



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 : ELLADA

Disease Salmonella

Animal population Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

This program is multi annual :

Request of Union co-financing from beginning :

1. Contact data

Name Phone

Email Your job type within the CA :

Submission Date

09/12/2022 15:40:29

Submission Number

1670593231315-19257



Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

A. Technical information

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

- Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 on the control of *Salmonella* and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents,
- Regulation (EU) No 200/2012 concerning a Union target for the reduction of *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella Typhimurium* in flocks of broilers,
- Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 as regards requirements for the use of specific control methods in the framework of the national programmes for the control of *Salmonella* in poultry.

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

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

yes

no

If no, please explain.

Comment: The target population consists of all flocks of broiler chickens. According to the most recent available data, there are a total of 944 broiler hen holdings in Greece, which account for a total of 7.751 flocks. 938 out of the 944 holdings had more than 5.000 birds.

The following categories of broiler chickens are reared in Greece:

(d) conventional chickens which enter the establishment as day-old chicks, are reared on the floor for 42-45 days and then slaughtered,

(e) organic chickens which enter the establishment as day-old chicks, are reared on the floor for 81 days and then slaughtered,

(f) free / limited / unlimited range chickens which enter the establishment as day-old chicks, are reared for 81 days and then slaughtered.

2. Geographical coverage of the programme

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

yes

no

If no, please explain.

Comment: Greece is divided into 13 administrative regions and 74 regional units.

Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

The programme for control of salmonellosis in flocks of broilers will be implemented in all of the regional units in which these flocks are located.

3. Flocks subject to the programme

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

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

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

	Number of holdings
Total number of holdings with broilers in the MS	944
Total number of houses in these holdings	1 322
Number of holdings with more than 5,000 broilers	938
<i>NB : All cells shall be filled in with the best estimation available.</i>	

4. Notification of the detection of target *Salmonella* serovars

A procedure is in place which guarantees that the detection of the presence of the relevant *Salmonella* serotypes during sampling at the initiative of the food business operator (FBO) is notified without delay to the competent authority (CA) by the laboratory performing the analyses. Timely notification of the detection of the presence of any of the relevant *Salmonella* serotypes remains the responsibility of the FBO and the laboratory performing the analyses.

yes

no

If no, please explain.

5. Biosecurity measures

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

Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

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.

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

In particular:

Official veterinary authorities carry out various inspections for different reasons, such as with animal welfare: every year the Regional Veterinary Authorities (RVA) inspect 5% of broiler farms using a special checklist. The choice of 5% is based on criteria, such as the size of the holding, non-compliances in previous inspections etc.

Moreover, in the context of the implementation of the NSCP, at least 10% of the broiler holdings existing in a region are officially controlled and sampled every year by the official veterinary authorities. In the framework of the official control, the implementation of biosecurity measures is also checked and verified with the aid of a specific checklist.

The selection of 10% of the holdings is based on a risk assessment

The national decision No 133362/23.12.2011 (Government Gazette, Series II, No 3172) and some of the relevant guidelines provided can be found at: http://www.minagric.gr/images/stories/docs/agrotis/poulerika/Apofasi_salmonelosis_kreoparag_2012.pdf and

http://www.minagric.gr/images/stories/docs/agrotis/poulerika/Paroyiaseis_Seminaria/6_salmo_bioasfalia.pdf.

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

A. HYGIENE MANAGEMENT ON FARM

1. Facilities must be appropriately constructed and surrounded by a fence, with a sign at the entrance for prohibiting entry.
2. Only one species of poultry shall be reared in each establishment and, if possible, the "all in, all out" system should be applied.
3. In case that more than one flock exists in a holding, each one shall be treated as a separate entity.
4. The pen and the feedstuff storage areas must be protected from wild animals.
5. All pen surfaces must be constructed by materials allowing for easy cleaning and disinfection.
6. The area surrounding the pens should be covered by cement or similar material, and be free from vegetation or rubble, with an exception for trees (unless fruit-bearing), that protect the buildings from heat.
7. Pets are not allowed on the premises.
8. Protective measures shall be taken to prevent the spread of disease on the holding. Changing rooms and other areas (e.g. shower rooms) for personal hygiene of both employees and visitors can contribute to the above.
9. After the removal of poultry, the manure must also be removed and the area cleaned and disinfected. It is recommended that a bacteriological examination be carried out to check the effectiveness of the disinfection.

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

1. Presence of rodents and insects must be controlled by appropriate rodent treatment and insecticide

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programmes.

2. Restocking/repopulation of the pens must be done with salmonella-free poultry.
3. All feed must comply with the requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 on feed hygiene, and be confirmed to be free from Salmonella before being fed to poultry. Feed in pellet form or otherwise processed should be indicated as such, as a means of ensuring salmonella-free feed. Feed should then be stored in sealed storage spaces. Vehicles transporting feedstuffs must be decontaminated at regular intervals and subsequently the feedstuffs must be stored in closed storage areas.
4. The water supply for the establishment should come from the mains network. If the water comes from a pump, its suitability for use must be ensured and microbiological tests must be carried out regularly.
5. Sick and dead poultry must be removed as soon as possible in a safe and effective way.
6. Each operator must keep a record in which diseases, deaths, treatments and vaccines administered are recorded. These records must be available whenever requested by an official inspection.

Biosecurity measures as regards the staff and the visitors.

Staff and visitors must:

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

C. HYGIENE IN TRANSPORTING ANIMALS TO AND FROM FARMS

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

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

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

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

All flocks of broilers within three weeks before slaughter.

yes

no

If no, please explain.- Indicate also who takes the FBO samples

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

Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

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

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

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

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

The CA accepts to derogate from this sampling rule and instead of this the FBOs shall sample at least one flock of broilers per round on holdings with more than one flock where:

- (i) an all in / all out system is used in all flocks of the holding;
- (ii) the same management applies to all flocks;
- (iii) feed and water supply is common to all flocks;
- (iv) during at least the last six rounds, tests for *Salmonella* spp. according to the sampling scheme set out in the first subparagraph in all flocks on the holding and samples of all flocks of at least one round were carried out by the competent authority;
- (v) all results from the testing according to the first subparagraph and point (b) for SE or ST were negative.

yes

no

If yes - Indicate how many holdings and flocks are concerned

For 2021, no such cases have been notified to the CCA.

The CA accepts to derogate from the general sampling rule and authorises FBO sampling in the last six weeks prior to the date of slaughter in case the broilers are either kept more than 81 days or fall under organic broiler production according to Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008.

yes

no

If yes - Indicate how many holdings and flocks are concerned

For 2021, no such cases have been notified to the CCA.

Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

7. **Samples are taken** in accordance with provisions of point 2.2 of Annex to Regulation (EU) No 200/2012

yes

no

If no, please explain.

Comment: Samples for both official and FBO-initiated sampling are taken in accordance with the provisions of point 2.2 of Annex to Regulation (EC) No 200/2012.

Samples taken by the competent authority may replace samples taken at the operator's initiative.

Samples must be taken using appropriate sterile instruments; they must be wrapped in safe packaging, to which a label with the type of sample must be attached, sealed and sent to the competent laboratory, accompanied by the appropriate documents.

The competent authority shall satisfy itself by conducting further tests and/or documentary checks as appropriate to verify that results are not altered by the presence of antimicrobials or other substances inhibiting the growth of bacteria

Where the presence of Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium is not detected, but antimicrobials or bacterial growth inhibitory effect are detected, the flock shall be considered as an infected broiler flock for the purposes of the Community target and the measures set out below shall be implemented.

8. If birds from flocks infected with SE or ST are slaughtered, please describe the measures that shall be implemented by the FBO and the CA to ensure that fresh poultry meat meet the relevant **EU microbiological criteria** (row 1.28 of Chapter 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005): absence of SE/ST in 5 samples of 25g:

Measures implemented by the FBO (farm level)

In case of detection of SE/ST in a broiler flock, the FBO notifies this result to the CA. Furthermore, it enhances biosecurity measures in order to avoid the spread of salmonella infection, carries out an epidemiological investigation to identify the source of the infection and makes the necessary arrangements for the logistical slaughter of the infected flock.

Measures implemented by the FBO (slaughterhouse level)

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

Measures implemented by the CA (farm and slaughterhouse level)

In case of detection of SE/ST in a broiler flock, the competent veterinary authority of the Region issues a decision to take the following measures:

Broiler flocks of *Gallus gallus*

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

b) Prohibition of movement for:

- i. poultry to and from the holding, unless a specific authorization is provided for killing or destroying under safe conditions or for slaughtering in a designated slaughterhouse, in accordance with the legislation in force (Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, Annex III, Section II) on food hygiene and safety,
- ii. litter and manure from the holding, except for processing, in accordance with the legislation in force;

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

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

The OV is to:

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

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

The carcasses of the poultry from the positive flock shall be sampled for *Salmonella* by the food business operators of slaughterhouses in accordance with Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1086/2011.

If the salmonella test results are positive for *S. Enteritidis*/*S. Typhimurium* or *S. Typhimurium* (1, 4, [5], 12: i:-), the products from these poultry may be placed on the market for human consumption after heat treatment, in accordance with applicable food hygiene legislation. If those products are not intended for human consumption, they must be used or disposed of in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009.

In case there is a need to treat a broiler flock with antimicrobials then sampling for *Salmonella* will be either postponed and samples will be taken after the completion of the withdrawal period or in case it is not feasible to postpone the slaughter of the flock, dust will be collected as this type of sample is not affected by the use of antimicrobials.

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

yes

no

If no, please explain.

Comment: Testing of the official samples collected in the framework of the national salmonella control

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programmes is performed at the following state veterinary laboratories of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food:

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

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

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

In case of detection of Salmonella spp. isolates, the above laboratories must, on the basis of Article 5 of Decision No 133362/23.12.2011 (Government Gazette, Series II, No 3172) on a "Control programme for Salmonella in broilers Gallus gallus", send the results to the competent veterinary authority of the Region as well as to the Department of Zoonoses.

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

10. The **analytical methods** used for the detection of the target *Salmonella* serovars is the one defined in Part 3.2 of the Annex of Regulation (EU) No 200/2010 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.

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

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

Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

yes

no

If no please explain.

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

So far we have no such case.

11. Samples are transported and stored in accordance with point 2.2.4 and 3.1 of the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 200/2012. In particular samples examination at the laboratory shall start within 48 hours following receipt and within 4 days after sampling.

yes

no

If no, please explain.

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

In particular, samples shall preferably be sent by express mail or courier to the state or private laboratories involved in the NSCP's within 24 hours after collection. If not sent within 24 hours, they shall be stored refrigerated. Transportation can be at ambient temperature as long as excessive heat (over 25 °C) and exposure to sunlight are avoided. At the laboratory samples shall be kept refrigerated until examination, which shall be started within 48 hours following receipt and within 96 hours after sampling.

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

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

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

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

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

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

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

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13. Official controls at holding and flock level

a. Please describe the official checks concerning the **general hygiene provisions** (Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004) including checks on biosecurity measures, and consequences in case of unsatisfactory outcome.

(max. 32000 chars) :

Please, see also point 5 of this programme.

Official veterinary authorities carry out various inspections for different reasons such as for animal welfare: every year Regional Veterinary Authorities (RVA) inspect 5% of broiler farms using a special checklist. The choice of 5% is based on criteria such as the size of the holding, non-compliance with previous inspections etc.

Moreover, in the context of the implementation of the NSCP, at least 10% of the broiler holdings existing in a region are officially controlled and sampled every year by the official veterinary authorities. In the framework of the official control, the implementation of biosecurity measures is also checked and verified with the aid of a specific checklist.

The selection of 10% of holdings is based on risk assessment

In case of incorrect implementation of biosecurity measures, the CA initially make recommendations with a deadline for their satisfaction. The time horizon of the period varies depending on the nature of the infringement. In case of dissatisfaction, sanctions may be imposed.

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

■ in one flock of broilers per year on 10% of holding comprising at least 5,000 birds;

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 (max. 32000 chars) :

The official sampling complies with the minimum sampling requirements as set out in point 2.1.b of annex to Regulation (EC) No 200/2012. The official samples are collected by the official veterinarians of the Regional veterinary authorities, as part of the official control.

Official sampling is also taking place in all flocks in a round, in cases where the FBOs wants to make use of the derogation mentioned under point 6b of this programme.

- Moreover, additional official sampling takes place in all the flocks of a broiler holding in case of detection of a positive flock in this holding. This information is included in the national decision for the implementation of the programmes in Broilers.

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

After positive official samples at the holding

Always

Sometimes (criteria apply)

Never

After positive FBO samples at the holding

Always

Sometimes (criteria apply)

Never

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

Always

Sometimes

Never

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

According to the national decision on the implementation of NSCP in flocks of broiler hens Gallus gallus, official confirmatory sampling does not take place in any case of positive results.

d. Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 (**antimicrobials** shall not be used as a specific method to control *Salmonella* in poultry): please describe the official controls implemented (documentary checks, sample taking) to check the correct implementation of this provision. For samples please describe the samples taken, the analytical method used, the result of the tests.

(max. 32000 chars):

The use of antimicrobials is prohibited in the framework of NSCP, except from the cases foreseen in Reg. (EC) No 1177/2006. The treatment of broiler hens Gallus gallus with antimicrobial agents to control

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Salmonella spp. is prohibited.

When an antimicrobial treatment is applied on the birds of a broiler flock, official samples are taken only before the application of the treatment or after the end of the withdrawal period.

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

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

In case of flocks tested positive for antimicrobials these flocks are slaughtered at the end of the day under the supervision of the CA and the meat produced from these flocks is destroyed.

14. Please describe the official procedure to test, after the depopulation of an infected flock, the **efficacy of the disinfection** of a poultry house (No of samples, tests, samples taken, etc.)

(max. 32000 chars) :

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

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

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

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

Large surfaces

Minimum sampling area is 1m²

- Sampling is performed with sterile swabs, as gauze or cellulose sponges, using disposable gloves or the technique of "overturned bag" (The plastic bag containing the swab is held from the outside so that the swab is exposed when the bag is overturned and then covering the swab when the bag is inverted again). The surface is swabbed until it looks dirty.
- To monitor the effectiveness of floor disinfection, bootswabs can be used as in case of fecal material.

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

After sampling the containers are sealed and marked appropriately.

Small surfaces

The sampling can be done with sterile cotton-rods or any wooden or plastic stick with a cotton tip, or synthetic, insisting where cracks, corners, uneven surfaces. Before use, they must be moistened. The rod is removed from the sterile container and the end of it, is immersed into a tube containing a suitable liquid.

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

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B. General information

1. Structure and organisation of the **Competent Authorities** (from the central CA to the local CAs)

Short description and/or reference to a document presenting this description (max. 32000 chars) :

The authorities responsible for implementing the salmonella control programme in broiler hens Gallus gallus are:

1. the Department of Zoonoses of the Animal Health Directorate / General Veterinary Directorate (Ministry of Rural Development and Food),
 2. the regional veterinary authorities,
 3. the Thessaloniki Centre of Veterinary Institutes (Ministry of Rural Development and Food) and the Ioannina Veterinary Laboratory (Ministry of Rural Development and Food),
 4. the Chalkida Veterinary Laboratory, which is the National Reference Laboratory for Salmonella.
- All official samples collected as part of the national salmonella control programmes are examined at the three above mentioned accredited laboratories.
5. Other bodies involved in the implementation of NSCP are:
- the operators of the Gallus gallus broiler farms as well as the private veterinary laboratories carrying out analyses on own-check samples as part of the National Salmonella Control Programmes.

Responsibilities:

1. The central veterinary authority responsible for control and coordination of all the bodies involved in the implementation of the programme throughout the country is the Department of Zoonoses of the Animal Health Directorate. Furthermore the Zoonoses Department is responsible for:
 - (i) nominating the authorities and bodies implementing the programme and define their respective responsibilities in accordance with the needs of the programme,
 - (iii) providing the appropriate instructions and clarifications to the Programme's implementing bodies with a view to facilitating and bolstering their work,
 - (iv) collecting data and results from the programme, evaluating said data/results, and notifying the competent departments of the Commission of the European Union.It is also responsible together with the NRL for the designation and supervision of the private labs involved in the NSCP's.
2. The regional veterinary authorities are responsible for:
 - (i) nominating the person responsible for implementing and monitoring the programme,
 - (ii) carrying out the official controls. These official controls include the monitoring of the implementation of the programme by the operators, the taking of official samples, the adoption of necessary measures and the information of the central competent authority,
 - (iii) evaluating the implementation of the programme at prefecture level,
 - (iv) dispatching the requested statistics for the programme to the Zoonoses Department of the Animal Health Directorate,
 - (v) supervising the training of broiler hen farm operators to ensure the proper implementation of the sampling protocol,

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- (vi) cooperating with and notifying all the competent authorities and bodies about the implementation of the programme,
- (vii) collaborating with the official veterinarian at the slaughterhouse, who is obliged to send the data specified in Article 8(5) of the Decision every month.

According to Article 8(5) of the national decision for the implementation of NSCP in flocks of broiler hens Gallus gallus, the FBO of the slaughterhouse is required to keep records or computerized system in which the information contained in the accompanying documents accompanying the birds to the slaughterhouse and also including the FCI, is recorded.

Then, the official veterinarian of the slaughterhouse is obliged to report all the relevant information (regarding NSCP information) to the competent regional veterinary authority, so that the official veterinarian responsible for implementing the FVO can:

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

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

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

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

5. A circular No 920/29816-15-03-2018 replacing the previous No 383/11852/29.01.2013, sets out the participation procedure for private laboratories conducting own-check sample analyses under the National Salmonella Control Programmes (NSCPs) and the preconditions to be met by laboratories.

Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

Notifications of laboratory results

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

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

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

2. Legal basis for the implementation of the programme

(max. 32000 chars) :

The national salmonella control programme on broiler flocks is implemented pursuant to:

- Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the control of salmonella and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents,
- Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin,
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 of 15 November 2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs, applicable from 1 January 2006,
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 of 1 August 2006 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards requirements for the use of specific control methods in the framework of the national programmes for the control of salmonella in poultry,
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 200/2012 of 8 March 2012 concerning a Union target for the reduction of Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium in flocks of broilers, as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council Text with EEA relevance .
- Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, amending Council Decision 90/424/EEC and repealing Council Directive 92/117/EEC,

The National Decision for the implementation of the programme is the Ministerial Decision No No 133362/23.12.2011 (Government Gazette, Series II, No 3172) on the "Control programme for Salmonella in broilers Gallus gallus".

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3. Give a short summary of the outcome of the **monitoring of the target *Salmonella* serovars** (SE, ST) implemented in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 2003/99/EC (evolution of the prevalence values based on the monitoring of animal populations or subpopulations or of the food chain).

(max. 32000 chars):

In 2021, in Greece there were 7.751 broiler flocks in 944 holdings. 7.711 of them were tested for zoonotic salmonella in the context of NSCP. The rest were not tested because they were not at the proper age. Fourteen (14) out of the 7.751 tested flocks were positive for *Salmonella* spp. and three (3) of them were positive for the targeted salmonella serovars (3 ST).
Due to these results, the community target was achieved in 2021.

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

(max. 32000 chars):

There is no official registration of the broiler flocks but the FBO's are obliged to forward detailed information for every flock of their holding (date of placement, dates of slaughter, own-check results) to the competent regional veterinary authority.
Each flock is identified with a unique code number consisting of the following elements: code number of the holding/number of the house/date of flock placement in the house.

5. System to monitor the implementation of the programme.

(max. 32000 chars):

Each case of positive salmonella spp. result is notified without delay to the regional veterinary competent authority in order to take measures in case of suspicion and to the Department of Zoonoses. In addition, every 6 months, the state veterinary laboratories report the results of official tests performed in the context of NSCP to the Department of Zoonoses and the approved private laboratories report the results of the own-check received in the context of NSCP to the NRL, which then report them to the Department of Zoonoses.
In addition, all the Regional Veterinary Units report four times per year to the Department of Zoonoses detailed information for every broiler flock within their area.
This information includes data on the official and own-check controls (dates, results, type of sampling), number of infected birds slaughtered or heat treated, etc.
At regional level the monitoring of the implementation of the programme is achieved in the following way:
Each flock is identified by a unique code number consisting of the following elements: code number of the holding/number of the shed/date of flock placement in the shed.
Although there is no official registration of the broiler flocks, the FBOs are obliged to forward detailed

Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

information for every flock on their holding (date of placement, dates of slaughter, own-check results) to the competent regional veterinary authority.

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

Then, the official veterinarians of the slaughterhouses are obliged to report all the relevant information (regarding NSCP information) to the competent regional veterinary authority, in order to enable the official veterinarian, responsible for implementing the NSCP to:

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

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C. Targets

1 Targets related to flocks official monitoring

1.1 Targets on laboratory tests on official samples for year :

2023

Type of the test (description)	Target population	Number of planned tests
Bacteriological detection test	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	115
Serotyping	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	15
Antimicrobial detection test	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	0
Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	0

1.2 Targets on official sampling of flocks for year :

2023

Type of the test (description)	Rearing flocks	Adult flocks
Total No of flocks (a)	7 751	7 751
No of flocks in the programme	7 751	7 751
No of flocks planned to be checked (b)	0	115
No of flock visits to take official samples (c)	0	115
No of official samples taken	0	230
Target serovars (d)	SE + ST	SE + ST
Possible No of flocks infected by target serovars	0	3

(a) Including eligible and non eligible flocks

(b) A checked flock is a flock where at least one official sampling visit will take place. A flock shall be counted only once even if it was visited several times.

(c) Each visit for the purpose of taking official samples shall be counted. Several visits on the same flock for taking official samples shall be counted separately.

(d) Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium = SE + ST

Salmonella Enteritidis, Typhimurium, Hadar, Infantis, Virchow = SE+ ST + SH +SI + SV

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E. Financial information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In general, national funding is provided by the country's annual budget. To this end, a relevant request is submitted to the Greek Ministry of Development in order to secure all the necessary funds for the purposes of animal disease control, surveillance and eradication and other related expenditure. Following a positive reply as regards the total sum to be allocated for the year in question an annual Joint Ministerial Decision is drafted containing all modalities procurement of materials/consumables, compensations to farmers, etc. Once issued this Decision is the base for funding of all official animal disease

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activities included all programmes approved and co-financed by the EC.

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

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

The permanent and seasonal official veterinarians working in the three (3) designated state veterinary laboratories involved in NSCP, in collaboration with the technical staff (permanent or seasonal) perform all the analytical tests. The salaries of the permanent and seasonal staff are paid by the state budget and are not co-financed by the EC. Finally, the cost of laboratory consumables required for samples' testing is covered by the state budget (Ministry of Finance, Financial Service of the Ministry of Reconstruction of Production, Environment & Energy in cooperation with the Animal Health Directorate of the same Ministry, according to the Joint Ministerial Decision issued each year) and co-financed by the EC.

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

N/A

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d) Implementing entities - **vaccination**: who provides the vaccine and who performs the vaccination? Who pays the vaccine? Who pays the vaccinator?

(e.g. farmers buy their vaccine to the private vets, send the paid invoices to the local state veterinary services which reimburse the farmers of the full amount and the vaccinator is paid by the regional state veterinary services)

N/A

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

N/A

2. Source of funding of eligible measures

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

yes

no

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3. Additional measures in exceptional and justified cases

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

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

N/A

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Attachments

IMPORTANT :

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

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			Total size of attachments :	