our national legislation. During official inspection at the holding, the veterinary inspector orders the appropriate sampling protocol. The boot swabs for taking of samples for Salmonella shall be used, and the walls, the floor, cages, feeding system, ventilation system, egg collection system shall be sampled. Samples may be pooled for testing. Samples must be taken by authorised veterinarian.

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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) :

Ministry of Agriculture – Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate General is responsible for:

- development and coordination of the implementation of the program in Croatia
- issuing instructions and interpreting legislation on NSCP
- collecting, analysis and monitoring data as well as evaluation of the results of the programme implementation
- supervision over the work of authorised veterinary organisations in implementing the measures under this programme
- planing and distribution of financial resources within NSCP

State Inspectorate - Veterinary Inspection and Food Safety Sector is responsible for control over programme implementation and official controls

Obligations of keepers of animals:

- 1) To give immediate notification to a veterinarian in an authorised veterinary organization if signs of a disease and/or death occur
- 2) To restrict the movement of an animal suspected of being affected by disease and to prevent contact of other people and animals with the suspected animal or carcass until veterinary checks have been completed.
- 3) To strictly implement all prescribed and ordered veterinary measures in order to control and eradicate the disease.
- 4) To assure regular monitoring of health status of herd and cooperate with authorised veterinarian in way to efficiently implement ordered measures.

Obligations of authorised veterinary organizations:

- 1) To implement the measures determined by this program

Obligations of the official laboratories:

- 1) To perform laboratory tests in accordance with the procedures being laid down in this program.
- 2) To inform the VFSD and State Inspectorate and veterinary organisation about the results of diagnostic tests

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

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

(max. 32000 chars):

Veterinary Act (OG 82/13, 148/13,115/18,52/12)

Food Act (OG 81/13)

Act on VMP (OG 81/13)

Law on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products (OG 52/21)

National Salmonellosis Control Program in Laying flocks of Gallus gallus for current calendar year

Regulation 2160/2003

Regulation 517/2011

Regulation 1177/2006

Regulation 2017/625

Regulation 1069/2009 and Regulation 142/2011

Ordinance on marketing standards for eggs (OG 90/21)

Ordinance on the notification of animal diseases (OG 65/20)

Ordinance on authorization and appointment of official and national referent laboratories (OG 102/10)

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):

In 2021 prevalence of Salmonella was 0,9% (data calculated for all tested flocks regardless age).

In 2021, total 442 laying hen flocks were tested on Salmonella spp. and out of them Salmonella was confirmed in 4 adult flocks of laying hens (2 on SE and 2 on ST).

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

(max. 32000 chars):

Pursuant to the provisions of the Article 37 of the Veterinary Act (OG 82/13, 142/13,115/18, 52/21) poultry farms and hatcheries must be registered in the Farms Register, which is an integral part of the Central Register of Domestic Animals, the responsibility for which lies with the Ministry of Agriculture. Detailed instructions on registration of poultry farms are prescribed in Ordinance on contents, form and manner of registration of farms according to which all farms with at least 250 birds and all farms from which poultry and eggs are placed on the market regardless of the number of animals have to be registered. Additionally, poultry farm and hatchery intending to place poultry and hatching eggs on the market of the European Union has to be approved by CA.

The identification system for the registration of individual flocks is not requested in the national legislation. Authorised veterinarian during Salmonella sampling obligatory fills in a sampling form that contains the data defined in the national legislation. In addition to data on the name and address of the holding, poultry species, poultry category (rearing flock or adult flock), the type and number of samples veterinarian shall indicate in each sampling form also:

- The identification number of the house, where the holding comprises several poultry houses

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

- Age of animals at sampling
- The number of poultry at the holding

The identification number of the house is given by FBO (usually consecutive numbers are used as identification numbers e.g. house 1, house 2). FBO shall notify the competent veterinary organisation of any new housing of flocks at the holding upon its arrival latest.

5. System to monitor the implementation of the programme.

(max. 32000 chars) :

State Inspectorate -Veterinary Inspection and Food Safety Sector covers the whole territory of Croatia and is responsible for supervision of poultry farms on the field and for control of the work of authorised veterinary organisations as well as supervision of the work of official laboratories involved in SNCP.

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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	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	480
Serotyping	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	45
Antimicrobial detection test	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	5
Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	Laying 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)	85	400
No of flocks in the programme	85	400
No of flocks planned to be checked (b)	60	172
No of flock visits to take official samples (c)	60	172
No of official samples taken	120	344
Target serovars (d)	SE + ST	SE + ST
Possible No of flocks infected by target serovars	1	8
Possible No of flocks to be depopulated	1	8
Total No of birds to be slaughtered/culled	5 000	20 000
Total No of eggs to be destroyed	Text	20 000
Total No of eggs to be heat treated	Text	15 000

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

- (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

2.1 *Targets on vaccination for year :* **2023**

Type of the test (description)	Target on vaccination
Number of flocks in the Salmonella programme	485
Number of flocks expected to be vaccinated	80
Number of birds expected to be vaccinated	1 800 000
Number of doses expected to be administered	3 600 000

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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))

Sampling is done by authorized veterinarians. Sampling within official controls is fully financed from the state budget. Sampling for the purpose of routine monitoring (work of veterinarian on the farm) is financed by the flock owner .

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)

All samples are tested in the official laboratories as well as NRL appointed by the competent authority. All laboratory testing within official controls as well as routine sampling is fully financed from the state budget.

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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)

Activities regarding compensation are implemented by the central level of the VFSD and paid from the state budget.

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)

Vaccine is provided and administered by the authorized veterinary organizations or private veterinary service that performs vaccination. Flock owner pays vaccine doses and application to veterinary organization. Private veterinary service buys vaccine directly from the VMP wholesale. Invoices are submitted to the Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate, which reimburses from the state budget only vaccine doses used. Application of vaccine is payed by the flock owner.

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

In Croatia FBO are not allowed to take samples within national monitoring programme (for the purpose of the routine sampling). According to the Veterinary Act veterinary activities are conducted by legal persons through veterinary surgeries, veterinary stations, veterinary hospitals, veterinary clinics, centres for reproduction and artificial insemination, and veterinary pharmacies (veterinary organisations). Veterinary organisations are established as companies.

In the Veterinary Act it is laid down that certain activities can be performed only by veterinary stations and veterinary surgeries which on the basis of the

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carried out competition, are authorised by the Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate (competent authority) to perform these activities for the certain period.

Therefore within the framework of all national control programmes all samples are taken by authorized veterinarians from authorised veterinary organisations.

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

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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.

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