



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 : BULGARIA

Disease Salmonella

Animal population Breeding flocks of Turkeys

This program is multi annual :

Request of Union co-financing from beginning :

1. Contact data

Name Phone

Email Your job type within the CA :

Submission Date

05/12/2022 17:10:12

Submission Number

1670253013733-19053



Breeding flocks of Turkeys

A. Technical information

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

- Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 on the control of *Salmonella* and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents,
- Regulation (EU) No 1190/2012 concerning a Union target for the reduction of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and Typhimurium in flocks of turkeys,
- Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 as regards requirements for the use of specific control methods in the framework of the national programmes for the control of *Salmonella* in poultry.

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

1. Aim of the programme

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

However, for MS with less than 100 flocks of adult fattening turkeys, the Union target shall be that annually no more than one flock of adult fattening turkeys may remain positive.

yes

no

if no, please explain

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2. Geographical coverage of the programme

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

yes

no

if no, please explain

3. Flocks subject to the programme

	Total number of flocks of breeding turkeys in the MS	Number of flocks with at least 250 adult breeding turkeys	Number of flocks where FBO sampling shall take place	Number of flocks where official sampling will take place
Rearing flocks	3		3	0
Adult flocks	6	6	6	6

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

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

On the territory of the country only one breeding turkey holding is located.

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

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5. Biosecurity measures

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

yes

no

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

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

The implementation of effective biosecurity measures at primary production to prevent contamination of the flocks under their care is the responsibility of the producer and his/her private veterinary . The Competent Authority carries out inspections on farms for zoonotic disease control, animal welfare reasons, to take samples for residues, to administer and enforce national legislation and to check the bio-security measures applied and records kept by the FBO.

The national legislation (Ordinance 44) stipulates the minimum veterinary requirement that must be implemented in the animal holdings.

Bio-security measures on holdings include:

Health status checks of poultry

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

Control of movement of people

Transport hygiene

Feed hygiene

Water hygiene

Rodents, insects and birds control

Cleaning and disinfection of buildings

Recording of all events and operations

For each building own equipment must be designated

All in-all out system

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

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The EU minimum requirements for FBO sampling are as follows:

- Rearing flocks: at day-old, at four weeks of age, two weeks before moving to laying phase or laying unit
- Adult flocks: Every third week during the laying period at the holding or at the hatchery (only at the holding for flocks producing hatching eggs intended for trade within the union). The last sampling session takes place within three weeks before slaughter.

yes

no

If the EU target is achieved for more than 2 consecutive calendar years in the whole member state, the CA has accepted to implement the derogation of point 2.1.(a).(iv) of Annex to Regulation (EU) No 1190/2012 and therefore the EU minimum requirements for FBO sampling frequency at the holding on adult flocks is every four weeks. However the CA may decide to keep or revert to a three week testing interval in the case of detection of the presence of the relevant Salmonella serotypes in a breeding flock on the holding and/or in any other case deemed appropriate by the CA.

yes

no

If no please explain. Indicate aso 1)if additional FBO sampling going beyond EU minimum requirements is performed (to be described) 2) who is taking the official samples

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

Derogation from sampling every third week during the laying period at the holding or at the hatchery may be applied by authorization of the relevant CA (Regional food safety department /RFSD) and FBO sampling frequency at the holding on adult flocks to be every four weeks. In the case of detection of the presence of the relevant Salmonella serotypes in a breeding flock on the holding and/or in any other case deemed appropriate by the RFSD, the requirements for a three week testing interval may be reverted.

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

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

FBO keeps records of samples taken and made them available for inspection to the Competent Authority. The records shall include data on date when each flock is sampled for Salmonella, the identity

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of the flock sampled, the age of the flock sampled, the laboratory which undertook the analysis and the result of the tests and make these records available to the Competent Authority for inspection where required.

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

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 (due to the presence of SE or ST (including monophasic ST 1,4,[5],12:i:-), all birds of infected reading or adult flocks are slaughtered or killed and destroyed, and all eggs are destroyed or heat treated):

yes

no

If no, please explain. If yes, indicate if birds are slaughtered or killed and destroyed and if eggs are destroyed or heat treated (max. 32000 chars) :

-Non-incubating eggs are destroyed or used for human consumption if properly treated in order to eliminate salmonella, in accordance to the relevant legislation;
-Adult birds are slaughtered and used for human consumption after treatment eliminating salmonella, in accordance to the relevant legislation or culled and destroyed in accordance with Regulation 1069/2009;
-Hatching eggs in incubators are destroyed.
Please see point 9

9. If birds from flocks infected with SE or ST are slaughtered, please describe the measures that shall be implemented by the FBO (i.e. the farmer) 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:**

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Measures implemented by the FBO (max. 32000 chars) :

FBO:

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

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

The food establishments where the meat is to be processed is required to ensure the slaughtering to be done separately, to provide records of the processing of the infected batch, plan for cross-contamination prevention, plan for disinfection of equipment and premises, sampling plan for verification of the heat treatment and disinfection of premises and equipment in order to guarantee that the heat treated meat is not infected and to prevent further contamination of the fresh meat processed

Measures implemented by the CA (max. 32000 chars) :

In the case of confirmation *Salmonella* Enteritidis, Typhimurium in faecal samples all birds including day-old chicks in the positive flock must be slaughtered or destroyed so as to reduce as much as possible the risk of *Salmonella* spreading. Slaughtering must be carried out in accordance with Community legislation on food hygiene. By-products derived from such birds and not intended for human consumption, must be disposed in accordance with Regulation (EC) of the European Parliament and of the Council No 1069/2009 laying down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption.

In the case of presence of SE or ST (including monophasic ST 1,4,[5],12:i:-), the requirements set out in parts C and E of Annex II to Regulation No 2160/2003 is applied.

Following the confirmation by the laboratory, the breeder is obliged to:

- a) immediately notify the private or official veterinarian
- b) leaving the poultry in a hen house or other place where poultry is kept and not introducing other poultry there,
- (c) prevent unauthorized persons from accessing the poultry house or other premises where poultry suspected of being infected with the *Salmonella* serotype covered by the scheme are kept or carcasses of poultry are kept;
- d) not to export, not to remove and not to sell meat, eggs and carcasses of poultry, fodder, bedding and other items located in a poultry house or other place where poultry are kept,
- e) making poultry available for veterinary examinations and treatments, as well as providing assistance in performing these examinations and treatments,
- f) providing the Veterinary Inspection authority and persons acting on its behalf with explanations and information that may be important for detecting infections and their sources or preventing their further spread.

The breeder is obliged to provide documentation regarding the herd, in particular documentation confirming the purchase of poultry, bedding and feed, as well as documentation of the sale of animals and eggs, as well as documentation related to treatment records.

In addition, the breeder is obliged to increase zoohygienic standards;

2) in the case of a positive result of laboratory tests for SE and ST or in the case of detecting an effect inhibiting the growth of bacteria in samples collected at the breeder's initiative or official control the following measures are taken by the official vet

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(a) carry out an epizootic investigation

b) collect samples for laboratory tests in all other flocks in the poultry establishment in the manner specified in the Annex to Regulation No 200/2010.

In order to determine the source of herd infection with the *Salmonella* serotype covered by the program, official veterinarian conducts laboratory tests:- feed,- water from the poultry plant's own intakes.

In addition, the official veterinarian traces the poultry hatching establishments to which hatching eggs from the poultry establishment where the *Salmonella* serotype was found.

In the event of a positive result of laboratory tests for SE or ST or in the case of detecting an effect inhibiting the growth of bacteria i the following measures are taken:1) orders:(a) the immediate slaughter of all poultry in the flock or b) the immediate killing of all poultry from the infected flock,c) disposal in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 laying down health rules for animal by-products not intended for human consumption and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 (Regulation on animal by-products) of carcasses of all dead and killed poultry,(d) destruction of all eggs from a breeding turkey flock infected with the *Salmonella* serotype covered by the scheme in the poultry establishment keeping that flock, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009; d)cleaning and disinfection of the premises; e)sampling verifying the effectiveness of the C&D.

When a breeding turkey flock is infected with *S. Hadar*, *S. Infantis*, or *S. Virchow*, the operator/owner of the flock will be required to draw up a plan in consultation with the registered veterinarian and the Competent Authority for the monitoring and control of the infection. The plan should include an epidemiological investigation, a review of biosecurity measures, any additional monitoring procedures, and measures to be taken to reduce or eliminate the infection. Where appropriate, the flock may be placed under official control until satisfactory results have been obtained from the biosecurity measures taken and the additional monitoring.

Cleaning and disinfection of the premises is performed under official control followed by post cleaning and disinfection sampling. Negative results is required to lift the restriction measures in the holding Official veterinarian responsible for the FBE is required to:

-issue Restriction Act for the infected batch/products;

-to provide instructions on the measures to be implemented;

-to carry out expertise in accordance with art. 240 of the LVA and to issue an Expertise act where the type of processing of the meat/products is described.

-to approve the above described FBO plan;

-to prepare report on the implementation of the above described plan (all the relevant documents are attached), the report is provided to the RFSD and to the Food Control Directorate, HQ BFSa.

Measures implemented by the CA (farm and slaughterhouse level)

In the case of confirmation *Salmonella* Enteritidis, Typhimurium or other target *Salmonella* spp in faecal samples all birds including day-old chicks, the positive flock must be slaughtered or destroyed so as to reduce as much as possible the risk of *Salmonella* spreading. Slaughtering must be carried out in accordance with Community legislation on food hygiene.

Following the detection of all serotypes of *Salmonella* spp. in faecal samples if the animals are moved to slaughterhouses, they must be accompanied by the food chain information referred to in Regulation (EC) No 853/2004. Food chain information for the movement of animals for slaughtering must contain, in addition to other data, the results of all laboratory testing of the flock for monitored *Salmonella* serotypes performed during the life cycle of the flock (negative/positive), as well as the date of the last sampling and its results. Products derived from such birds may be placed on the market for human consumption in accordance with Community legislation on food hygiene and, once applicable, part E of

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

By-products derived from such birds and not intended for human consumption, must be disposed in accordance with Regulation (EC) of the European Parliament and of the Council No 1069/2009 laying down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption.

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.

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.

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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.

12. Samples are transported and stored in accordance with point 2.2.4 and 3.1 of the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 1190/2012. 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.

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

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

Salmonella NCP samples may only be tested in Competent Authority approved laboratories and these laboratories are required to check the time the sample was taken and ensure that the sample is tested within 4 days of the sampling and within 48 hours of arrival at the laboratory. This is a requirement of accreditation to ISO17025 which specifies that the sample must be taken and treated according to the purpose for which it was intended (i.e. be 'fit for purpose' which is considered to mean fully in compliance with the legislation requirements). Samples that do not comply with these criteria may not be tested as Salmonella NCP samples and the testing laboratory must request another sample from the food business operator. This requirement is subject to inspection during the laboratory inspection visits for ISO17025 accreditation.

In case that : 1) the cover letter (both by the official or FBO) did not contain at least the information above or the the information is not completed; 2) the amount or type of test material does not meet the requirements of the testing system specified in the Programme in question; 3) the conditions for transporting the samples to the laboratory do not meet the requirements set out in point 2.2.4 and 3.1 of the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 1190/2012 : the official laboratory informs the respective sender (official

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veterinarian or farmer) as well as the headquarter of the BFSA of this when accepting the samples for laboratory testing. Than the protocol from the laboratory test contain the information that the test cannot be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the program for control of Salmonella serotypes in respective poultry category.

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

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

Comments

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

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

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

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

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

In case of positive findings measures are taken in order to ensure the decontamination of feed such as heat treatment or treatment with organic acids or both of them depending on the specific case (sampling reason, type of feed and type of Salmonella serovar, specifically relevant/not relevant).

Moreover additional measures have to be put in place by the local veterinary unit: epidemiological investigation, inspection and verification of the good practices, particularly the procedures of cleaning, use of water, storing, pest control program, waste management. If necessary the feed business operator will be requested to increase the checks for Salmonella.

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14. Official controls at holding and flock level

- a. Please describe the official checks concerning the **general hygiene provisions** (Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004) including checks on biosecurity measures, and consequences in case of unsatisfactory outcome.

(max. 32000 chars) :

The competent authority carries out official controls, where the biosecurity standards are checked. The official controls at the poultry farms are in accordance with the annual control plan drafted by each Regional Food Safety Authority. The plan of official controls applies to all holdings. The official veterinary inspection for Salmonella control (sampling for Salmonella, according to the SCNP) includes a biosecurity inspection as well. Additional inspections can be planned based on the risk analysis. The inspections are documented by check list. The official inspections for biosecurity includes also supervision of the disinfection efficacy carried out by farmers. This is carried out by official sampling (swabs for testing the disinfection efficacy) each time the official veterinarian considers it necessary. As mentioned above, the veterinary requirements and biosecurity measures to be implemented by the animal holdings are described in Ordinance 44 concerning the veterinary requirement of animal holdings.

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

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

According to the national legislation (the Law on Veterinary Activity, the Law on Management of the Agro-Food Chain and the Law on Feed) the establishments for production, storage and trade in food or feed must be approved and registered by the BFSA and uploaded in the respective registers. The registers of the approved and registered sites are electronic and are publicly available. The official inspections in the establishments for production, storage and trade in food are carried out by the official veterinarians from the BFSA / or the respective RFSD.

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

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

■ once a year, all flocks with at least 250 adult breeding turkeys between 30 and 45 weeks of age and in all holdings with elite, great grand parents and grand parent breeding turkeys; the competent authority may decide that this sampling may also take place at the hatchery; and

■ all flocks on holdings in case of detection of *Salmonella Enteritidis* or *Salmonella Typhimurium* from samples taken at the hatchery (FBO or official samples), to investigate the origin of infection;

yes

no

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

No official sampling is performing beyond the EU minimum requirements.
The official samples are taken by the official veterinarian responsible for the holding.

c. 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) :

Following testing carried out according to Regulation (EC) No. 200/2010, Annex paragraph 1 and 2 (own check and official sampling), when a breeding turkey flock is suspected of being infected with *Salmonella Enteritidis* or *Salmonella Typhimurium* (including monophasic strains), the flock is placed

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under official control by the Competent Authority. This applies to breeding flocks from day old through to end of production. Restrictive measures are usually placed on a suspect flock at the serogroup stage for own check and official sampling and are lifted if the result confirms a non-target serovar but remain in place if the serovar confirmed is *Salmonella* Enteritidis or *Salmonella* Typhimurium (including monophasic strains)

Following placing of official restrictions, infection detected by operator sampling in some cases depending on the situation, be confirmed by samples taken by the Competent Authority. The decision to carry out confirmatory sampling is based on assessment of the situation on the premises, including the potential for the cross contamination during sampling by the operator, potential for the cross contamination at the laboratory during the testing process and biosecurity/farm hygiene and history of *Salmonella* spp isolation on the premises. No confirmatory testing is carried out following detection of a positive through official sampling (unless exceptional circumstances (such as confirmation of laboratory cross contamination) require it.

The confirmatory sampling is carried out using the protocol described in (annex II. part D of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003) If the results are faeces negative for *Salmonella* target spp but positive for antimicrobial treatment, the flock is considered as positive and the relevant measures described above are taken.

The confirmatory sampling might be taken as further sampling by consideration only by the official veterinarian either in case of positive or negative results (to exclude both false positive or negative results).

- d. Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 (**antimicrobials** shall not be used as a specific method to control *Salmonella* in poultry): please describe the official controls implemented (documentary checks, 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):

Antimicrobial treatment may not be used for the control of *Salmonella* within the framework of the National Control Programme, except within the limits set by Commission Regulation (EC) No.1177/2006
Official controls on the use of antimicrobials:

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

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

Official sampling for antimicrobial treatment is carried out:

- in any case of confirmatory sampling. If antimicrobials or bacterial growth inhibitors are detected, the *Salmonella* infection shall be considered as confirmed.
- Suspicion of false results - in exceptional cases where the competent authority has reason to question

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the results of the testing (such as false positive or false negative results), it may decide to repeat the confirmatory sampling

• Test method: if there was a requirement for antimicrobial detection tests as a result of suspicion of use, liver and kidney samples from up to 5 birds per flock are tested with the 4 plate inhibition test and positive results are tested for confirmation of antimicrobial used (mass spectrometry). The flock would be considered positive if results of antimicrobial detection tests are positive.

The sampling under the Animal By-Products legislation is monitored by the Competent Authority with inspections carried out using a risk-based approach.

15. *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) :

In BG the use of vaccines for the control of salmonella in poultry is not prohibited.

In the official register of veterinary medicine products there are registered and approved vaccines for *Salmonella* spp. for birds. The owners of the holdings could use only the approved by BFSA vaccines in the way indicate by the official veterinarian responsible for the poultry holdings. The vaccination scheme shall be approved by the Regional Food Safety Directorate.

When the samples have been taken from vaccinated poultry, the letter accompanying any such samples to the laboratory must specify the type and time of vaccination. If the samples from vaccinated poultry are tested and being suspected to be positive , the test for the differentiation between vaccine and field strain are immediately carried out. The objective is to ensure proper basis for differentiation between vaccination and field strain in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1177/2006 and no necessary animal movement restrictions to be enforced.

The operator/owner in consultation with his/her veterinarian may consider vaccination of the flock against *Salmonella* with a product which has a marketing authorisation in your country and complies with the requirements of Commission Regulation (EC) No.1177/2006 for specific control methods in the framework of the national programmes for the control of *Salmonella*.

Vaccination may only be used as a preventative measure; and it is not an alternative to the requirements in Annex II.C of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003

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

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

The terms and procedures for compensation of owners are described in the national legislation - the Law of Veterinary Activity (LVA) and Ordinance on the terms and procedures applicable to effecting expenditures related to epizootic risks.

Pursuant to the Ordinance on the terms and conditions for spending the costs for covering the epizootic risks related expenditures compensations are paid to the owners of the animals compulsory culled (slaughtered in slaughterhouses or killed by other way).

According to the national legislation in the in the context of the programme a possibility to pay compensation costs or any financial assistance for food and feed business operator has not been provided.

The valuation of birds is determined by the National statistics institute, by average market price per 1 kilogram live weight for the month and the respective region, as the scale of compensation for birds is publicly available.

Additionally, the national legislation does not provide a compensation for indirect losses by the FBO In case of non compliances / breaches of the biosecurity measures/disregard Ministry/BFSA ordinances/ detected during the official control , the compensation is not provided according to the national legislation.

17. Please describe the official procedure to test, after the depopulation of an infected flock, the **efficacy of the disinfection** of a poultry house (numbers of samples, number of tests, samples taken, etc...)

(max. 32000 chars) :

After a flock infected with relevant serovars is depopulated the house where the birds were kept must be clean and disinfected under the supervision of the CA. Environmental samples have to be taken by the CA (at least five of contact surfaces per premise) inside the house in order to verify the efficacy of the procedure. Samples have to be analyzed in an official laboratory and in case of identification of any *Salomonella* serovar e new cycle of cleaning and disinfection must be performed and repeated if necessary up to e negative finding.

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

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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) :

Bulgarian Food Safety Agency is the competent authority responsible for implementation of the Programme for control of Salmonellosis and other infectious agents causing zoonoses. Department "Infectious diseases" within Directorate "Animal health and Welfare" at the Headquarters of BFSA has the following responsibilities:

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

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

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

Official veterinarians:-

- Assists in the development and updating of the current program, according to the epizootic situation, analysis of the received data, population changes that occurred during the implementation of the program, etc. factors affecting it;
- Monitors and implements the Salmonella Surveillance Program in the respective municipality.-
- Supervises the sampling of laying hens and the sending of the samples for examination in laboratories.
- Collects and analyzes the data from the herds located in the respective municipality, tested for salmonella.
- Summarizes the data on positive herds from livestock facilities located on the territory of the respective municipality.
- Completes and keeps a register in the database for all poultry facilities with laying hens.
- Sends annual reports containing the data specified above.

Data on the implementation of the NSCPs is presented to the CCA at by the laboratories and RFSDs each 6 months in terms of preparing the annual and intermediate reports for the implementation on programmes. In case of positive Salmonella results (related to all Salmonella spp detected as well as

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either FBO or official sampling) the labs are requested to inform immediately the CCA. The CCA orders the relevant RFSD to impose the restrictive measures according to the *Salmonella* spp detected and based on the *Salmonella* legislation.

2. Legal basis for the implementation of the programme

(max. 32000 chars) :

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1190/2012 of 12 December 2012 concerning a Union target for the reduction of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium in flocks of turkeys, as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council

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*

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.

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.

REGULATION (EC) No 1177/ 2006, implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards requirements for the use of specific control methods in the framework of the national programmes for the control of salmonella in poultry.

ORDINANCE 9/28.01.2006 on the monitoring of zoonoses in their prevention, limitation and eradication(Published in SG 15/ 17.02.2006), transposing DIRECTIVE 2003/99/EC 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

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) :

No positive results for the targeted *Salmonella* serovars were recorded in last 5 years

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

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

All commercial holdings for breeding flocks are registered in accordance with Article 137 of the law of

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the Veterinary activity. The register commercial holdings are entered into the national electronic database and maintained by Headquarter at the BFSA.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Record- keeping at farms.

Each animal holding shall keep records with the following information.

Total number of birds in the holding

The new entered birds

The birds for slaughtering.

The birds for sale

The number of death birds

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

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

5. System to monitor the implementation of the programme.

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(max. 32000 chars):

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

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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 Turkeys	15
Serotyping	Breeding flocks of Turkeys	1
Antimicrobial detection test	Breeding flocks of Turkeys	2
Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	Breeding flocks of Turkeys	1

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)		6
No of flocks in the programme		6
No of flocks planned to be checked (b)		6
No of flock visits to take official samples (c)		8
No of official samples taken		15
Target serovars (d)		SE + ST
Possible No of flocks infected by target serovars		1
Possible No of flocks to be depopulated		1
Total No of birds to be slaughtered/culled		10 000
Total No of eggs to be destroyed	Text	80 000
Total No of eggs to be heat treated	Text	80 000

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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	0
Number of flocks expected to be vaccinated	0
Number of birds expected to be vaccinated	0
Number of doses expected to be administered	0

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

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

The samples collected within the National Control Programme are analysed by laboratories accredited for that purpose, designated and approved by BFSA to carry out testing official and FBO samples on Salmonella in poultry within SCP . All are accredited to ISO 17025 and designated in accordance with Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003.

Scope of Activities includes detection of Salmonella in animal faeces, tissue, environmental samples,

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feed and water, serotyping.

The analytical methods for the Salmonella detection (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.) are within the scope of their accreditation.

The costs for testing are covered by the state budget.

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 terms and procedures for compensation of owners are described in the national legislation - the Law of Veterinary Activity (LVA) and Ordinance on the terms and procedures applicable to effecting expenditures related to epizootic risks (Adopted by CoM decree No. 181 of 21.07.2006, publicised in the State gazette (SG), Issue No. 62 of 01.08.2006, in effect since the day of publicising).

It is paid by the CA.

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

Since the vaccination on the territory of the country is not compulsory, the vaccination is paid by the FBO where applied.

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

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n/a

2. Source of funding of eligible measures

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

yes

no

3. Additional measures in exceptional and justified cases

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

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

n/a

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Attachments

IMPORTANT :

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

List of all attachments

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