



submitted for obtaining EU financial contribution

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

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Document version number: 2022 1.0

Member state : OESTERREICH

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 within the CA :

Submission Date

01/12/2022 19:18:06

Submission Number

1669918686463-19007



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.

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

Comments(max. 32000 chars) :

The percentage of positive laying flocks has been below the target for years and Austria's objective is, to get as few infected flocks as possible - below 2% in any case.

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

yes

no

If No, please explain :

Austria consists of nine federal provinces with 94 districts altogether. The programme will be implemented on the whole territory of Austria.

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 :

According to EU legislation official sampling is not required in rearing flocks on a routine basis. Sampling by an official veterinarian COULD be performed on special occasions (eg. a adult flock on the same holding is Salmonella positive).

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	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	472		472	5
Adult flocks	3 318	3 318	3 318	1 946
Number of holdings with more than 1,000 laying hens				983
Number of flocks in these holdings				2 637
<i>NB : All cells shall be filled in with the best estimation available.</i>				

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

In Austria the Salmonella national control programme (SNCP) applies to all establishments with 350 or more birds, as there are many smaller holdings (<1000) which often bear the higher risk of keeping infected flocks, and they also deliver their eggs to egg packing centers and nationally operating retailers. Therefore they are also considered important for public health reasons and are also visited by the official veterinarian. The numbers given in the table above are the actual numbers of 2021.

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 :

In addition to the national reference laboratory (NRL), there are three laboratories designated by the central competent authority (CCA) to perform analyses within the framework of SNCP. All positive results within the SNCP are directly sent from the laboratory via the integrated database used (PoultryHealthData - PHD) to the FBO, his/her private veterinarian, the responsible district veterinary office, provincial government and the national expert within the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. The national expert does a follow-up on the cases through the database and advises/instructs provincial experts of certain tasks if needed.

5. Biosecurity measures

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

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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) :

The Poultry Hygiene Regulation 2007 (Geflügelhygieneverordnung 2007, BGBl II 100/2007), based on the Animal Health Act (Tiergesundheitsgesetz, BGBl I Nr. 133/1999), is the most important piece of national legislation, relevant to the SNCP.

Paragraphs 7 and 8 are dealing with hygiene on farm:

General hygiene provisions for establishments:

1. Only water satisfying the microbiological requirements of the Trinkwasserverordnung [Drinking Water Ordinance], BGBl. II No 304/2001, may be used in the relevant establishments.

2. Only feed in connection with which appropriate measures have been taken to prevent contamination with Salmonella or to kill any Salmonella present may be used in establishments.

- Unless feed law requires manufacturers to retain samples of each production batch for a particular period of time and the batch can be identified at any time from records kept by the proprietor, a one kilogramme sample shall be taken from each delivery of feed, marked with details of the type, quantity, source, delivery date and batch number, placed in a sealed container and kept in a suitable safe place until the birds fed with it have been slaughtered (but for not more than six months). These samples shall be made available to the authority without charge on request as test material for examinations pursuant to outbreaks.

3. Plant, buildings, facilities and equipment shall be kept in a good state of repair so that good hygiene conditions can be maintained and cleaning and disinfection easily carried out. They shall be regularly serviced and maintained.

4. The location, arrangement and method of production of plant, equipment and other articles shall be appropriate for the respective type of production and make it possible to prevent diseases from being introduced and spread.

5. Appropriate precautions and measures shall be observed in farm buildings to ensure that insects, birds, rodents and other animal pests are prevented from entering. Windows, doors and lighting and air conditioning equipment shall be designed with that in mind.

- Building forecourts shall have a hard surface; external walls shall be freely accessible, steps must be taken to prevent growth of vegetation.

- Other domestic animals shall be kept away from operational premises.

6. If more than one production unit is operated or more than one flock is kept at the same site, the various operation areas and houses shall be clearly separated.

7. Establishments may only keep poultry that is covered by the terms of the ordinance. Such poultry shall in any case be kept clearly separate from aviary and other birds.

Special hygiene provisions for establishments:

1. The proprietor of the establishment shall in cooperation with the supporting (private) veterinarian establish hygiene rules for production and must be able to demonstrate that they have been brought to

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the attention of operational personnel.

2. Houses and hatcheries may be accessed only through the entry points provided and only when wearing overalls (including head covering) and footwear provided specifically for the area in question. Reusable footwear shall be disinfected before entering and on leaving the premises. Disinfection facilities shall be provided at the entrance for this purpose. Reusable overalls shall be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

3. The proprietor shall ensure that persons not belonging to the establishment enter establishments pursuant to only with his consent and accompanied by him or a member of staff designated by him and that they comply with all hygiene requirements.

Persons entitled to enter the premises by law shall as far as possible and unless there is imminent danger notify the proprietor before entering the premises and comply with the hygiene requirements.

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.

FBO-samples have to be taken by the assigned private veterinarian.

Rearing flocks are additionally checked at the age of eight to ten weeks (two pairs of boot swabs).

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 :

An additional dust sample is always part of the sampling protocol done by official veterinarians . Furthermore, documentary checks as well as samples (faeces) for antimicrobial detection are obligatory.

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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 1,4,[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.

Depopulation is not compulsory. The eggs are considered class B eggs as defined in Article 2(4) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 557/2007. It has to be made sure that eggs from positive flocks are not placed on the market as fresh eggs, but they can still be delivered to the industry (where they are heat treated).

Eggs from positive flocks have to be marked and stored separately on the holding. They are usually delivered from the holding directly to the industry.

The official veterinarian as well as the private veterinarian in charge have to evaluate the epidemiological situation on site and take care that the biosecurity measures needed are applied.

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)

Animals from infected laying flocks are solely sent to one slaughterhouse in Austria that only produces meat for heat treatment. This means that no fresh poultry meat is produced at these premises. Nevertheless, positive flocks have to be slaughtered separately. The Salmonella results are always part of the FCI accompanying the animals to the slaughterhouse.

Measures implemented by the FBO (slaughterhouse level)

According to the meat inspection regulation (Fleischuntersuchungsverordnung, BGBl II 2006/109) positive flocks have to be slaughtered separately and the carcasses have to be added to the samples according to Regulation 2073/2005. As said before, meat produced at this premise is always heat treated.

Measures implemented by the CA (farm and slaughterhouse level)

Animals from infected laying flocks are solely sent to one slaughterhouse in Austria that only produces meat for heat treatment. This means that no fresh poultry meat is produced at these premises.

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At farm level sampling is done in other flocks present and the flock following the positive one in the same barn according to Com. Reg. No. 517/2011.

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 :

There are three laboratories designated by the CCA to perform analyses within the framework of SNCP (official and own check samples). The involved laboratories are accredited according to EN ISO/IEC 17025 and the *Salmonella* analytical method is within the scope of accreditation. They are also regularly taking part in ring tests performed by the NRL.

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.

ALL isolates taken within the framework of the SNCP (own checks and official sampling) have to be sent to the NRL for *Salmonella* and are serotyped there following the Kaufman-White-Le Minor scheme.

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

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If no please explain.

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 517/2011. It also has to be pointed out again, that all isolates within the Austrian SNCP are serotyped, in order to get a good picture about the prevalence of all serovars present as we have to bear in mind, that not only SE and ST can be zoonotic.

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 :

The (designated) laboratories are obliged to take care of both (controll of age of sample, early start of examination). This check has to be logged. If timelimits are exceeded, the laboratory informs the one who took the samples and sampling has to be repeated.

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

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

In Austria Salmonella in feed is part of a permanent surveillance and monitoring programme (risk based multi annual control plan). The official control staff takes feed samples at farm level but also at the level of warehouses and storage houses, at the site of feed material production and compound feed production. Official samples are regularly taken from feed materials and finished feed. The procedure of sampling is according to Regulation (EC) No 152/2009.

The most important source of Salmonella contamination in feed are protein-rich extracted meals and cakes of soy beans, sunflower seed, rape seed and linseed and also dried yeast: These products are mainly by-products from oil seed processing plants and are imported from third countries (Brasil, Argentina, India) and other EU member states (2021: Germany, Italy, Czech Republic, Poland (1)). Through contaminated feed materials Salmonella are able to enter the feed chain and can so further spread and contaminate the compound feed which has been produced from these feed materials.

Feed producers are responsible for the feed safety at any stage of the production and therefore they are obliged to carry out self-checks at regular intervals and according to the quantity of the production. Positive batches must either be returned to the supplier or properly disposed of or decontaminated (by heat or with organic acids). After decontamination of the feed the efficacy of the treatment must be verified by a tenfold analysis. Furthermore feed business operators have to take certain actions and perform a hygiene programme (swab and dust samples, cleaning and disinfection, increase number of self-checks in feed, assessment of the supplier). Any positive consignment imported to Austria and found positive for Salmonella is notified to the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) by the

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competent authority. Positive consignments exported from Austria are notified as well.

In Austria any Salmonella serotype in feed is considered a risk. The most frequent serotypes found in feed were S. Havanna, S. Senftenberg, S. Mbandaka, S. Llandoff, S. Thompson, S. Tennessee, S. Isangi (2), S. Quakam(3).

(1) + (2): dried yeast from Poland

(3): soy bean meal extracted from India

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) :

According to the Poultry Hygiene Regulation 2007, an official control of each holding subject to it has to be performed at least once in three years (every year in holdings registered for intra-Community trade).

The provincial governments mostly provide their own checklist for the official veterinarians.

These controls are also registered in the PHD – Database.

Actions in case of unsatisfactory result depend on the severity of the case but usually would entail at least another visit.

++Please refer to B.1 for a short explanation on indirect federal administration. There is no central coordination for the official checks performed on the holdings. The regional governments are responsible for them – and for the checklists used. However, there are random checks by the CCA, if those visits were performed in acceptable intervals. Furthermore – as described in A.5. - Austrian legislation gives not much room on the question, what has to be checked, as biosecurity measures on farm, including water and feed hygiene are well described. All those points are included in the checklists.

++

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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

1. The Austrian Competent authority considers it appropriate (which goes beyond EU requirement) to officially visit all establishments with 350 or more birds, as mentioned above (A.3) As a side rule, to not overdo it: Every flock is tested at least once in it's production period by an official veterinarian. Every holding has to be visited - and the flocks tested for Salmonella once a year: If a flock lives two years and it is the only flock at the holding it might be sampled every year which means twice by an official veterinarian...).

2. Official samples are taken by official veterinarians or in some provinces by private veterinarians authorised for this task (authorised veterinarians - AVs) by the provincial CA. In the latter case they are not allowed to act as private veterinarians in the poultry sector in order to avoid any conflict of interest.

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

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After positive official samples at the holding

- Always
- Sometimes (criteria apply)
- Never

After positive FBO samples at the holding

- Always
- Sometimes (criteria apply)
- Never

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

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

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

There are criteria defining whether confirmatory samples can be taken.

Criteria are:

- * infection of the same and/or earlier flocks as well as other flocks on the same holding (the relevant serotype must not have been found on site in the last two years)
- * hygiene status on farm,
- * results of hygiene controls done by official vets
- * results of hygiene controls done by assigned private veterinarians (animal health service)

The protocol used in case of official confirmatory sampling is described in CR (EC) No 2160/2003 Annex II D No 4:

a. 7 pooled samples are taken as follows:

• CAGE FLOCKS

- i. 5 samples of naturally mixed faeces from dropping belts, scrapers or deep pits, depending on type of cage houses. Each of the 5 samples collected at the farm should be approximately 200-300g.
- ii. 2 samples of dusty material beneath cages (2x250ml)

• BARN OR FREE RANGE HOUSE:

- a. i. 5 pairs of boot swabs (1 pair=1 pool);
- ii. 1 sample of dust from egg belts (250 ml)
- iii. 1 sample of dust collected in different places of the house (250 ml)

or

- b. bacteriological investigation of the caeca and oviducts of 300 birds; (this method has not been used in practice in Austria so far)

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or

c. bacteriological investigation of the shell and the content of 4 000 eggs in pools of maximum 40 eggs.

In the meanwhile eggs of the relevant flock are considered as Class B eggs as defined in Article 2(4) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 589/2008. It has to be made sure that eggs from positive flocks are not placed on the market as fresh eggs.

Faecal samples are taken to check the presence of inhibitory effects.

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	7	0	0
Official samples ²	3	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

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

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) :

A documentary check and an additional sample (faeces) for antimicrobial testing are mandatory each time official samples for Salmonella are taken in laying flocks. The analysis is done following the STAR protocol. It provides reliable results but as no chemical analysis is possible from faeces, muscle is analysed in case of a positive result.

Furthermore checks on the use of veterinary medicinal products is an important part of the official

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controls mentioned in point 14a.

In the case antimicrobials are detected the flock is considered positive with Salmonella according to CR (EU) No 517/2015. The CA has to be informed and an official control according to §13 of the Residue Control Regulation is initiated immediately. If irregularities are found during that control, eggs are sampled for residues. ++Further actions would be taken according to the residue legislation if eggs would be found positive++

Also, the Salmonella sampling has to be repeated. In this case, at least five birds are taken and sampled for antimicrobials as this is a specific method, the antimicrobial used can be found.

Eggs may not be used as fresh eggs until the situation is clarified.

If the official salmonella sampling and muscle samples are negative, restrictions are lifted.

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

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 CR (EC) No. 1177/2006.

Vaccination against *S. Enteritidis* is mandatory in every flock.

Only vaccines against *S. Enteritidis* can be used that are authorised for the Austrian market.

Those are AviPro SALM VAC E; AviPro SALM DUO; Nobilis Salenvac T; Salenvac ETC and Gallimune SE + ST at the moment.

Vaccination schedule follows the direction for use of the products and is solely done during the rearing period. The assigned private veterinarian is responsible for that.

Rearing flocks are always accompanied by a vaccination certificate that points out all vaccinations done.

If vaccination takes place in Austria, this, as any veterinary medicinal product used on the animals, has to be noted within the flock's section in the PoultryHealthData (vaccine, date of application, person responsible for vaccination, withdrawal period for eggs/meat, etc.).

All vaccines used can be distinguished from field strains by the NRL.

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

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

Owners are only compensated in case the flock was identified to be the cause of a human outbreak. In this case a slaughtering/culling order has to be issued by the official veterinarian. In case of a human infection directly linked to a flock this has to be done according to Austrian Law (for any salmonella serotype, not only S.E./S.T.). The order is needed to be able to pay from official funds.

Owners are compensated directly by the central authority (Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection).

The technical part of taking care of an infected flock is the responsibility of the official veterinarian as well as the provincial government in charge. They are also responsible for the report delivered to the ministry based on which (numbers etc.) compensation would be paid.

According to paragraph 13 of the Austrian Animal Health Act payment could be affected in case the owner broke laws and in doing so caused infection of the flock. This could also include biosecurity measures.

Procedure of determination of the price paid to the farmer: In accordance with § 52a of the Austrian Animal Diseases Act the provincial governor, after consultation with the Chamber of Agriculture, shall set up a semi-annual tariff and notify it in the official provincial bulletin. The official veterinarian in charge has to act pursuant to this tariff which has to take into consideration price-setting features (e.g. age). According to the Animal Health Act 75% of that tariff is compensated.

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) :

Whenever poultry have been removed on the basis of action ordered by the official veterinarian, the official veterinarian has to determine the necessary scope of the cleaning and disinfection procedures. Otherwise the assigned private veterinarian is in charge of that. The success of disinfection has to be checked by means of bacteriological tests before the premises are re-populated.

For this purpose, 60 samples have to be taken from house floor and walls, feeding, watering and air conditioning equipment and other critical parts of the houses under the direction of the competent veterinarian. Samples of the same kind (floor; walls; feeding- and watering equipment; etc.) may be pooled for testing (12 pools with 5 samples each).

Excrement, feed residues and other waste have to be removed from open areas that are not hard surfaces (pens) as thoroughly as possible whenever poultry have been vacated.

Bedding, excrement and other waste removed from house areas and surfaces shall be stored in such a way as to prevent as far as possible pathogenic agents from being transferred back into house areas, or onto equipment and surfaces.

Barns may not be repopulated with poultry until cleaning, disinfection and proof of success of disinfection have been completed and no less than 14 days after the last flock has been evacuated.

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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) :

In Austria the ultimate responsibility for coordinating the implementation of the SNCPs lies with the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, Division III, Group B (Consumer Health), Department 15 (Zoonosis and co-ordination of international matters of the sector) which is the CCA.

However, enforcement is delegated to the nine Provincial Governors as part of the indirect federal administration. The statutory basis for this is provided by federal acts (Animal Health Act, Poultry Hygiene Regulation 2007), other regulations and general circulars/instructions issued on the basis of such legislation. These are enforced by the Provincial Governors through the authorities under their control (i.e. district veterinary offices). A more detailed description of the CA can be found in the country profile for Austria on DG-SANTE's website.

The Poultry Health Service (PHS) as a non-profit organisation, among other things, is responsible for managing the electronic database (Poultry Health Data -PHD). PHS provides regular training on use of the database and on sampling procedures. PHS provides sampling materials (i.e. bootswabs) for own-check sampling.

The PHD, which serves as an official register of poultry holdings, links the poultry farms, hatcheries, poultry slaughterhouses, egg packing centres, assigned private veterinarians, laboratories and the competent district-, provincial- and national authorities. The database contains all records on use of veterinary medicinal products, vaccines, samplings (both official and own-checks), laboratory results and results of ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections related to flocks. Levels of access to the database are well defined. For instance Food Business Operators (FBO) have access to their own data only, and CA access depends on its territorial responsibilities.

2. Legal basis for the implementation of the programme

(max. 32000 chars) :

The Poultry Hygiene Regulation 2007 (Geflügelhygieneverordnung 2007, BGBl II 100/2007), based on the Animal Health Act (Tiergesundheitsgesetz, BGBl I Nr. 133/1999), is the most important piece of legislation relevant to the SNCP. The relevant EU legislation is implemented in Austria by this regulation. It applies to every farm keeping more than 350 birds at once, except for breeding flocks of gallus gallus, as 250 birds is the mark there as required by EU legislation. Sanctions are as suggested in Reg. (EC) No 2160/2003 and following regulations. Own check samples have to be taken by private veterinarians. Each food business operator (FBO) has to register one private vet responsible for his holding with the

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

local authority. Official samples are taken by official vets or veterinarians authorised by the CA to carry out this task.

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) :

The target set for laying flocks of Gallus gallus in Commission Regulation (EU) No 517/2011 (CR (EC) No 1168/2006 before) – a maximum percentage of 2 % positive flocks or less with *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium* could again be achieved by the end of the years 2019 (0.27 %), 2020 (0.35 %) and 2021 (0.3).

The programme was implemented, as stated before, in the above mentioned Regulation.

In 2021 there were 10 flocks positive with *S. Enteritidis*, none with *S. Typhimurium*. None of the positive flocks was epidemiologically linked to a human outbreak.

The final figures for 2021 and the confirmation of reaching the targets will be evaluated in the EFSA report on "Trends and Sources of Zoonoses 2021".

Human cases raised again, slightly, in 2021, after the significant decrease in 2020, which was most likely caused by the focus on COVID-19.

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

According to the LFBIS Act (which also includes Directive 2002/4/EC) each farm gets a unique number during the admission process. This number is commonly used to identify farms and is also used within the database (PoultryHealthData, PHD).

Individual flocks are registered as they enter the holding. They are uniquely identified by the farm's number of identity, the year in which they enter the barn and a consecutive number.

5. System to monitor the implementation of the programme.

(max. 32000 chars) :

See also Point B1 the database is a very valuable and important tool to monitor the implementation of the programme.

The Central Competent Authority regularly evaluates data from the PHD database to verify whether the target for the number of official samples to be taken by the provinces is met.

The PHD database automatically informs the responsible veterinarian (private and official) if samples are not taken when required (e.g. more than 15 weeks after previous sampling).

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

C. Targets

1 Targets related to flocks official monitoring

1.1 Targets on laboratory tests on official samples for year :

2023

Type of the test (description)	Target population	Number of planned tests
Bacteriological detection test	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	4 000
Serotyping	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	10
Antimicrobial detection test	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	400
Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	36

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)	500	3 350
No of flocks in the programme	500	3 350
No of flocks planned to be checked (b)	5	2 000
No of flock visits to take official samples (c)	5	2 000
No of official samples taken	15	6 000
Target serovars (d)	SE + ST	SE + ST
Possible No of flocks infected by target serovars	3	12
Possible No of flocks to be depopulated	3	1
Total No of birds to be slaughtered/culled	52 200	12 000
Total No of eggs to be destroyed	Text	50 000
Total No of eggs to be heat treated	Text	80 000

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	3 850
Number of flocks expected to be vaccinated	500
Number of birds expected to be vaccinated	9 274 500
Number of doses expected to be administered	27 823 500

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

E. Financial information

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

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

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

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

Sampling is in the responsibility of the 9 provincial governments. Official samples are taken by official veterinarians or in some provinces by private veterinarians authorised for this task (authorised veterinarians - AVs) by the provincial CA. In the latter case they are not allowed to act as private veterinarians in the poultry sector in order to avoid any conflict of interest.

Also depending on the province sampling is partly paid by the farmer, partly by the provincial governments. Sampling equipment is provided by the provincial governments, shipping is paid by the laboratories (also state budget).

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

Three laboratories are designated to perform the testing of official samples. Costs related to the testing are entirely paid from the state budget. Each isolate taken in the frame of the SNCP (official and private samples) is serotyped. This is done at the National Reference Laboratory for Salmonella,

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

AGES IMED Graz. Serotyping (private and official samples) is paid from official funds. Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection is part of the National Salmonella control plan. Nevertheless it is usually performed by the private veterinarian and not paid by state budget. In such case, the costs are of course not included in the final financial report.

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

The technical part of taking care of an infected flock is the responsibility of the official veterinarian as well as the provincial government in charge. Compensation is paid by the central veterinary authority (Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection) directly to the farmer. The national legal basis for compensation is the Austrian Animal Health Act BGBl I 1999/133 as amended by BGBl I 2013/80

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 by the private veterinarians who send the invoices to the Poultry Health Service which reimburses the private veterinarians. The Poultry Health Service receives money from the state budget that has to be used for Salmonella vaccination. A small part of the vaccines is paid by the farmers.

This means that each dose, but not 100% of it is paid by official funds. Usually around 10% of each dose is paid by other sources. How much of each dose is paid and can therefore be cofinanced ("Average cost of dose") will be determined in the final reports.

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

In Austria the NRL for Salmonella regularly carries out molecular testings (pfge, mlva) as well as WGS on Salmonella isolates taken in the frame of the SNCP.

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This is also important to thoroughly identify isolates and discover possible pathways of infection. Performance of these methods is also paid from official funds.

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:

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

Attachments

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- 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.
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- 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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