



**submitted for obtaining EU financial contribution**

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

Member States seeking an EU financial contribution for national programmes for eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonosis shall submit online this document completely filled out by the 31 May of the year preceding its implementation (part 2.1 of Annex I to the Single Market Programme Regulation).

**If encountering difficulties:**

- concerning the information requested, please contact [HADEA-VET-PROG@ec.europa.eu](mailto:HADEA-VET-PROG@ec.europa.eu).
- on the technical point of view, please contact [SANTE-BI@ec.europa.eu](mailto:SANTE-BI@ec.europa.eu), include in your message a printscreen of the complete window where the problem appears and the version of this pdf:

**Protection of Your Personal Data:**

For consultation about the processing and the protection of your personal data, please click to follow this link

[Privacy Statement](#)

**Instructions to complete the form:**

- 1) You can attach documents (.docx, .xlsx, .pdf, etc) to complete your report.  
Using the button "Add attachments" on the last page of the form.
- 2) Before submitting this form, please use the button "Verify form"(bottom right of each page).  
If needed, complete your pdf document as indicated.
- 3) When you have finished completing this pdf document, save it on your computer.
- 4) Verify that your internet connection is active and then click on the "Submit notification" button and your pdf document will be sent to our server. A submission number will appear on your document.  
Save this completed document on your computer for your record.
- 5) For simplification purposes you are invited to submit multi-annual programmes.
- 6) You are invited to submit your programmes in English.

Document version number: 2022 1.0

Member state : BELGIQUE-BELGIE

Disease Salmonella

Animal population Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

This program is multi annual :

Request of Union co-financing from beginning :

1. Contact data

Name  Phone

Email  Your job type within the CA :

**Submission Date**

**06/12/2022 15:51:36**

**Submission Number**

**1670338296449-19135**



# Breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus*

## A. Technical information

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

- Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 on the control of *Salmonella* and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents,
- Regulation (EU) No 200/2010 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a Union target for the reduction of the prevalence of *Salmonella* serotypes in adult breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus*,
- Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 as regards requirements for the use of specific control methods in the framework of the national programmes for the control of *Salmonella* in poultry.

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

1. The **aim of the programme** is to implement all relevant measures in order to reduce to 1% or less the maximum percentage of adult breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus* remaining positive for the target *Salmonella* serovars: *Salmonella* Enteritidis (SE), Typhimurium (ST)(including the antigenic formula 1,4,[5],12:i:-), Hadar (SH), Infantis (SI) and Virchow (SV).

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

yes

no

If no please explain.

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

yes

no

# Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

If no please explain.

## 3. Flocks subject to the programme

	Total number of flocks of breeders in the MS	Number of flocks with at least 250 adult breeders	Number of flocks where FBO sampling shall take place	Number of flocks where official sampling will take place
Rearing flocks	350		270	270
Adult flocks	570	570	550	550
Number of adult flocks where FBO sampling is done at the hatchery		0	0	0
Number of adult flocks where FBO sampling is done at the holding		570	550	550

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

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

## 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.

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

### 5. Biosecurity measures

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

*yes*

*no*

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

The royal decree of 25 June 2018 on the identification and registration of poultry, rabbits and certain hobby poultry (Annex 1) describes the general conditions about the identification and registration of poultry in the Belgian database (SANITEL). Among these requirements, any poultry keeper who is or wishes to be active in the food chain with his poultry or their products (meat or eggs), regardless of the number of poultry heads kept for this purpose, must register in SANITEL. Each departure/arrival of poultry from/to the holdings must be recorded in SANITEL.

The royal decree of 17 June 2013 on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in and imports from third countries of poultry and hatching eggs and on the conditions for the authorization of poultry establishments (Annex 2) describes the general conditions the poultry farmer must follow to have an authorization and general biosecurity measures.

The royal decree of 5 May 2008 on the control of avian influenza also describes certain biosecurity measures that must be applied on poultry farms.

Every year, the farm veterinarian must complete a biosecurity questionnaire for each poultry holding (Annex 3) and send it to the FASFC. Investigation focuses on infrastructure, hygiene, management of the exploitation, the transports, the feed and the contacts into the establishment.

Holdings that are repeatedly positive for *Salmonella* may call upon an accompanying veterinarian for the evaluation of the holding. The salary of the accompanying veterinarian is paid by the FASFC. The accompanying veterinarian is not only for farms with breeding poultry but also for farms with laying hens, broilers and fattening turkeys. The involved veterinarian reports three times a year on the supervision carried out.

### 6. Minimum sampling requirements for food business operators :

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

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

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

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

Every three weeks during the laying period at the holding.  
 Sampling frequency remains at every 2nd week at the hatchery.  
(derogation of point 2.1.1 of Annex to Regulation (EC) No 200/2010)

*Comments - Indicate also who takes the FBO samples*

Each flock of breeders shall be sampled by the responsible on the poultry holding at the stages of day-old chick, 4 weeks and from 24 weeks onwards, every 2 weeks. For this purpose, the person in charge may also call upon the farm veterinarian or a laboratory approved by the competent authority for this purpose.

Monitoring is carried out by flock. If the flock is compartmentalized in several poultry houses, sampling must be carried out in each poultry house.

For FBO sampling, the responsible of the poultry holding can rely on official documents (written by the competent authority, FASFC) that detail how Salmonella samples are to be taken. Approved laboratories must furnish all necessary equipment to the responsible for Salmonella sampling. If needed, the responsible can contact the animal health associations or the competent authority (FASFC) for further details about the sampling. The responsible can also call upon the farm veterinarian or the approved laboratory to perform sampling.

Since 21 September 2020, the national legislation requires that the farm veterinarian assists the responsible for taking the samples until the farm veterinarian considers the responsible to have enough knowledge to take the samples himself. The farm veterinarian has to repeat this assistance once a year. A confirmation by the farm veterinarian and the date of its execution shall be entered in the holding register.

**7. Samples are taken** in accordance with provisions of point 2.2 of Annex to Regulation (EU) No 200/2010

*yes*

*no*

*If no please explain.*

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

# Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

yes

no

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

Birds are slaughtered or destroyed within a period of one month after the date of the initial sampling which has isolated a targeted serotype. Hatching eggs already hatched produced after the date of taking the sample from the last negative bacteriological test shall be destroyed. Non-incubated hatching eggs produced after the date of sampling of the last negative bacteriological test shall be destroyed or may be marketed for human consumption if they have been treated in such a way as to ensure the elimination of Salmonella. Eggs shall be stamped at the holding in accordance with Annex II. D. of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003.

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

The measures taken in breeder flocks positive for S. Hadar, Infantis or Virchow are the same than for flocks positive for S. Enteritidis and S. Typhimurium (Annex II.C of Regulation (EC)). All birds of infected rearing or adult flocks are slaughtered or killed and destroyed and hatching eggs are destroyed or heat treated.

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

*Measures implemented by the FBO (farm level)*

Breeder flocks positive for SE or ST are slaughtered in the month following the initial sampling. A logistical slaughter is performed.

*Measures implemented by the FBO (slaughterhouse level)*

All positive flocks for SE or ST are sampled at the slaughterhouse for the process hygiene criterion Salmonella spp n=50, c=5.

If the process hygiene criterion for Salmonella on carcasses is not complied with, an action plan from the food business operator concerned is required. Its outcome is strictly supervised.

If the results of analyzes relating to process hygiene criteria are unsatisfactory or tend to become unsatisfactory, the FBO must take immediate action corrective measures aimed at restoring good hygiene practices and compliance with HACCP procedures. In any case, the hygiene of the slaughter must be improved and the process control must be verified. Corrective measures may, in addition,

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

consist of the assessment of the *Salmonella* status of animals on their farm of origin, assessing the risk during the transport of animals, assessing the cleanliness of animals, etc. ... and consequently lead to an adaptation in animal purchasing and / or slaughter management policy, as well as transport. The corrective measures taken by the operator must be recorded as part of the self-checking system based on HACCP principles (no measures on the carcasses).

If the results of the analyzes relating to the safety criterion are unsatisfactory, the products (carcasses) must be withdrawn and / or recalled from the market.

ST/SE are food safety criteria. If carcasses test positive at slaughterhouse for ST/SE, the carcasses can't be sold as fresh meat. However, as foreseen in art. 7, 2 of Reg. 2073/2005, they can undergo a treatment eliminating the pathogens in an approved establishment, before being put on the market. Fresh meat which is already on the market before the identification of the contamination and serotyping ST/SE, must be withdrawn and recalled from the market.

Products placed on the market which are not yet at the stage of retail sale may be heat treated intended and suitable to eliminate the risk SE / ST or be used for other purposes. Operators must set and apply procedures guaranteeing the execution of this heat treatment including the recording of the application of this measure within the framework of the self-checking system. In the event of detection of SE / ST a notification must be made to the Agency (FASFC) in accordance with Royal Decree of 14 November 2003 and Ministerial Decree of 22 November 2004 provided that the products have already left the establishment.

### *Measures implemented by the CA (farm and slaughterhouse level)*

SE and ST positive flocks must be slaughtered according to a logistical slaughter.

A document "Food Chain Information" must be sent by the poultry keeper to the slaughterhouse 24 hours before the slaughter. This document contains information about the sanitary status of animals, the potential use of medicines and all *Salmonella* control results. The slaughterhouse operators only accept the slaughter of animals if this document is in order.

No additional measures are taken by the competent authority in the farm or in the slaughterhouse concerning the positive SE or ST flocks slaughtered.

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

**yes**

**no**

*If no please explain.*



## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

12. The **analytical methods** used for the detection of the target *Salmonella* serovars is the one defined in Part 3.2 of the Annex of Regulation (EU) No 200/2010 i.e. Amendment 1 of EN/ISO 6579-2002/Amd1:2007. `Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs - Horizontal method for the detection of *Salmonella* spp. -- Amendment 1: Annex D: Detection of *Salmonella* spp. in animal faeces and in environmental samples from the primary production stage'.

Serotyping is performed following the Kaufman-White-Le Minor scheme.

yes

no

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

The point 3.2 of the Regulation (EU) 200/2010 has changed and the EN/ISO norm mentioned is not more available. The analytical methods used for the detection are the ones defined in points 3.2 or 3.4 of the Annex of RE 200/2010.

Serotyping is performed following point 3.3 or 3.4 of the Annex of RE 200/2010.

The analytical method used for the detection of *Salmonella* spp. is performed according to EN ISO 6579-1.

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

yes

no

*If no please explain. If timelimits are exceeded, please indicate what is done.*

The alternative methods used for serotyping *Salmonella* strains are a luminex method and the Check & Trace *Salmonella*, both of which are validated genoserotyping methods according to ISO 16140 and accredited and used by official laboratories.

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



## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

yes

no

*If no please explain.*

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

*Comments (max. 32000 chars) :*

Since 2006, FASFC focus its efforts on microbiological contamination in feed on Salmonella. Special attention is given to the sampling procedure using n=5 and taking into account the heterogenic nature of a possible Salmonella contamination of feed. Feed materials of animal origin, oilseeds and wheat bran, DDGS or compound feed for poultry containing these feed materials, are considered as 'at-risk' products and receive specific focus in the control program. However, also other compound feed for farmed animals and petfood are part of the control program.

Using a statistically substantiated risk evaluation, the FASFC re-evaluates and performs an official control program every year. Compound feed and feed materials are sampled and analysed for absence of Salmonella in 25g.

Analytical method

Food and feed samples are analysed in accredited and by the FASFC approved laboratories using analytical methods which are on an by the FASFC approved list: <http://www.favv-afsc.fgov.be/laboratories/approvedlaboratories/>.

Serotyping is performed on all Salmonella spp. positive results.

In positive samples, measures are taken following the decision tree (Annex 4).

### 15. Official controls at holding, flock and hatchery level

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

*(max. 32000 chars) :*

Point 5 of this document resumes the national legislation relative to biosecurity measures.

In breeding poultry, an official visit is performed by the competent authority once a year to check a number of points relative to general hygiene and biosecurity measures. In case of unsatisfactory outcome, a warning or a penalty is given or the authorisation is withdrawn in the event of serious

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

misconduct.

The visit is considered conform or conform with remarks or not conform depending of the gravity of non conformities. In case of results with conform with remarks or not conform, another official visit (or administrative control) is performed within the month to check if the poultry holder has complied with the recommendations.

There is also a guide validated by the competent authority (FASFC) for primary production describing, among other things, the biosecurity measures that poultry farmers must take. The guide defines the biosecurity measures to be applied in accordance with the national legislation in force. The guide is intended for both veterinarians and poultry farmers and includes a series of general opinions and basic principles to avoid antibacterial therapy by working towards disease prevention and control and optimal biosecurity in poultry farms.

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

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

yes

no

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

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

yes

no

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

FBO sampling takes place at the holding and not at the hatchery.

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

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

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

yes

no

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

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

yes

no

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

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



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



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

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

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) :

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

After positive official samples at the holding

Always

Sometimes (criteria apply)

Never

After positive FBO samples at the holding

Always

Sometimes (criteria apply)

Never

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

Always

Sometimes

Never

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

Since April 2020 to May 2022, no confirmatory sample has been taken in exceptional cases. If the FASFC considers that there are doubts about the veracity of the result, FASFC authorize confirmatory samples only in exceptional cases as determined by the competent authority in accordance

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

with the European legislation.

Sampling consists in 5 faeces samples and 2 dust samples for Salmonella testing.

A mixed sample of muscle tissue from 5 hens is also taken to investigate the use of antimicrobial substances.

The sampling of the confirmatory testing (bacteriology) is performed either by the FASFC or by one of the animal health associations. The muscle sampling for the tests on the use of antibiotics is performed by the organization that performs the Salmonella sampling.

The results of the confirmatory sampling are negative if no targeted-Salmonella serotype is found and if no antimicrobial substances have been found. Temporary measures apply until the results of confirmatory analyses are known. Measures are lifted when both results are negative.

If antimicrobials are detected in the flock in which a confirmatory sample was performed, the flock is considered positive. The same consequences than in a flock positive for targeted Salmonella are taken.

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

<sup>1</sup> Reg 200/2010, point 2.2.2.1 of the Annex

<sup>2</sup> Reg 200/2010, point 2.2.2.2 of the Annex

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

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

Results in the table above concern the year 2021. No confirmatory analyses were performed in 2021.

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

*(max. 32000 chars) :*

According to the royal decree of 21 September 2020 on the control of zoonotic Salmonella in poultry, it is forbidden to use antimicrobials in the treatment of breeding poultry against zoonotic Salmonella. This

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

applies not only to the 6 serotypes to be controlled in Belgium, but to all zoonotic Salmonella serotypes. Every breeding poultry farm is inspected each year by and specific checkpoints are verified during the visit by the competent authority (FASFC). A specific point focuses on the documentary check about the prohibition of use of antimicrobials against Salmonella. Other more general checkpoints about the use of antimicrobials and medicine in general into the farm are checked: input and output registers, guidance agreement, physical inspection of medicine used into the farm. If documentary check described in point A.15d indicates fraudulent use of antimicrobials within SNCP, the same measures are applied as for a positive flock for targeted Salmonella.

No samples are taken in breeding poultry to check the correct use of antimicrobials. Samples are taken in laying hens.

### 16. Salmonella vaccination

Voluntary

Compulsory

Forbidden

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

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

According to the royal decree of 21 September 2020 on the control of zoonotic Salmonella in poultry, vaccination of (grand)parents is mandatory against Salmonella Enteritidis, the vaccination against Salmonella Typhimurium is strongly recommended. The vaccination of selection poultry against Salmonella is prohibited. The breeding poultry intended for intra-community trade may not be vaccinated. The vaccination is mandatory in all breeding flocks participating to the Salmonella national control plan.

The vaccination is performed by the farm veterinarian. The farm veterinarian may delegate the performance of vaccination to the responsible of the poultry flock, provided that a veterinary guidance agreement has been concluded between the person in charge and the farm veterinarian in accordance with the Royal Decree of 10 April 2000 laying down provisions on veterinary guidance.

Two types of vaccines against both S. Enteritidis and S. Typhimurium are generally used in breeding flocks: 41% are inactivated vaccines and 59 % are live attenuated vaccines. The inactivated vaccines are administrated intramuscularly twice during the rearing period between 6 and 16 weeks with an interval of at least 4 weeks between the two vaccinations. The attenuated vaccines are administrated with drinking water three times during the rearing period : at day-old chicks, between 6 and 8 weeks and at 16 weeks. The attenuated vaccines contain a specific resistance to an antibiotic that allows to discriminate with a wild strain.

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

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

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

The loss of value caused by the early slaughter of breeding poultry, the channeling of hatching eggs and the destruction of hatching eggs or day-old chicks are eligible for compensation from the Budgetary Fund for the Health and Quality of Animals and Animal Products (the Fund). Compensation for animals slaughtered early and processed or destroyed hatching eggs and day-old chicks amounts to 90 % of the loss of value. The amount of compensation is calculated on the basis of value tables drawn up by the sector and validated by the Budget Fund Council. According to the Law on the establishment of a Budget Fund for the health and quality of animals and animal products of 23 March 1998 and the Royal Decree of 24 June 1997 on compulsory contributions to the Fund for the health and production of animals established for the poultry sector, the amount and terms of the Fund's interventions are determined by the Ministers for Health and Agriculture. The Fund has a financial reserve which is built up by means of compulsory contributions from the poultry sector as a whole. The reserve is provided for the financing of compensation and the implementation of control programmes. The terms and conditions for the intervention of the Fund are laid down in the Royal Decree of 21 September 2020 on the control of zoonotic Salmonella in poultry.

The owner loses all right to compensation if the compulsory vaccination has not been carried out or has been incompletely carried out.

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

*(max. 32000 chars) :*

After the cleaning and disinfection operations and the introduction of the sanitary vacuum, a hygienogram and a swab test shall be carried out in the hen house by the animal health association. The costs of these tests are charged to the owner.

A swab test consists in 2 samples each consisting of 25 environmental swabs collected from the areas where the flock was housed/will be housed. Swabs are harvested from the most contaminated and critical areas of the hen house.

A hygienogram test consists in 25 Rodac plates.

If the results of the swab tests reveal the presence of zoonotic Salmonella, the poultry house must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected again. These operations are repeated until no further Salmonella is detected. New animals can only be introduced in the absence of Salmonella.

If results of the hygienogram give a score higher than 1.5, the poultry house must be cleaned and disinfected again, and a new hygienogram is carried out. New animals may only be introduced when a score of 1.5 or less is obtained;

When the results of hygienogram and swab tests require a new cleaning and disinfection operation, and if the water used for cleaning is taken by catchment, a bacteriological analysis of the water catchment is also mandatory. The water analysis is performed on 1000 ml of water and includes the total number of germs at 22°C (max 100 000 cfu/ml), the total number of E. coli (max 1000 cfu/ml) and the presence of



# Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

intestinal enterococci (absence in 100 ml). In the presence of a non-compliant result, the use of the water catchment shall be prohibited until further tests demonstrate that the abstraction water complies.

## 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 Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) is the competent authority for the implementation and coordination of the programme. The FASFC has a central administration with 4 Directorates-General: DG Control Policy (drawing up the control programme, coordination, drafting the necessary national legislation), DG Control (uniform organisation of controls), DG Laboratories (accreditation of laboratories) and DG General Services. Under DG Control there are 9 local control units (LCUs) which are responsible for carrying out the inspections.

According to the royal decree of 21 September 2020 on the control of zoonotic Salmonella in poultry, all breeding poultry holdings registered to FASFC are covered by the control programme. The samples taken from day-old chicks, at 4 weeks and every 2 weeks during production, are taken by the person in charge of the breeding poultry holding, the farm veterinarian or the staff of the approved animal health associations. The person in charge shall bring the samples or send them within 24 hours of taking the samples to a laboratory approved by the FASFC for the analysis of the samples. The samples are accompanied by all the necessary information about the holding.

The official sampling at 16 weeks and at the beginning, in the middle and at the end of the production period, is carried out by animal health associations.

On a monthly basis, the accredited laboratories report all results within the framework of the Salmonella control programme to the FASFC's DG Laboratories. When a zoonotic Salmonella is detected, the laboratory informs the FASFC, the person in charge and the farm veterinarian. Temporary measures are applied until the serotyping is known. When serotyping is known, the lab that performed the serotyping informs the FASFC, the person in charge and the farm veterinarian of the typing result. If the detected Salmonella is one of targeted-serotype, definitive measures apply. The farm is placed under the supervision of the Agency and the responsible person is informed about the measures to be taken.

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

*(max. 32000 chars) :*

European legislation :

- 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 2160/2003
- 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

# Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

control methods in the framework of the national programmes for the control of Salmonella in poultry  
- 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

National legislation:

- Law of 4 February 2000 on the creation of the federal agency for the safety of the food chain
- Royal Decree of 22 May 2005 laying down measures for the monitoring of and protection against certain zoonoses and zoonotic agents
- Royal Decree of 21 September 2020 on the control of zoonotic Salmonella in poultry
- Ministerial Decree of 21 September 2020 on the control of zoonotic Salmonella in poultry
- Royal Decree of 17 June 2013 on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in, and imports from third countries of, poultry and hatching eggs and on the conditions for authorisation of poultry establishments
- Royal Decree of 25 June 2018 establishing a system for the identification and registration of poultry, rabbits and certain hobby poultry.

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 poultry, the national Salmonella control programme implemented since 2007 including the compulsory vaccination of breeding poultry, allowed to significantly reduce the prevalence of S. Enteritidis and S. Typhimurium.

The prevalence in rearing breeders has been very low between 2012 and 2020. No flock was positive for SE or ST in rearing breeders except in 2014 where the prevalence was 0,29%. In 2021, the prevalence of targeted serotypes was 0.59% with one flock positive for ST and one for a monophasic variant of ST.

In breeding poultry during production, the prevalence of SE and ST never exceeded the 1% threshold. From 2012 to 2017, the prevalence of SE and ST varied from 0.18% to 0.99%. Since 2018, the prevalence has increased from 0.18% to 0.90% in 2021.

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

(max. 32000 chars) :

The royal decree of 25 June 2018 on the identification and registration of poultry, rabbits and certain hobby poultry describes the general conditions about the identification and registration of poultry in SANITEL, a computerized data-processing system for the identification and registration of animals. Each poultry keeper who is or wishes to be active in the food chain with his poultry or their products (meat or eggs), regardless of the number of poultry heads kept for this purpose, must register in SANITEL. Each departure/arrival of poultry from/to the holdings must be recorded in SANITEL.

The holder of more than 199 hobby poultry and the hobby poultry trader must also register his hobby

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

poultry in SANITEL.

Each flock must be registered in SANITEL and a flock number is attributed. If several flocks of poultry are present in the same holding, each flock must be registered in SANITEL and have an identification number.

Each poultry holder active in the food chain must have a registration from the FASFC. An exception exists for the poultry holder that holds maximum 50 laying hens and that sell their eggs directly to the consumer.

A lot of data are available in SANITEL such as administrative informations, category of poultry, flock capacity, date of birth, data on movements (date of entry/exit). This system for the registration of flocks ensures traceability from the hatchery to the slaughterhouse.

In addition to the registration, each holding with 200 or more breeding poultry must be authorized by the FASFC with a registration code and an identification number.

### 5. System to monitor the implementation of the programme.

*(max. 32000 chars) :*

In poultry, a national Salmonella control programme is implemented in Belgium.

According to the Royal Decree of 21 September 2020 on the control of zoonotic Salmonella in poultry, all registered to FASFC farms with breeding poultry of the species Gallus gallus, laying hens, broilers and meat turkeys have to implement the provisions of the national Salmonella control programme.

In breeders, industry sampling is performed by the FBO in every flock of poultry as day-old-chicks, at 4 weeks, at 24 weeks and then every two weeks until the end of the production. Official sampling is delegated to the animal health associations and performed in every flock 2 weeks before the transfer to the laying unit ( $\pm 16$  weeks) and at 22 weeks, 46 weeks and 56 weeks. Roosters joining a flock in production are also sampled at time of delivery.

The animal health associations are associations approved by the competent authority (FASFC). The conditions these associations must meet are fixed in the Royal Decree of 26th November 2006 laying down the conditions for the approval of associations for the control of animal diseases and entrusting them with tasks falling within the Agency's competence and in the Ministerial Decree of 26th November 2006 approving associations for the control of animal diseases.

There are 2 approved associations in Belgium, one in Flanders and one in Wallonia. Both approved associations are accredited for sampling by an accreditation body (BELAC). The accreditation consists in an attestation after a thorough compliance audit based on internationally recognised requirements. It formally demonstrates the competence of the animal health association to carry out specific assessment tasks on conformity. Through accreditation, the associations can provide proof of their technical competence, but also of their independence and impartiality.

In day-old-chicks, the sampling is performed at time of delivery to the holding. 20 pieces (min: 5 cm by 5 cm, max: 10 cm by 10 cm) of cover sheets soiled with faeces are sampled from transport boxes and the sample must be representative of the whole flock. The sampling in pullet and adult breeders is performed according to the Commission Regulation (EU) No 200/2010. The boot swabs method is used in floor rearing systems. Five pairs of boot swabs are collected per flock and must concern all parts of the poultry house. The five pairs of boot swabs are gathered in two containers: 2 pairs in one and 3 pairs in the other one. In cage breeding flocks, sampling consists in 2 composite samples of faeces per flock. Each sample must contain naturally mixed faeces taken from 60 different places forming a total of 150 g of faeces.

Sampling shall be performed in every poultry house but the result applies on the flock level that is registered in SANITEL.

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

The samples are sent to an approved laboratory by the responsible within 48 hours following the sampling. All necessary information must accompany the samples. Samples are kept cool before the transfer.

Samples are analyzed in accredited and by the FASFC approved laboratories using analytical methods which are on an by the FASFC approved list: <http://www.favv-afsca.fgov.be/laboratories/approvedlaboratories/>.

Serotyping is performed on all Salmonella spp. positive results.

The approved laboratories shall report to the Agency on a monthly basis and in accordance with the instructions of the Agency, the results of all analyses carried out on the samples received, taken under the Salmonella national control programme, the minimum data of the related request for analysis and the additional derived data from SANITEL.

According to the Royal Decree of 21 September 2020 on the control of zoonotic Salmonella in poultry, it is required to vaccinate breeding and laying hens against Salmonella Enteritidis unless the flocks are destined for intracommunity trade or export. The vaccination of elite breeders is prohibited. It is also highly recommended to vaccinate breeding and laying flocks against Salmonella Typhimurium. The vaccination schedule consists in two or three vaccine doses depending on the type of vaccine used. Live attenuated vaccines are administered in the drinking water at day 1, at 6-8 weeks and about 2 weeks before the transfer to the production unit (16 weeks). Inactivated vaccines are injected at 6-8 weeks and at 16 weeks. It is also forbidden to treat all poultry with antimicrobials against zoonotic Salmonella.

The following provisional measures shall be imposed from the moment when the analysis of a flock of breeding poultry detects Salmonella, until the result of serotyping is known:

- (a) the holding is under the supervision of the Agency and contacts within the holding are limited;
- (b) the breeding poultry flock may not be transferred to the laying unit and may only leave the poultry holding for logistical slaughter after authorisation by the Agency;
- (c) hatching eggs may not be incubated;
- (d) non-incubated hatching eggs shall be disposed of for destruction or marketed for human consumption after a treatment that ensures the elimination of Salmonella. Eggs shall be stamped at the holding in accordance with Annex II. D. of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003;
- (e) hatching eggs produced after the date of the last examination which could not detect Salmonella shall be destroyed before hatching.

The following definitive measures shall be imposed where the examination of a flock of breeding poultry detects one of the zoonotic targeted-Salmonella serotypes or if the animals were set up in a house where Salmonella was not excluded in accordance with point (g)(i) of that Article:

- (a) the herd is placed under the supervision of the Agency;
- (b) contact with the herd is limited. The person in charge of poultry care, the farm veterinarian, the staff necessary to manage the holding, the competent staff of the Agency or other public services and the persons required to carry out urgent repairs are the only persons who can have access to the poultry house;
- (c) the animals in the flock are slaughtered or destroyed within a period of one month after the date of the initial sampling which has isolated a serotype of zoonotic Salmonella to be controlled;
- (d) hatching eggs already hatched produced after the date of taking the sample from the last negative bacteriological test shall be destroyed;
- (e) non-incubated hatching eggs produced after the date of sampling of the last negative bacteriological test shall be destroyed or may be marketed for human consumption if they have been treated in such a way as to ensure the elimination of Salmonella. Eggs shall be stamped at the holding in accordance with

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

Annex II. D. of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003.

(f) before the next placement of poultry, the house shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. The necessary sanitary vacuum is maintained (at least until the hen house is completely dry);

(g) after the cleaning and disinfection operations and the introduction of the mandatory sanitary vacuum, a hygienogram and a swab test shall be carried out in the hen house. If the result:

(i) reveals the presence of zoonotic Salmonella, the house must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected again. These operations are repeated until no further Salmonella is detected. New animals can only be introduced in the absence of Salmonella,

(ii) gives a hygienogram score higher than 1.5, the house must be cleaned and disinfected again, and a new hygienogram is carried out. New animals may only be introduced when a score of 1.5 or less is obtained;

(h) where the results of the operations referred to in point (g) require a new cleaning and disinfection operation, and if the water used for cleaning is taken by catchment, a bacteriological analysis of the water is also mandatory. In the event of a non-compliant result, its use shall be prohibited until further tests demonstrate that the abstraction water complies.

Notification system in place :

The notification of the presence of Salmonella in samples taken at primary production is mandatory and must be notified to the FASFC by the responsible of the laboratory.

# Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

## C. Targets

### 1 Targets related to flocks official monitoring

#### 1.1 Targets on laboratory tests on official samples for year :

**2023**

Type of the test (description)	Target population	Number of planned tests
Bacteriological detection test	Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus	2 200
Serotyping	Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus	15
Antimicrobial detection test	Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus	10
Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus	0

#### 1.2 Targets on official sampling of flocks for year :

**2023**

Type of the test (description)	Rearing flocks	Adult flocks
Total No of flocks (a)	350	570
No of flocks in the programme	350	570
No of flocks planned to be checked (b)	270	550
No of flock visits to take official samples (c)	270	1 100
No of official samples taken	540	2 200
Target serovars (d)	SE+ ST+ SH+ SI+ SV +S. Java	SE+ ST+ SH+ SI+ SV +S. Java
Possible No of flocks infected by target serovars	2	5
Possible No of flocks to be depopulated	2	5
Total No of birds to be slaughtered/culled	19 000	50 000
Total No of eggs to be destroyed	Text	200 000
Total No of eggs to be heat treated	Text	140 000



## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

- (a) Including eligible and non eligible flocks
- (b) A checked flock is a flock where at least one official sampling visit will take place. A flock shall be counted only once even if it was visited several times.
- (c) Each visit for the purpose of taking official samples shall be counted. Several visits on the same flock for taking official samples shall be counted separately.
- (d) Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium = SE + ST  
Salmonella Enteritidis, Typhimurium, Hadar, Infantis, Virchow = SE+ ST + SH +SI + SV

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

Type of the test (description)	Target on vaccination
Number of flocks in the Salmonella programme	350
Number of flocks expected to be vaccinated	330
Number of birds expected to be vaccinated	4 800 000
Number of doses expected to be administered	10 500 000



## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

### *E. Financial information*

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

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

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

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

The animal health associations perform the sampling and are paid by the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC - state budget). Sampling equipment is provided by the animal health associations who are also testing the samples and is included in the price of the sampling. The sampling in the framework of the confirmatory testing, allowed only in exceptional cases, is performed either by the FASFC or by one of the animal health associations and paid by the FASFC. The muscle sampling for the tests on the use of antibiotics is performed by the organization that performs the Salmonella sampling and is paid by the FASFC.

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 routine analyses are performed by the laboratories of the animal health associations and paid by the FASFC. The serotyping is performed by the national reference laboratory (Sciensano) and paid by the FASFC. The analyses in the framework of the confirmatory testing (bacteriology) are

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

performed by either the FASFC or by the laboratories of one of the animal health associations and the serotyping by the national reference laboratory and are paid by the FASFC. The tests on the use of antibiotics are performed by a regional laboratory (ILVO) or the national reference laboratory and are paid by the FASFC.

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)

All compensations are paid to the owner by the sanitary fund which is notified to the European Commission (State Aid SA.37414 Belgium 14.03.2014 Adaptation des cotisations au Fonds pour la santé animale (secteur avicole)) and fed by compulsory contributions from the poultry farmers and EU-cofinancing.

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)

The veterinarian of the holding provides and delivers the vaccines. The vaccinator can be the veterinarian of the holding or the responsible of the breeders if there is a contract of veterinary guidance between the vet and the responsible. The vet sends his invoices for the vaccines straight to the sanitary fund. The invoices are paid after verification (document checks, verification of followed scheme, etc.) within two months after reception. The cost of the administration of the vaccine is paid by the holder of the breeders.

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

In case of full flock depopulation, steam cleaning is performed by external specialized companies. When certain requirements are met (Salmonella action

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

plan), the Fund will pay 75% of the cost.

### 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:*

# Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

## Attachments

### IMPORTANT :

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

## List of all attachments

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