



submitted for obtaining EU financial contribution

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

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Member state : ELLADA

Disease Salmonella

Animal population Breeding 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

09/12/2022 14:17:24

Submission Number

1670588248073-19239



Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

A. Technical information

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

- Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 on the control of *Salmonella* and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents,
- Regulation (EU) No 200/2010 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 adult breeding flocks 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. The **aim of the programme** is to implement all relevant measures in order to reduce to 1% or less the maximum percentage of adult breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus* remaining positive for the target *Salmonella* serovars: *Salmonella* Enteritidis (SE), Typhimurium (ST)(including the antigenic formula 1,4,[5],12:i:-), Hadar (SH), Infantis (SI) and Virchow (SV).

For a MS with less than 100 adult breeding flocks of *Galus gallus* the target is to have no more than one such flock remaining positive for the relevant *Salmonella* serovars per year.

yes

no

If no please explain.

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

yes

no

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If no please explain.

Greece is divided into 13 administrative regions and 74 regional units. The salmonella control programme in flocks of breeders is implemented on the whole territory of the country.

3. Flocks subject to the programme

	Total number of flocks of breeders in the MS	Number of flocks with at least 250 adult breeders	Number of flocks where FBO sampling shall take place	Number of flocks where official sampling will take place
Rearing flocks	148		148	0
Adult flocks	224	224	224	224
Number of adult flocks where FBO sampling is done at the hatchery		224	224	224
Number of adult flocks where FBO sampling is done at the holding		0	0	224

NB : All cells shall be filled in with the best estimation available.

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

Routine FBO sampling takes place at the hatchery every 2 weeks.

Official sampling takes place at the hatchery every 16 weeks and on the holding twice during the laying period.

In case the hatching eggs produced are intended for intra-Community trade, the FBO sampling on the flock must be carried out on the holding where the breeding flock is kept, every 15 days. Moreover, in case that the breeding holding does not have its own hatchery and eggs are hatched in a hatchery owned by another FBO, then, FBO sampling could also be carried out on the holding. In the last case the FBO sampling is subjected to agreement between both parties and may be carried out:

- either in the hatchery every 15 days, and the FBO where the flock is located is informed of the laboratory results, which the latter must keep on file for inspection by the official veterinarian at the official check,
 - or on the holding where the breeding flock is kept, every 15 days, by collecting faecal material or dust.
- In the above-mentioned cases official sampling takes place at the holding two times during the laying phase.

The above-mentioned cases are exceptional and their number is not constant over time and for this reason we believe that they should not be indicated in table A3, which reflects the situation prevailing in the country.

There is a strong recommendation to the FBOs to perform FBO sampling on holding in case of intra-Community trade and that the Regional competent veterinary authority disseminates this information quarterly to the CCA.

Finally, on the website of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food there is the sampling scheme:

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http://www.minagric.gr/images/stories/docs/agrotis/poulerika/sximatiki_apeikon_deigmat_epes.pdf
and 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>

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.

5. Biosecurity measures

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

yes

no

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

Biosecurity is part of the national salmonella control programme (as an Annex attached to the national decision implementing the national salmonella control programme). There are guidelines in place and their implementation is linked to the compensation. In addition, biosecurity measures are regularly assessed by the CA each time an official control for the NSCP is performed, followed by a written report.

The national decision No 349699/24/12/2009 (Government Gazette, Series II, No 2599) and some of the relevant guidelines and manuals can be found at: http://www.minagric.gr/images/stories/docs/agrotis/poulerika/apofasi_elenxoy_salmon_orinthes_anaparagogis.pdf and 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:

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I) HYGIENE MANAGEMENT ON FARM

A1) ON THE HOLDINGS, the following provisions shall apply:

1. In order to obtain an operating licence, operators must meet the requirements set out in Presidential Decree 224/1998 (Government Gazette, Series I, No 175), namely: the holding must be located at a distance of at least 300 m from other poultry holdings, productive poultry establishments, hatcheries and compound feed plants, at least 1,000 m from slaughterhouses and processing plants for manure and low- or high-risk waste, and at least 5,000 m from pedigree breeding establishments. Hatcheries, compound feed plants and manure processing plants belonging to the same establishment are exempted, provided that the establishment carries out all its activities within the same enclosure and does not accept hatching eggs from other establishments.
2. Facilities must be appropriately constructed and surrounded by a fence, with a sign at the entrance for prohibiting entry.
3. Only one species of poultry shall be reared in each establishment and, if possible, the "all in, all out" system should be applied.
4. In case that more than one flock exists in a holding, each one shall be treated as a separate entity.
5. The pen and the feedstuff storage areas must be protected from wild animals.
6. All pen surfaces must be constructed by materials allowing for easy cleaning and disinfection.
7. The area surrounding the pens should be covered by cement or similar material, and be free from vegetation or rubble, with an exception for trees (unless fruit-bearing), that protect the buildings from heat.
8. Pets are not allowed on the premises.
9. Similar protective measures shall be taken to prevent the spread of disease on the holding. Changing rooms and other areas (e.g. shower rooms) for personal hygiene of both employees and visitors can contribute to the above.
10. 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.

A2) Biosecurity during handling and transport of eggs

- a. Litter in the egg incubators must be kept dry and in good condition. In addition, nest litter must be clean and in a sufficient quantity.
- b. Egg collection takes place regularly, at least twice a day. These eggs are then placed in clean, disinfected containers.
- c. Soiled, broken, cracked and bruised eggs are collected in separate containers.
- d. After their collection, clean eggs must be disinfected as soon as possible by appropriate methods.
- e. The disinfected eggs are kept in a clean, dust-free place, used exclusively for this purpose, at a temperature of 13-15°C and humidity of 70-80%.
- f. Eggs are transported to hatcheries in clean crates, either disposable or disinfected by fumigation or by the use of a suitable disinfectant.

B. BIOSECURITY MEASURES IN HATCHERIES

a. Biosecurity measures in hatchery facilities.

1. Hatchery facilities should be isolated, so as to facilitate the control of diseases, and remote from other

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livestock, especially poultry holdings. They should also have an establishment and operational licence.

2. The design of the hatchery must meet workflow needs and comply with air circulation principles. It must therefore be constructed in such a way that fulfills the principles of one-directional flow, in terms of the movement of eggs and chicks and that of the air.

3. The various working areas in the hatchery facilities must be physically separated from each other and, where possible, must have their own separate air supply. These areas are as follows:

- a reception and storage area for eggs,
- egg trays,
- fumigation area,
- incubator,
- hatchery,
- room for sorting, sexing and placing of chicks in transportation crates,
- storage area for various used materials (egg and chick transport boxes, packaging materials etc.),
- facilities for cleaning equipment and waste disposal,
- staff canteen,
- administrative office.

4. All windows and air vents must be covered by mesh netting to prevent insects and other harmful animals from entering.

b. Biosecurity measures relating to hygiene in the hatchery facilities

1. The hatching facilities must be protected by perimeter fencing, which must have an entrance for controlling the persons and vehicles entering and exiting the area.

2. The entry of wild birds, wild and domestic animals into the area must be prevented, and a suitable insect and rodent control programme should be implemented.

3. All waste, rubbish of any kind and old and redundant equipment should be removed.

4. A suitable sewerage system must be in place.

5. All equipment and hatchery surfaces should be emptied (only flat surfaces), cleaned, washed and disinfected effectively with an approved disinfectant.

II) Measures to prevent incoming infections carried by animals, feed, drinking water, people working at farms

1. Rodents and insects must be dealt with using appropriate programmes for their destruction.

2. Restocking of the pens must be done with salmonella-free poultry.

3. All feed must comply with the requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 on feed hygiene, and be confirmed to be free from Salmonella before being fed to poultry. Feed in pellet form or otherwise processed feed should be indicated as such, as a means of ensuring salmonella-free feed. Feed should then be stored in sealed storage spaces.

4. The water supply for the establishment should come from the mains network. If the water comes from a pump, its suitability for use must be ensured and microbiological tests must be carried out regularly.

5. Sick and dead poultry must be removed as soon as possible in a safe and effective way.

6. Each operator must keep a record in which diseases, deaths, treatments and vaccines administered are recorded. These records must be available whenever requested by an official inspection.

Hygiene measures during handling of eggs and egg products.

1. Egg handlers should wash their hands with soap and water and then put on new, clean outer clothing before handling the hatched eggs.

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2. Those handling chicks and sexing chicks should wash their hands and change clothing and footwear, both before beginning their work and between different batches of chicks.

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.

III) Hygiene during transport of animals to and from the holding

1. Day-old chicks and all other poultry should be sent in new carrier boxes, or if old ones are used, they must be made of a material which can be cleaned or disinfected or fumigated well.
2. Placement of chicks in the transport boxes must be carried out by personnel wearing clean, sterile clothing, which should be changed between successive batches.
3. Transport vehicles should be cleaned and disinfected prior to loading of each batch of chicks.

6. Minimum sampling requirements for food business operators :

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, four-week-old birds, two weeks before moving to laying phase or laying unit
- b. Adults breeding flocks: depending if the MS achieved the EU target for more than 2 years

Every second week during the laying period (at the holding and at the hatchery)

Every three weeks during the laying period at the holding.

Sampling frequency remains at every 2nd week at the hatchery.
(derogation of point 2.1.1 of Annex to Regulation (EC) No 200/2010)

Comments - Indicate also who takes the FBO samples

The decision on the implementing measures, No 349699/24.12.2009 (Government Gazette II/2599), lays down the sampling framework which governs the checks carried out on the operator's initiative and any official controls carried out by the official veterinary authorities of the region.

The sampling framework on the food business operator initiative is as follows:

The operator must take samples during the following production phases:

A1. In rearing flocks, sampling must be as follows:

(1) in day-old chicks: samples are taken from the hatching basket liners in which chicks are supplied to the farm and from the carcasses of chicks which are dead on arrival (more than 10 day-old chicks and at

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least 20 for a flock consisting of more than 500 chicks),
(2) in four-week poultry, in the holding,
(3) two weeks before transfer to the hatching phase or the hatching unit in the holding.

In cases (2) and (3), composite faecal samples are taken at different points in the shed; the manner of collecting these samples is laid down in point 2.2.2 of the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 200/2010 (use of swabs or pooled faeces).

The samples are appropriately labelled and registered (date, type of sample, flock code number).

A2. In adult breeding flocks, sampling must be performed in the hatchery every two weeks during the hatching period in accordance with 2.2.1 of the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 200/2010.

In cases where the breeding hen operator does not have its own hatchery and eggs are hatched in a hatchery owned by another operator, the check on the flock – subject to agreement between both parties – may be carried out:

- either in the hatchery every 15 days, and the undertaking where the flock is located is informed of the laboratory results, which the latter must keep on file for inspection by the official veterinarian at the official check,

- or on the holding where the breeding flock is kept, every 15 days, by collecting faecal material or dust. If the hatching eggs produced by the breeding hens operator are subject to intra-Community trade, the check on the flock must be carried out on the holding where the breeding flock is kept, every 15 days.

In these cases, sampling must be performed in accordance with point 2.2.2 of the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 200/2010.

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

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.

There is a circular regarding notification of self-testing issued by the CCA and sent to the local veterinary authorities. More specifically, according to the number 2424/282674/09.10.2020 document, titled 'Amendment of circular 703/6658/27.02.2020 circular issued by the Department of Zoonoses, regarding clarifications, reporting and notifications, in the framework of the NCPSs', it is highlighted that one of the main objectives of official controls is to evaluate the implementation of self testing by the FBOs and their findings. Moreover, it is laid upon the local veterinary authorities to inform the FBOs regarding their obligation to perform self-tests, the frequency of which is determined in the respective legislative framework. The self-testing schedule is submitted to the local veterinary authority which subsequently verifies it during official controls.

In all cases, laboratory results are notified to all involved local veterinary authorities and the CCA, as well as being kept as records by the FBOs and are checked during the official control.

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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 200/2010

yes

no

If no please explain.

8. Specific requirements laid down in Annex II.C of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 will be complied with where relevant (i.e. due to the presence of SE or ST (including monophasic ST 1,4,[5],12:i:-), all birds of infected rearing or adult flocks are slaughtered or killed and destroyed, and all eggs are destroyed or heat treated):

yes

no

If no please explain. Indicate also if birds are slaughtered or killed and destroyed, and if eggs are destroyed or heat treated.

The submitted programme is in compliance with Part II.C of Annex of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003.

In particular, pursuant to Article 7(4) of Greek Decision No 349699/24.12.2009 (Government Gazette, Series II, No 2599) on a "Control programme for salmonella in flocks of breeding hens of Gallus gallus" and amending Decision No 314922/29.12.2010 (Government Gazette, Series II, No 2178), through which the control programme for salmonella in flocks of breeding hens is being implemented in Greece, when positive results for *S. Enteritidis* or *S. Typhimurium* (including monophasic ST 1,4,[5],12:i:-), are notified or positive results for *S. Hadar* are notified for two consecutive samplings by the same operator, the competent veterinary authority of the region must issue a decision for the following measures to be taken:

(a) Qualifying the flock as "salmonella positive".

(b) Prohibition of movement for:

i. birds and hatching eggs to and from the holding, unless a specific authorization is provided for killing

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or destroying the birds/ eggs under safe conditions or for slaughtering in a designated slaughterhouse, in accordance with the legislation in force (Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, Annex III, Section II) on food hygiene and safety,

ii. litter and manure from the holding unless a specific authorization is provided for them to undergo processing, in accordance with the food hygiene legislation in force.

(c) Request for the slaughter or destruction of all birds in the flock (including day-old chicks), taking appropriate measures to minimize the risk of spread of salmonella. Slaughter is carried out in accordance with the food hygiene legislation in force. Products derived from such birds may be placed on the market for human consumption if they have been heat treated in accordance with 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.

(d) Request for the destruction of non-hatching eggs from salmonella-positive flocks, or, provided they have been clearly marked, request for an authorization for their removal to an approved egg-processing plant, where they will undergo heat treatment which guarantees the elimination of salmonella, in accordance with Community food hygiene legislation.

(e) Carrying out an epizootic investigation and control with the aim of establishing the source of the contamination in the affected holding or hatchery. A detailed report of the findings in compliance with biosecurity measures must be drawn up.

(f) Recommending the cleaning and effective disinfection of the premises, following the removal of the infected flocks. The removal of contaminated litter and manure must be carried out in accordance with the national and Community legislation in force (Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009). To confirm the effectiveness of disinfection a test for the efficacy of disinfection is carried out either by the FBO or the official regional veterinary authority.

(g) Permitting the restocking of holdings with birds that have tested negative for five (5) salmonella serotypes in the programme. Restocking takes place after 21 days have elapsed since the removal of infected flocks, eggs, litter and anything else that might transmit the disease, as well as the completion of the preliminary cleaning and disinfecting procedures.

(h) Where hatching eggs from a flock testing positive for either Salmonella serotypes S. Enteritidis or S. Typhimurium (including monophasic ST 1,4,[5],12:i:-) are found in a hatchery, these eggs should be destroyed or treated as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009. Furthermore, the incubators and hatching units in the hatcheries must be meticulously disinfected, as well as the premises in general.

(i) No treatment regime whatsoever is permitted for contaminated flocks, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006.

Moreover, restrictive measures are taken immediately after the notification of a salmonella spp. positive result to the CA. These measures include restriction on movement of birds and eggs from the infected flock. Pending the results of serotyping, the eggs from the infected flock are stored or hatched separately.

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9. Please describe the measures that shall be implemented in a flock (rearing and adult) where **Salmonella Hadar, Infantis or Virchow is detected**:

(max. 32000 chars) :

If, following any tests carried out under, either FBO or official controls, the presence of S. Hadar is confirmed in a flock of breeding hens Gallus gallus in two consecutive samplings, the same measures as for SE/ST should be taken.

According to the national decision for the implementation of the NSCP in Breeders, in case of detection of a serotype other than S. Enteritidis / S. Typhimurium / S.Hadar, the competent veterinary authority shall carry out an epidemiological investigation to define and eliminate the source of infection and provide recommendations to the FBO for improving biosecurity measures.

In case of isolation of S. Infantis or S. Virchow, then the competent regional veterinary authority shall control traceability and make recommendations to the FBO to improve biosecurity measures.

More specifically, as described in the relative manual (available at the following link http://www.minagric.gr/images/stories/docs/agrotis/poulerika/enxeir_anaparagogis_6ekdosi_220121.pdf), an epidemiological investigation is conducted, within five (5) days from the positive laboratory result or, in case of confirmatory sampling, immediately after its positive result. The respective findings, as well as the necessity to perform further sampling(s) so as to define the source of infection are recorded in a document which is included in the official control report. This document is co-signed by the official veterinarian and the FBO, who is thereon informed regarding the actions to be performed in order to prevent Salmonella spp. spread. The document, when completed, is notified to the FBO and the central competent authority, accompanied by the official control report and the result of the laboratory examination. Moreover, if from the affected holding products (eggs, one day-old chicks, pullets) are dispatched to other holdings for trading purposes located in the same or other Regional Units, the competent authority informs the FBOs of destination and/or the local veterinary authorities thereof.

10.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 measures (in flocks in which the presence of targeted serotypes have been detected) must comply with the following minimum requirements:

- No bird leaves the holding concerned, except for the killing and safe disposal under supervision of animals or the slaughter in a designated by the competent authority slaughterhouse, following a relevant authorization by the competent authority.

Positive (as well as negative) results are included in the FCI.

Furthermore, we would like to point out that, the above EU microbiological criteria is not applicable for infected breeding hens Gallus gallus, because pursuant to Article 7(4) of Greek Decision No

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349699/24.12.2009 (Government Gazette, Series II, No 2599) on a "Control programme for salmonella in flocks of breeding hens of Gallus gallus", birds from SE/ST infected flocks are slaughtered or destructed under appropriate measures in order to minimize the risk of spread of salmonella. Slaughter is carried out in accordance with the food hygiene legislation in force. Products derived from such birds 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.

Measures implemented by the FBO (slaughterhouse level)

The FBOs at the slaughterhouse ensure the separate slaughter of infected poultry, the high level of cleaning and disinfection and biosecurity evidence.

Measures implemented by the CA (farm and slaughterhouse level)

Pursuant to the national decision on the "Control programme for salmonella in breeding hens Gallus gallus", through which the salmonella control programme in flocks of breeding hens is implemented in Greece, when positive results for *S. Enteritidis* or *S. Typhimurium* /*S. Typhimurium* serotypes with antigen type 1, 4, [5], 12: i: -) including monophasic ST are confirmed, the Regional veterinary authorities issues a decision for the:

a) classification of the flock as "salmonella positive" and the following measures regarding the infected birds:

b) Prohibition of movement for:

- i. any entry or exit of poultry of the holding, except for slaughtering or destruction in controlled conditions or for slaughtering for human or animal consumption after heat treatment, in accordance with the legislation in force (Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, Annex III, Section II) on food hygiene and safety,
- ii. litter and manure from the holding, except for processing, in accordance with the legislation in force.

c) Request for,

- either the slaughter and destruction of all the poultry of the infected flock, provided that the poultry farmer expressly requests the destruction of the flock in writing pursuant to Regulations (EC) No 1069/2009 and No 142/2011,
- or the slaughter and heat treatment of all poultry in the flock provided that the poultry farmer sends the Regional Veterinary authorities a written request for such an action.

Slaughter is undertaken according to the food hygiene legislation in force. Products from those birds, following heat treatment in accordance with the food hygiene legislation in force may be placed on the market for human consumption.

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.

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).

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• Check that the procedure has been followed in accordance with the FBO's HACCP-based food safety management system.

11. 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.

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 above mentioned accredited laboratories.

The samples from the FBO checks (own-checks) are tested in 27 private laboratories which are designated and supervised by the Department of Zoonoses and the NRL for salmonella and participate in the comparative tests organized by the NRL.

In 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 (NCSPs) and the preconditions that laboratories must meet.

12. 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

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If yes, please describe the alternative method(s) used.

Comments

Received samples are rejected by the laboratories when the time from sampling to the day/time of laboratory testing exceeds the limits.

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

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. If timelimits are exceeded, please indicate what is done.

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.

If timelimits are exceeded, the samples are rejected and the sampling is repeated.

13. Samples are transported and stored in accordance with point 3.1.1 of the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 200/2010. In particular, samples examination shall start in the laboratory within 48 hours following receipt and within 96 hours after sampling.

yes

no

If no please explain.

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

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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.

15. 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) :

Biosecurity is part of the national salmonella control programme (as an Annex attached to the national decision for the implementation of national salmonella control programme).

There are specific guidelines in place and their implementation is linked to compensation. In addition, they are regularly assessed by the CA. The CA assesses the biosecurity measures each time an official control is performed in the context of the NSCP. This assessment is followed by a written report that includes also the results of the biosecurity assessment. Any advice about the necessary corrective actions required is provided to the FBO. In the event of significant deficiencies in the implementation of biosecurity measures, written recommendations are issued with a deadline for their satisfaction. The timeframe of the period for their implementation varies depending on the nature of the infringement. In case of dissatisfaction, sanctions may be submitted.

- b. Routine official **sampling scheme when FBO sampling takes place at the hatchery**: EU minimum requirements are implemented i.e. :

If the EU target is achieved for more than 2 years, the CA has decided to implement the derogation of point 2.1.2.3 of Annex to Regulation (EC) No 200/2010 and therefore the EU minimum requirement for official sampling are once a year at the hatchery and once a year on the holding during the laying phase.

yes

no

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If no, the EU minimum requirements for official sampling are implemented as follows:

- every 16 weeks at the hatchery
- twice during the laying phase at the holding (within four weeks at the beginning, within eight weeks before the end), and
- at the holding each time samples taken at the hatchery are positive for target serovars

yes

no

If no please explain. Indicate also : 1) if additional official sampling going beyond EU minimum requirements is performed, 2) who is taking the official samples.

A stable epidemiological situation and the EU target, as regards salmonella in poultry has not been achieved. So, we did not have a derogation. Moreover, there is no additional sampling. The official samples are taken by an official veterinarian of the Regional competent authorities and sent to the National Laboratories.

c. Routine official **sampling scheme when FBO sampling takes place at the holding**: EU minimum requirements are implemented i.e. :

If the EU target is achieved for more than 2 years, the CA has decided to implement the derogation of point 2.1.2.3 of Annex to Regulation (EC) No 200/2010 and therefore the EU minimum requirement for official sampling are twice during the laying phase at the holding.

yes

no

If no, the EU minimum requirements for official sampling are implemented as follows:

- Three times during the laying phase at the holding (within four weeks at the beginning, within eight weeks before the end and a third one in between)

yes

no

If no, please explain. Indicate also : 1) if additional official sampling going beyond EU minimum requirements is performed, please describe, 2) who is taking the official samples

Official sampling on holding is performed only in cases of intra-community trade. FBO sampling takes place on holding only in exceptional cases, already mentioned under point 6 of this programme.

Regarding the above mentioned exceptional cases, where the own-check is carried out on the holding

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(see above point 6 of the submitted programme), the regular official check that follows should be carried out as follows:

- (i) within four weeks of transfer to the hatching phase or the hatching unit,
- (ii) towards the end of the laying phase, not earlier than eight weeks before the end of the production cycle,
- (iii) at any time during the production cycle which is sufficiently distant in time from the sampling mentioned in points (i) and (ii).

As regards official routine sampling on the holding, the sampling protocol is laid down in point 2.2.2 in the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 200/2010.

d. If confirmatory samples taken at the holding (after positive results at the hatchery, or suspicion of false positivity on FBO samples taken on the holding) are negative, please describe the measures taken:



Testing for antimicrobials or bacterial growth inhibitors (at least 5 birds per house) and if those substances are detected the flock is considered infected and eradication measures are implemented (annex II.C of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003)



Other official samples are taken on the breeding flock; if positive, the flock is considered infected and eradication measures are implemented, if negative, all restrictive measures are lifted



Other official samples are taken on the progeny; if positive, the flock is considered infected and eradication measures are implemented, if negative, all restrictive measures are lifted



None of these measures

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

Comment: Indeed, confirmatory sampling is performed in cases where the competent authority has reason to question the results of testing and also always following a detection of the relevant Salmonella serotypes from sampling at the hatchery. In both cases, the competent authority issues an administrative Decision for posing restrictive measures on the affected holding. Confirmatory sampling protocols are described in part A, points 1 and 2 of Annex I of the aforementioned Ministerial Decision.

Samples for checking the presence of antimicrobials may be collected additionally when confirmatory sampling is performed in suspicion of false positive/negative results and for determining the source of infection.

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e. 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

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.

In general, confirmatory sampling is not routinely applied in Greece.

Confirmatory sampling is carried out in the following cases:

1. following the detection of the relevant Salmonella serotypes from sampling at the hatchery.
2. In exceptional cases where the competent authority has reason to question the results of the testing (such as false positive or false negative results), it may decide to repeat the testing.

In both cases the sampling protocol used is in accordance with point 2.2.2.1 of annex of Reg. (EC) No 200/2010.

Additional samples can be collected for the possible testing of antimicrobials or bacterial growth inhibitors as follows: A number of birds is taken at random from each poultry shed of the holding, usually estimated at a maximum of five birds per shed, unless the competent authority deems it necessary to sample a higher number of birds.

In case 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

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infected flock for the purpose of the Union target referred to in Article 1 of Reg. (EC) No 200/2010.

In any case, the CA conducts further tests and/or documentary checks as appropriate to verify that results are not altered by the presence of antimicrobials or other substances inhibiting the growth of bacteria.

In particular:

Confirmatory sampling, following a positive official result, is performed only in exceptional cases where there is a strong suspicion of cross-contamination of the samples (for example in case of a damaged packaging). This case is very rare. In addition to the confirmatory test, other criteria are co-estimated such as the history of the farm concerning Salmonella and the farmer's compliance with the requirements of the legislation (biosecurity, performance of self-checks).

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	5	3	1

¹ Reg 200/2010, point 2.2.2.1 of the Annex

² Reg 200/2010, point 2.2.2.2 of the Annex

³ Reg 200/2010, point 2.2.2.2.c of the Annex

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

Regarding breeders, no confirmatory test was requested and one negative flock was depopulated.

- f. 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 (at the holding and at the hatchery). For samples please describe the samples taken, the analytical method used, the result of the tests.

(max. 32000 chars) :

No treatment scheme may be applied to contaminated flocks, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006.

Where it is necessary to apply antibiotic treatment for any microbial agent other than salmonella, the

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Local competent veterinary authority must be informed in writing before treatment about the grounds for treatment of the flock in question and the duration of the treatment schedule, so that after approval on the part of the competent veterinary authority, the operator may be allowed to use the antimicrobials in question.

Official sampling is always part of an official control in order to verify if the FBO complies with the requirements of the NSCP. One of the duties of the official veterinarian during the official control is to check the flock treatments record. 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 and in cases of suspicion, the CA collects 1-5 live birds from the shed or a greater number if considers necessary.

Initial testing for the use of antimicrobials is first carried out in a screening test; if necessary, it is followed up by specific tests. Testing for the use of antimicrobials is carried out on a mixed muscle sample from five (5) chickens.

The screening method used is an in-shed 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 methods used for confirmation, where necessary, are presented in the attached table 1.

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 breeding hens *Gallus gallus* for the purpose of the Union target referred to in Article 1 of Reg. (EC) No 200/2010.

16. *Salmonella* vaccination

Voluntary

Compulsory

Forbidden

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

Comments - If performed please describe the vaccination scheme (vaccines used, vaccines providers, target flocks, number of doses administered per bird, etc) (max. 32000 chars) :

Vaccination is permitted as a supplementary measure with a view to raise the tolerance of breeding hens to exposure to salmonellosis, to reduce its dissemination and to achieve the objectives of the programme more rapidly, provided that the vaccine used complies with the requirements of article 3 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006.

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The vaccine must have been approved by the competent authority (EOF – National Organisation for Medicines).

The vaccine and the vaccination scheme used are determined by the veterinarian of the holding. However, no more than 3 vaccine doses per bird are administered most of the time.

Approved live or inactivated vaccines can be used.

For the time being, only flocks of rearing birds are vaccinated against salmonella.

Documents accompanying the samples sent to the veterinary laboratories must indicate whether or not the samples come from a vaccinated flock and the type of vaccine used.

When carrying out their official controls, the competent veterinary authorities of the region ascertain whether the dispensed vaccines are approved by the National Organisation for Medicines (EOF).

FBO's procure prescribed vaccines from retailers of veterinary medicines.

17. 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 how improper implementation of biosecurity measures can affect the payment of compensation (max. 32000 chars) :

Operators of breeding hen holdings who are obliged to slaughter or destroy contaminated flocks or destroy contaminated eggs within the framework of the programme should claim for compensation. The legislative framework for this procedure is the Joint Ministerial Decision on compensation for the rehabilitation of livestock issued each year by the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, along with the Ministry of Development. In this decision, there is an analytical description of the procedure and the way of calculation of the amounts to be paid after culling/destruction/heat treatment and the level of compensation correlated to the animal species and the animal's age.

The amount of the compensation is calculated on the basis of value tables drawn up by veterinarians and validated by the Ministry of Finance.

The pricing of birds is defined at central level annually through the issuance of an annual Joint Ministerial Decision (Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Rural Development and Food), which is publicly available at official Gazette's web site and Ministry's web site. In the aforementioned Joint Ministerial Decision there is a scale of compensation for birds.

There is a link between compensation and effective biosecurity measures: FBOs that do not comply with the minimum biosecurity requirements, as set out in the national legislation for the implementation of NSCP, do not receive any compensation in case of a positive flock while they are obliged to apply the measures in part C of Annex II of Reg. (EC) No 2160/2003.

The conditions that must be met by the farmer, the payment procedure and all required supporting documents are described in detail in the aforementioned yearly issued Joint Ministerial Decision (JMD) among the Ministry of Rural Development and Food and the Ministry of Development and Investments

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approving compensation, aid and reward costs related to the application of veterinary measures for animal disease control, eradication, surveillance and contingency planning.

Regarding time between slaughtering/culling and payment, compensation requests are submitted to the local veterinary authorities anytime within the year when the slaughtering/culling took place and up to the 31st of March of the following year. All necessary documentation is dated from the 1st of January up to the 31st of December of the year when the slaughtering/culling took place; the request is examined by the CA which then submits to the CCA a list of payment requests in the area of their jurisdiction.

18. Please describe the official procedure to test, after the depopulation of an infected flock, the **efficacy of the disinfection** of a poultry house (number of samples, number of tests, samples 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, floors, drinkers, feeders, nests, vent piping, beams, partitions, the conveyor belts, and other surfaces and devices.

Large surfaces

Minimum sampling area is 1m²

- 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 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 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.

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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) :

The authorities responsible for implementing the salmonella control programme in breeding hens Gallus gallus 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 above mentioned accredited laboratories.
5. the operators of the Gallus gallus poultry breeder,
 6. private laboratories carrying out analyses on own-check samples as part of the National Salmonella Control Programmes.

1. The central veterinary authority responsible for control and coordination of all the bodies involved in the implementation of the programme throughout the country is the Department of Zoonoses of the Animal Health Directorate.

This department is responsible for the preparation of the programme, the collection of data, the statistical processing of the data, the evaluation of the programme's progress and keeping the European Commission informed. It is also responsible, together with the NRL, 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 the monitoring of the implementation of the programme by the operators, the taking of official samples, the adoption of necessary measures and the information of the central competent authority,
- (iii) evaluating the implementation of the programme at prefecture level,
- (iv) dispatching the requested statistics for the programme to the Zoonoses Department of the Animal Health Directorate,
- (v) supervising the training of farm operators to ensure the proper implementation of the sampling protocol,
- (vi) cooperating with and notifying all the competent authorities and bodies about the implementation of the programme.

3. The Ioannina Veterinary Laboratory and the Thessaloniki Centre of Veterinary Institutes receive the

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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 other state veterinary laboratories and 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,
 - organizes, where necessary, training for the staff of the Greek salmonella diagnosis laboratories.

5. The part of the programme which concerns sampling on the operator's initiative is carried out by the Gallus gallus breeder farm operators, who carry out sampling and laboratory controls in private laboratories, keep the necessary records (which are at the disposal of the competent authorities), immediately inform the competent veterinary authority of the region of any positive salmonella findings, and send the corresponding isolates to the National Reference Laboratory for Salmonella in Chalkida.

6. 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 NSCPs, 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.

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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 breeding flocks *Gallus gallus* 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 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 (EU) No 200/2010 of 10 March 2010 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 adult breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus*,
- 2006/759/EC: Commission Decision of 8 November 2006 approving certain national programmes for the control of salmonella in breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus* (notified under document number C(2006) 5281),
- 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 349699/24.12.2009 of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food (Government Gazette, Series II, No 2599) on the "Control programme for salmonella in flocks of breeding hens of *Gallus gallus*", as amended in accordance with the Decision No 314922/29.12.2010 (Government Gazette 2178, issue B').

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 1 for the monitoring of zoonotic salmonella in flocks of breedings hens *Gallus gallus* since 2007. In 2021, in Greece there were 224 breeding flocks with more than 250

Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

birds in 78 breeding farms and 224 of them were tested for zoonotic Salmonella in the framework of the programme. Four (4) of the 224 flocks were positive for the targeted serovars (1SE, 3 SV) and 30 were positive for other Salmonella serovars.

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 breeding holdings must be authorized and registered in accordance with Presidential Decree 224/1998 (Government Gazette, Series I, No 175) and Ministerial Decision 356391/1999 (Government Gazette, Series II, No 1457).

According to national legislation, every commercial poultry establishment must be registered regardless of the number of kept birds. These establishments are registered in a centralized database by using the NUTS (3) code in conjunction with a unique serial number. As a result, every commercial farm is identified and traceability is secured.

In accordance with National Decisions of NSCPs, all holdings with breeding flocks should keep a register in which all information on hygiene is recorded. A detailed record of this programme and all vaccinations and 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 shed/date of flock placement in the shed.

There is no official registration of the breeding flocks.

5. System to monitor the implementation of the programme.

(max. 32000 chars) :

Each case of positive salmonella spp. result is notified without delay to the regional veterinary competent 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 NSCPs to the Department of Zoonoses and the approved private laboratories report the results of the own-checks received in the context of NSCPs to the NRL, which then report them to the Department of Zoonoses.

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

This information includes data on the official and own-check controls (dates, results, type of sampling), vaccination data (number of vaccine doses administered), number of infected birds culled or destroyed, etc.

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At regional level the monitoring of the implementation of the programme is achieved in the following way:

Each shed is identified by a unique code number consisting of the following elements: code number of the holding/number of the shed/date of flock placement in the shed. The FBO notifies the Regional Veterinary authority each time a new flock is placed in a holding.

During official control of a breeding flock, the official veterinarian records all the information regarding the flock (date of placement, own-check results, vaccination data etc.).

Currently, the Department of Zoonoses in collaboration with the Directorate of E- Government of the Ministry, have developed an on-line system for the on- line submission of all the information related to sampling and laboratory testing. This system is not yet fully operational.

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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	Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus	1 100
Serotyping	Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus	50
Antimicrobial detection test	Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus	5
Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus	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)	148	224
No of flocks in the programme	148	224
No of flocks planned to be checked (b)	0	224
No of flock visits to take official samples (c)	0	800
No of official samples taken	0	1 100
Target serovars (d)	SE+ ST + SH +SI + SV	SE+ ST + SH +SI + SV
Possible No of flocks infected by target serovars	2	2
Possible No of flocks to be depopulated	2	2
Total No of birds to be slaughtered/culled	55 236	12 710
Total No of eggs to be destroyed	Text	127 100
Total No of eggs to be heat treated	Text	127 100

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- (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	350
Number of flocks expected to be vaccinated	148
Number of birds expected to be vaccinated	1 103 932
Number of doses expected to be administered	2 207 864

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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 NSCPs 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, 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)

Culling and heat-treatment or destruction of SE/ST infected breeding flocks occur following a decision issued by the competent regional veterinary authority. Then the farmer submits to the regional veterinary service, a claim for compensation (along with the necessary supplementary documents). This claim is forwarded to the Animal Health Directorate of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food. The claims from different regional units of the country are further checked and if approved, the relevant amounts are transferred from the account of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food (held in the Bank of Greece) to the bank accounts of each of the Regional Units concerned. From the bank accounts of the Regional Units, the beneficiaries (farmers) receive the amount corresponding to their claim.

The legislative framework for this procedure is the Joint Ministerial Decision on compensation for the rehabilitation of livestock issued each year by the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, along with the Ministry of Development. In this decision, there is an analytical description of the procedure and the way of calculation of the amounts to be paid after culling/destruction/heat treatment and the level of compensation correlated to the animal species and the animal's age.

The cost for the compensation is covered by the state budget and co-financed by the EC.

Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

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)

Regarding the vaccination of breeding flocks Gallus gallus against zoonotic salmonella, the FBO is responsible to purchase the prescribed vaccines. Administration of vaccines is performed by the private veterinarian of the holding or by the farmer under the supervision of the private veterinarian. The cost of vaccines (cost for their purchase) is partially covered by the state budget (maximum 0.10/ per vaccine dose) and co-financed by the EC. The procedure followed is similar to this described under point c), except that in this specific case, the regional veterinary unit does not have to issue a decision.

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

Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

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

Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

Attachments

IMPORTANT :

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

List of all attachments

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			Total size of attachments :	