



**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).

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- 6) You are invited to submit your programmes in English.

Document version number: 2022 1.0

Member state : BULGARIA

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**

**05/12/2022 17:16:32**

**Submission Number**

**1670253394260-19063**



# 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	178		178	0
Adult flocks	315	315	315	315
Number of adult flocks where FBO sampling is done at the hatchery		122	122	122
Number of adult flocks where FBO sampling is done at the holding		193	193	193

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

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

In the BG there are on average approximately 315 adult flocks of breeding chickens (*Gallus gallus*) present.

All rearing chicken flocks are subject to FBO sampling requirements under Regulation (EC) No. 200/2010 but the total number of rearing chicken flocks tested and the number of tests carried out is not recorded centrally by the Competent Authority (CA) (they are available upon request by the CA) , although FBO sampling is checked by officials during farm inspection visits.

All premises with 250 breeding birds or more are required to register in the Poultry Register in Bulgaria.

Number of flock to be tested at the holding and at the hatchery is presented in the table above

Additional hatchery monitoring is carried out by the FBO and CA and it is a statutory requirements of the programme.

In the line of FBO testing all *Salmonella* isolations are required to be reported to the Competent Authority , so that the isolations of *Salmonella* from monitoring at the hatchery as well as isolations of *Salmonella* from monitoring at the holding are subject to official action by the Competent Authority. Each year the RFSDs draft a sampling schedule for all poultry farms and hatcheries included in the scope of the programme and located on the territory within its administrative districts. The schedule is drafted taking into consideration FBO and Official checks on the flocks.

# Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

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

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

yes

no

*If no please explain.*

## 5. Biosecurity measures

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

yes

no

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

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

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

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

Bio-security measures on holdings include:

Health status checks of poultry

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

Control of movement of people

Transport hygiene

Feed hygiene

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

Water hygiene

Rodents, insects and birds control

Cleaning and disinfection of buildings

Recording of all events and operations

For each building own equipment must be designated

All in-all out system

The Competent Authority carries out inspections on farms for zoonotic disease control, animal welfare reasons, to take samples in line of the control programmes (Salmonella, AI), to administer and enforce national legislation and to check medicine records.

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

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

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

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

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

*Comments - Indicate also who takes the FBO samples*

FBO sampling is carried out by the operator or appointed by him person. Official veterinarian responsible for the farm has the responsibility to provide training on sampling protocol in the framework of the SCNP to the operator or person appointed by him.

In case of trade within the EU, the sampling of breeding flocks laying hatching eggs takes place on the holding.

### 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.*

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

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

**yes**

**no**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (a) carry out an epizootic investigation
- b) collect samples for laboratory tests in all other flocks in the poultry establishment in the manner specified in the Annex to Regulation No 200/2010.

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

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

In the event of a positive result of laboratory tests for SE or ST or in the case of detecting an effect inhibiting the growth of bacteria i the following measures are taken:1) orders:(a) the immediate slaughter of all poultry in the flock or b) the immediate killing of all poultry from the infected flock,c)

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

disposal in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 laying down health rules for animal by-products not intended for human consumption and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 (Regulation on animal by-products) of carcasses of all dead and killed poultry, (d) destruction of all eggs from a breeding flock of the species hen (*Gallus gallus*) infected with the *Salmonella* serotype covered by the scheme in the poultry establishment keeping that flock, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009; d) cleaning and disinfection of the premises; e) sampling verifying the effectiveness of the C&D.

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) :*

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

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

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)*

Additionally to the measures described in points 8 and 9, the FBO is required to submit action plan to the regional CA describing:

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

*Measures implemented by the FBO (slaughterhouse level)*

The food establishments where the meat is to be processed is required to provide records of the processing of the infected batch, plan for cross-contamination prevention, plan for disinfection of equipment and premises, sampling plan for verification of the heat treatment and disinfection of



## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

premises and equipment in order to guarantee that the heat treated meat is not infected and to prevent further contamination of the fresh meat processed in the FBE.

In the event that in the laboratory test of samples are positive 1) the slaughter of hens from this flock is carried out in the manner specified in Art. 43 sec. 6 of Regulation No. 2019/627. Meat obtained from poultry originating from a breeding flock of the species hen (*Gallus gallus*), in which a positive result of laboratory testing doe SE or ST, or from flocks of unknown epizootic status in terms of *Salmonella* was obtained, is subjected to industrial heat treatment or other treatment to eliminate *Salmonella*. Such meat may not be placed on the market fresh, except to be transported to an industrial processing facility, if the facility slaughtering such poultry is unable to undergo an on-site industrial heat treatment or other treatment to eliminate *Salmonella*. The fresh meat can be given for human consumption only if it meets the microbiological criterion: absence of SE and ST in 5 samples of 25g of fresh poultry meat. FBO has to have written consent from the food business establishment where the heat treatment is to be done before sending the infected poultry. The FBO at slaughterhouse has to provide information and records on the control of the processed products. Hi/she is obliged to manage and ensure that the slaughtering of infected flock is carried out separately from the healthy flocks, the premises and equipment of the slaughterhouse to be cleaned and disinfected after the slaughter of the positive flock.

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

CA:  
Official veterinarian responsible for the FBE is required to:  
-issue Restriction Act for the infected batch/products;  
-to provide instructions on the measures to be implemented;  
-to carry out expertise in accordance with art. 240 of the LVA and to issue an Expertise act where the type of processing of the meat/products is described.  
-to approve the above described FBO plan;  
-to prepare report on the implementation of the above described plan (all the relevant documents are attached), the report is provided to the RFSD and to the Food Control Directorate, HQ BFSA.  
The measures are described in details in a BFSA procedure, approved with Ordinance PД 11-1136/20.09.2011.

**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.*

No alternative methods are used

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.*

No alternative methods are used

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

yes

no

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

*If no please explain.*

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

The cover letter shall provide the following information on: 1) data and address of the poultry keeper; 2) registration number of the holding; 3) number of poultry in the flock, age, category of the flock; 4) the number of samples and the type of material collected; 5) dates and times of sampling and sending to the laboratory; 6) the type of vaccine used in the flock of laying hens and the date of its administration; 7) the use of antimicrobials; 8) data of the person collecting the samples.

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

In case that: 1) the cover letter (both by the official or FBO) did not contain at least the information above or the information is not completed; 2) the amount or type of test material does not meet the requirements of the testing system specified in the Programme in question; 3) the conditions for transporting the samples to the laboratory do not meet the requirements set out in par. 3.1.1 of the Annex to Regulation No. 200/2010: the official laboratory informs the respective sender (official veterinarian or farmer) as well as the headquarter of the BFSA of this when accepting the samples for laboratory testing. Then the protocol from the laboratory test contains the information that the test cannot be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the program for control of Salmonella serotypes in respective poultry category.

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

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

*Comments (max. 32000 chars) :*

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

In connection with the fulfillment of the requirements of Art. 9 and Art. 10 of Regulation (EC) No. 1831/2003, on feed hygiene and according to the Feed Act, feed sector operators must be approved or registered by the BFSA and entered in a register in accordance with Art. 19 of the regulation.

The registers of the approved and registered operators in the fodder sector are kept and maintained in the ODBH. BFSA maintains and updates the relevant national registers, which are published on its

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

website. Inspections at the facilities in the feed sector are carried out by inspectors/experts responsible for the official control of feed in the respective regional food safety department.

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

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

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

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

### 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) :*

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

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

In case of non-compliances detected during the inspection, official veterinarians gives prescription with corrective measures to be taken by the FBO with a short deadline. Further inspection is carried out by the official to verify the measures taken by the FBO, followed by fines, trade restriction, ban for

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

movement of poultry or eggs or registration withdrawal of the holding (depending on the severity of the deficiency) if the results from this inspection are not satisfactory.

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

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

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.*

The routine official sampling scheme when FBO sampling takes place at the hatchery includes:

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

- 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

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

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

yes

no

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

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

yes

no

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

Official control sampling:

- 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)
  - confirmatory sampling as explain in paragraph "e"
  - sampling of the other flocks on the holding if a positive result in a flock was found
- The official samples are taken by official veterinarian responsible for the holding

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)

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

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

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

None of these measures

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

**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	<input type="checkbox"/> Always
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sometimes (criteria apply)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Never

After positive FBO samples at the holding	<input type="checkbox"/> Always
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sometimes (criteria apply)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Never

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

Always       Sometimes       Never



## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

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.

Following testing carried out according to Regulation (EC) No. 200/2010, Annex paragraph 1 and 2 (own check and official sampling), when a breeding flock of Gallus gallus is suspected of being infected with Salmonella Enteritidis or Salmonella Typhimurium (including monophasic strains), the flock is placed under official control by the Competent Authority. This applies to breeding flocks from day old through to end of production. Restrictive measures are usually placed on a suspect flock at the serogroup stage for own check and official sampling and are lifted if the result confirms a non-target serovar but remain in place if the serovar confirmed is Salmonella Enteritidis or Salmonella Typhimurium (including monophasic strains)

Following placing of official restrictions, infection detected by operator sampling (Annex, paragraph 2.1.1) may, in some cases depending on the situation, be confirmed by samples taken by the Competent Authority as detailed in Annex 2.2.2.1 of Regulation 200/2010/EC. The decision to carry out confirmatory sampling is based on assessment of the situation on the premises, including the potential for the cross contamination during sampling by the operator, potential for the cross contamination at the laboratory during the testing process and biosecurity/farm hygiene and history of Salmonella spp isolation on the premises. No confirmatory testing is carried out following detection of a positive through official sampling (paragraph 2.1.2.2), unless exceptional circumstances (such as confirmation of laboratory cross contamination) require it.

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>	4	2	1
Official samples <sup>2</sup>	1	1	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) :

The procedures related to confirmatory sampling is explained above. In case of confirmed presence of antimicrobials but negative confirmatory sampling, the flock is considered as suspected for being infected with Salmonella. Measures to be taken in case of SE /ST positive flocks, or other Salmonella spp or suspected flock to be positive for these Salm. spp are described in point A 9 and 10.



## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

- 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):

Antimicrobial treatment may not be used for the control of Salmonella within the framework of the National Control Programme, except within the limits set by Commission Regulation (EC) No.1177/2006 The official veterinary inspection for Salmonella control (sampling for Salmonella, according to the SCNP) always includes checks of the record kept in the farm including those related to VMP used.

Official controls on the use of antimicrobials:

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

Official sampling for antimicrobial treatment is carried out:

- in any case of confirmatory sampling. If antimicrobials or bacterial growth inhibitors are detected, the Salmonella infection shall be considered as confirmed.

- Suspicion of false results - in exceptional cases where the competent authority has reason to question the results of the testing (such as false positive or false negative results), it may decide to repeat the confirmatory sampling

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

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

### 16. Salmonella vaccination

Voluntary

Compulsory

Forbidden

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

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

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

In BG the use of vaccines for the control of salmonella in poultry is not prohibited. In the official register of veterinary medicine products there are registered and approved vaccines for *Salmonella* spp. for birds. The owners of the holdings could use only the approved by BFSA vaccines in the way indicate by the official veterinarian responsible for the poultry holdings. The vaccination scheme shall be approved by the Regional Food Safety Directorate. When the samples have been taken from vaccinated poultry, the letter accompanying any such samples to the laboratory must specify the type and time of vaccination. If the samples from vaccinated poultry are tested and being suspected to be positive , the test for the differentiation between vaccine and field strain are immediately carried out. The objective is to ensure proper basis for differentiation between vaccination and field strain in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1177/2006 and no necessary animal movement restrictions to be enforced. The operator/owner in consultation with his/her veterinarian may consider vaccination of the flock against *Salmonella* with a product which has a marketing authorisation in your country and complies with the requirements of Commission Regulation (EC) No.1177/2006 for specific control methods in the framework of the national programmes for the control of *Salmonella*. Vaccination may only be used as a preventative measure; and it is not an alternative to the requirements in Annex II.C of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003

### 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 terms and procedures for compensation of owners are described in the national legislation - the Law of Veterinary Activity (LVA) and Ordinance on the terms and procedures applicable to effecting expenditures related to epizootic risks. Pursuant to the Ordinance on the terms and conditions for spending the costs for covering the epizootic risks related expenditures compensations are paid to the owners of the animals compulsory culled (slaughtered in slaughterhouses or killed by other way). According to the national legislation in the in the context of the programme a possibility to pay compensation costs or any financial assistance for food and feed business operator has not been provided. The valuation of birds is determined by the National statistics institute, by average market price per 1 kilogram live weight for the month and the respective region, as the scale of compensation for birds is publicly available. Additionally, the national legislation does not provide a compensation for indirect losses by the FBO In case of non compliances / breaches of the biosecurity measures/disregard Ministry/BFSA ordinances/ detected during the official control , the compensation is not provided according to the national legislation.

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

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 a flock infected with relevant serovars is depopulated the house where the birds were kept must be clean and disinfected under the supervision of the CA. Environmental samples have to be taken by the CA (at least five samples of contact surfaces per premise) inside the house in order to verify the efficacy of the procedure. Samples have to be analyzed in an official laboratory and in case of identification of any *Salmonella* serovar a new cycle of cleaning and disinfection must be performed and repeated if necessary up to a negative finding. Re-stocking may not take place until the cleaning and disinfection has been carried out. Negative results is required to lift the restriction measures in the holding.

### B. General information

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

and welfare” at BFSA.

The official veterinarian has the following responsibilities:

1. To control and to implement the programme for surveillance of salmonella in the relevant municipality.
2. To control the sampling of breeding hens and the sending of samples to the laboratories.
3. To collect and analyse the data on the poultry tested for salmonella in the veterinary units located on the territory of the relevant municipality.
4. To summarize the data on positive animals from the veterinary units located on the territory of the relevant municipality.
5. To summarize the data on the salmonella surveillance costs incurred by the relevant municipality.
6. To keep a register in the database of all holdings with breeding hens
7. To send annual reports containing the data referred to in points 1-6 to Directorate “Animal health” at the relevant RFSD.

Data on the implementation of the NSCPs is presented to the CCA at by the laboratories and RFSDs each 6 months in terms of preparing the annual and intermediate reports for the implementation on programmes. In case of positive Salmonella results (related to all Salmonella spp detected as well as either FBO or official sampling) the labs are requested to inform immediately the CCA. The CCA orders the relevant RFSD to impose the restrictive measures according to the Salmonella spp detected and based on the Salmonella legislation.

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

*(max. 32000 chars):*

This Program has been drafted according the requirements laid down in:

COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 200/2010 of 10 March 2010 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a Union target for the reduction of the prevalence of Salmonella serotypes in adult breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 213/2009 of 18 March 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EC) No 1003/2005 as regards the control and testing of Salmonella in breeding flocks of Gallus gallus and turkeys.

REGULATION (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the control of salmonella and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents;

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

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

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 Republic of Bulgaria the Salmonella Control National Programme in breeding flocks has been in operation since 2008 and approved by Commission Decision 2007/873/EO. Below are data on % Salmonella positive flock's prevalence for the Salmonella target serotypes included in the program, since 2009

In 2009 - 3.5 %Salmonella positive flock's prevalence

In 2010 - 5.19 %Salmonella positive flock's prevalence

In 2011 - 0.82 %Salmonella positive flock's prevalence

In 2012 - 0.48 %Salmonella positive flock's prevalence

In 2013 - 1.03 %Salmonella positive flock's prevalence

In 2014 - 0.84 %Salmonella positive flock's prevalence

In 2015 - 1.3 %Salmonella positive flock's prevalence

*S. infantis* remains the most commonly isolated Salmonella serotype, followed by *S. Hadar*, *S. Agona* and *S. Senftenberg* in the Republic of Bulgaria as a whole

In 2016 - 0,5 %Salmonella positive flock's prevalence

In 2017- 0,4 %Salmonella positive flock's prevalence

In 2018- 0,1 %Salmonella positive flock's prevalence

In 2019 - 0,5 %Salmonella positive flock's prevalence

In 2020 - no Salmonella positive flocks

In 2021-0,5 %Salmonella positive flock's prevalence

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

(max. 32000 chars):

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

All commercial holdings for breeding flocks are registered in accordance with Article 137 of the law of the Veterinary activity. The register commercial holdings are entered into the national electronic database and maintained by Headquarter at the BFSA. The records on registration of farms are kept at central level (Headquarter at BFSA) and local level (RFSDs).

The size limit for poultry to be registered obligatorily is as follow:

- flocks more than 500 poultry broilers
- flocks more than 250 poultry breeding hens
- flocks more than 350 poultry laying hens
- flocks more than 250 poultry turkeys

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

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

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

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

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

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

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

The register contains the following information:

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

For each holding records must be kept with details of sampling for Salmonella and the results. The records are kept at the farms and the owners are obliged to present them during official visits. When a farm is inspected by an official veterinarian, the latter has also to perform a thorough check of all the records /logbooks/ kept in the respective holding. Records must be available for the following:

- Total number of birds in the holding
- The new entered birds
- The birds for slaughter
- The birds for trade
- The number of death birds

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

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

(max. 32000 chars):

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



## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus



# 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	1 153
Serotyping	Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus	20
Antimicrobial detection test	Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus	20
Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus	20

#### 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)		315
No of flocks in the programme		315
No of flocks planned to be checked (b)		315
No of flock visits to take official samples (c)		757
No of official samples taken		1 153
Target serovars (d)	SE+ ST + SH +SI + SV	SE+ ST + SH +SI + SV
Possible No of flocks infected by target serovars		2
Possible No of flocks to be depopulated		2
Total No of birds to be slaughtered/culled		15 000
Total No of eggs to be destroyed	Text	112 500
Total No of eggs to be heat treated	Text	112 500

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

## 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))

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

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

The laboratories testing the official samples collected are described in point 11.A above. The costs for testing are covered by the state budget.

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

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

The compensation scheme for owners for is described in point 17 above, and is paid by the CA.

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

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

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

Measures related to cleaning and disinfection are described in point 18.

## Breeding flocks of Gallus gallus

### 2. Source of funding of eligible measures

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

*yes*

*no*

### 3. Additional measures in exceptional and justified cases

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

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

n/a

# 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 :	