



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Unit 04 - Veterinary Control Programmes

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*Programmes for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain
animal diseases and zoonoses*

Control programme of Salmonella in breeding, laying and broiler flocks

Approved* for 2009 by Commission Decision 2008/897/EC

Bulgaria

* in accordance with Commission Decision 90/424/EEC



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NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICE

SOFIA, BULGARIA

APPROVED:

DIRECTOR GENERAL NVS:

/Assoc. Prof. Jeko Baichev, DVM/

AN ANNUAL CONTROL PROGRAMME
ON SALMONELLA IN BREEDING FLOCKS OF POULTRY FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2009

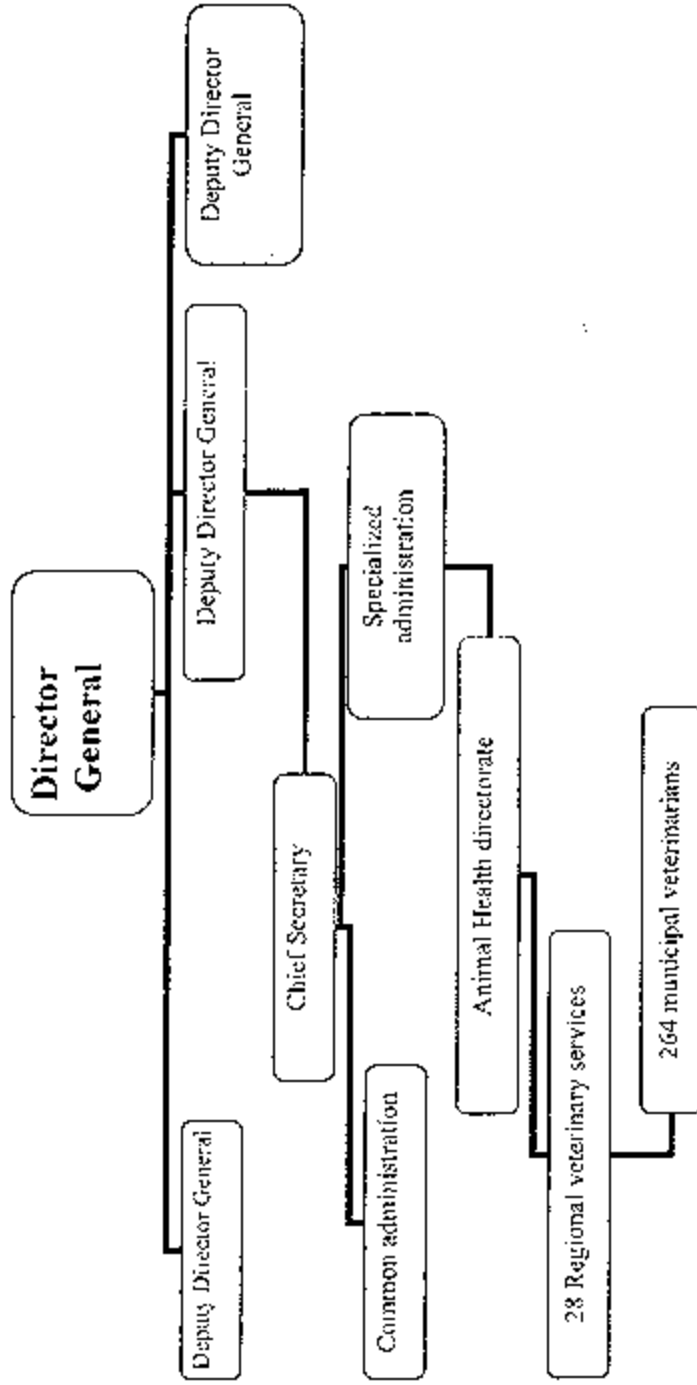
1. General

1.1. A short summary referring to the occurrence of the salmonellosis [zoonotic salmonella] in the Member State with specific reference to the results obtained in the framework of monitoring in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council¹, particularly highlighting the prevalence values of the salmonella serovars targeted in the salmonella control programmes:

See in Annex 1.

1.2. The structure and organization of the relevant competent authorities. Please refer to the information flow between bodies involved in the implementation of the programme
National Veterinary Service and Directorate "Control of public health" at the Ministry of health are the competent authorities for control of Salmonella and their zoonotic agents.

Structure of NVS



1.3. Approved laboratories where samples collected within the programme are analysed.

The Minister of agriculture and food supply on the basis of proposal by the Director General of NVS, shall approve the national reference laboratories within the system of NVS.

Laboratories shall meet the following minimum requirements:

1. to be determined for the types of examinations and analyses, that are carried out by them;
2. to meet the requirements for good laboratory practice;
3. to be capable for a quick communication with laboratories in the country, the respective reference laboratories of the Member States and the respective reference laboratory of the European Union;

The laboratory examinations for Salmonellosis are performed by the Reference Laboratory for diagnostics of Salmonellosis at the National Diagnostics Research Veterinary Institute (NDRVI) – Sofia, Blvd. “Peneho Slaveikov” №15, tel: 02/9523903 at national level and at regional level at the following Regional Diagnostics Veterinary Institutes (RDVI)

- RDVI Veliko Tarnovo;
- RDVI Stara Zagora;

The samples for official control are been tested by the NRL and the 2 Regional Institutes, but all these of positive or suspect result are forwarded for confirmatory retesting in the NRL in the town of Sofia. The NRL for salmonellae is accredited and takes part in all respective inter laboratory tests.

1.4. Methods used in the examination of the samples in the framework of the programme.

The method recommended by the Community Reference Laboratory for salmonella in Bilthoven, Netherlands shall be used: the method is a modification of ISO 6579 (2002) where a semi-solid medium (MSRV) is used as the single selective enrichment medium. The semi-solid medium should be incubated at 41.5 +/- 1°C for 2 x (24 +/-3) hours.

As regards the boot swab samples and other faecal material samples, referred to in paragraph 3.1, it is possible to pool incubated BPW enrichment broth for future culture. To do that, incubate both samples in BPW as normal. Take 1 ml of incubated broth from each sample and mix thoroughly, then take 0,1 ml of the mixture and inoculate the MSRV plates in the usual way.

1.5. Official controls (including sampling schemes) at feed, flock and/or herd level.

Official sampling on the feed stuffs from poultry:

In accordance with the Agreement for Interaction and Exchange of Information concerning the official controls in the area of feeds signed between in the National Veterinary Service (NVS) and the National Grain & Feed Service (NGFS) on 23.04.2007, sampling of feed stuffs must be performed as follows:

1. the NGFS is to perform the feed sampling done at producers of feed raw materials and wholesale traders in feed raw materials in bulk;
2. the NVS is to perform the feed sampling done at farms.

According to the 2008 Consolidated Annual Plan for Feed Control the minimum number of samples to be taken and tested for Salmonella is:

- ↓ 35, which are to be performed by the NGFS at producers of feed raw materials and wholesalers of feed raw materials in bulk;
- ↓ 60, which are to be performed by the NVS at poultry farms

The number of samples has been calculated on the basis of risk assessment in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 882/2004 and the data of the analyses performed in 2006. This Plan involves also a minimum number of Salmonella samples taken from poultry feed consignments imported from third countries, where the planned number is 2 (two).

There have not been any positive results identified concerning this indicator. If a positive result would be identified, the measures and actions to be undertaken are pursuant and in accordance with the provision of Article 396, Paragraph 2, Item 5 of the Law on Veterinary Activities (LVA).

The samples taken from poultry feeds shall be taken and proceeded as provided for in Ordinance No. 44 of 07.10.2002 on sampling and analysis methods applied in all cases of feed control (promulgated in the State Gazette, Issue No. 109 of 20.11.2003, amended in SG, Issue No. 7 of 23.01.2007).

Official control at the other stages of the food chain:

The official inspections in the establishments for production, storage and trade with food are carried out in accordance with the Council Regulation 854/2004, laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption.

The number of samples has been calculated by the official veterinarians on the basis of risk assessment and the type and quality of the materials included in the food processing and the results of the previous inspections.

At the regional veterinary services (RVSS) the schedule for inspections in the controlled establishments of food was elaborated.

The samples from foods of poultry origin shall be taken and preceded as provided in Council Regulation 2073/2005. The frequency of sample taking could be increased and decreased on the basis of the results of the sample testing.

- **The structure of the production of food:**

Production, storage and trade with food of animal origin are carried out in:

- producing establishments
- establishments for hall-sailed
- establishments for retailled with food of animal origin
- restaurants

The establishments for production, storage and trade with food are approved by NVS in accordance with the hygiene requirements of the EU legislation. The public registers of approved establishments are kept in the RVSS and the NVS.

The retailled establishments and restaurants are registered by the Ministry of Health and the NVS.

In all food establishments the permanent and periodical official control is carried out in accordance with the provisions of EU legislation.

- 1.6. Measures taken by the competent authorities with regard to animals or products in which the presence of *Salmonella spp.* have been detected, in particular to protect public health, and any preventive measures taken, such as vaccination.

Control measures and notification of positive results

In case of suspicion or confirmation of *Salmonella enteritidis* or *Salmonella typhimurium* the NRL shall notify immediately the NVS.

In case of suspicion of infection the NVS and the relevant authorities:

- prohibited the movement of birds and eggs
- take additional samples for confirmation of infection

When a breeding herd is confirmed for the presence of *Salmonella enteritidis* or *Salmonella typhimurium*:

- ↳ Non-incubated eggs from the flock must be destroyed or may be used for human consumption if they are treated in a manner that guarantees the elimination of *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium* in accordance with Community legislation on food hygiene.

↳ b) Adult birds:

- must be slaughtered and used for human consumption if they are treated in a manner that guarantees the elimination of *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium* in accordance with Community legislation on food hygiene.

- must be destroyed in accordance with the requirements of the Ordinance on the requirements to activities, carried out at all stages from collecting to disposal of animal by-products and products derived from them as well as their use, marketing and transit, issued in accordance to Article 66, paragraph 2 from the Law on Veterinary Activity.

Where eggs for hatching from infected flocks are still present in a hatchery, they must be destroyed.

Non-incubated eggs from the flock must be destroyed or may be used for human consumption if they are treated in a manner that guarantees the elimination of salmonella.

1.7. National legislation relevant to the implementation of the programmes, including any national provisions concerning the activities set out in the programme.

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

- ↓ **COMMISSION DECISION 2007/873/EC**, approving the national programme for the control of salmonella in breeding flocks of Gallus gallus submitted by Bulgaria
- ↓ **REGULATION 1003/2005/EC** implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 as regards a Community target for the reduction of the prevalence of certain salmonella serotypes in breeding flocks of Gallus gallus and amending Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003
- ↓ **REGULATION (EC) No 2160/2003** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the control of salmonella and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents;
- ↓ **REGULATION (EC) No 1177/ 2006**, implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards requirements for the use of specific control methods in the framework of the national programmes for the control of salmonella in poultry
- ↓ **ORDINANCE 9/28.01.2006** on the monitoring of zoonoses in their prevention, limitation and eradication(Published in SG 15/17.02.2006). transposing **DIRECTIVE 2003/99/EC** of 17 November 2003 on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, amending Council Decision 90/424/EEC and repealing Council Directive 92/117/EEC

1.8. Any financial assistance provided to food and feed businesses in the context of the programme.

In Republic of Bulgaria, it is not foreseen that any plants for food or feed production would be subject to funding within the context of this programme.

2. Concerning food and feed businesses covered by the programme
 - 2.2. The structure of the production of feed.

All feed intended for feeding of breeding birds must be produced in feed producing-plants.

- 2.3. Relevant guidelines for good animal husbandry practices or other guidelines (mandatory or voluntary) on biosecurity measures defining at least:

A total of 200 000 informative brochures titled "How to protect our poultry? Six requirements for protection of your poultry" have been printed in 2008. Copies of these have been distributed in all the 28 veterinary regions /administrative districts/ of the country and have been provided to the owners of all holdings, where poultry are kept. This brochure lays down all the measures needed to protect poultry against infection.

All farms registered under the Law on Veterinary Activities must have their individual Guidelines for good farmer practices, which are subject to approval by the official veterinarian responsible for the control of the holding concerned.

- hygiene management at farms;
- measures to prevent incoming infections carried by animals, feed, drinking water, people working at farms, and
- hygiene in transporting animals to and from farms.

- 2.4. Routine veterinary supervision of farms.

Every year the 28th RVSS on the base of risk assessment present plans for controls of poultry farms within the respective region. Those plans are annually approved by the NVS.

- 2.5. Registration of farms.

All commercial holdings for laying hens are registered in accordance with Ordinance 25 laying down the minimal requirements regarding welfare during laying hens rearing, SG 42/23, May 2006, amend. SG 29/06, April 2007, transposing COMMISSION DIRECTIVE 2002/46/EC of 30 January 2002 on the registration of establishments keeping laying hens, covered by Council Directive 1999/74/EC.

2.6. Record-keeping at farms.

Each animal holding shall keep records with the following information.

- ✦ Total number of birds in the holding
- ✦ The new entered birds
- ✦ The birds for slaughtering.
- ✦ The birds for sale
- ✦ The number of death birds

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

2.7. Documents to accompany animals when dispatched.

During transport the live birds shall be accompanied with transport authorization, issued by the NVS, according to the Council Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport. Poultry may be moved, if only accompanied by animal health certificate issued by the veterinarian servicing the farm of origin and completed on a pre-printed model form after an appropriate clinical examination performed by this veterinarian.

2.8. Other relevant measures to ensure the traceability of animals.

Each consignment of laying hens intended for slaughtering or to other holding must be accompanied by information delivered by the veterinarian of the place of forwarding the consignment to the official veterinarian of their place of their destination.

PART B

1. Identification of the programme:

Member State: Republic of Bulgaria

Disease: *Infection of animals with zoonotic Salmonella spp*

Animal population covered by the programme: *Breeding flocks*

Year of implementation: 2009

Reference to this document: **COMMISSION DECISION 2007/873/EC**

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Date sent to the Commission: 30.04.2008

2. Historical data on the epidemiological evolution of the disease:

See in Annex II.

3. Description of the Programme:

The target of the Program is to determine the health status of poultry of the hen's species in Republic of Bulgaria with regard to *Salmonella enteritidis*, *Salmonella Hadar*, *Salmonella infantis*, *Salmonella Typhimurium*, *Salmonella virchow* and all other types of *Salmonella*.

4. Measures of the submitted program

4.1. Summary of measures under the program

Duration of the programme: 01.01.2009-31.12.2009

First year: 2009

- X Control
- X Testing
- X Slaughter of positive animals
- X Killing of positive animals
- X Vaccination
- X Treatment of animal products
- X Disposal of the products
- X Monitoring or surveillance
- Other measures (to be specified):

Last year: 2009

- X Control
- X Testing
- X Slaughter of positive animals
- X Killing of positive animals
- X Vaccination
- X Treatment of animal products
- X Disposal of the products
- X Monitoring or surveillance
- ∴ Other measures (to be specified):

4.2. Designation of the central authority charged with supervising and coordinating of the departments responsible for the implementing the programme:

National Veterinary Service and Directorate “Control of public health” at the Ministry of health are the competent authorities for control of Salmonella and their zoonotic agents.

4.2.1 Department “Infectious diseases” within Directorate “Animal health” at the Headquarters of NVS 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. In case of disease outbreak - to take additional samples.
5. To summarize the data on positive holdings.
6. To keep a register in the database of all holdings with breeding flocks.
7. To send annual report to the European Commission containing the data referred to in points 3-7.

4.2.2 At regional level the Regional Veterinary Services 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 flocks.
6. To send annual reports containing the data referred to in points 1-6 to Directorate "Animal health" at NVS.

The municipal 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 flocks 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 flocks
7. To send annual reports containing the data referred to in points 1-6 to Directorate "Animal health" at the relevant RVS.

The Minister of agriculture and food supply, on the basis of proposal by the Director General of NVS, shall approve the national reference laboratories within the system of NVS.

Laboratories shall meet the following minimum requirements:

1. to be determined for the types of examinations and analyses, that are carried out by them;
2. to meet the requirements for good laboratory practice;
3. to be capable for a quick communication with laboratories in the country, the respective reference laboratories of the Member States and the respective reference laboratory of the European Union;

The laboratory examinations for Salmonellosis are performed by the Reference Laboratory for diagnostics of Salmonellosis at the National Diagnostics Research Veterinary Institute (NDRVI) – Sofia, blvd. “Pencho Slaveikov” №15, tel: 02/9523903 at national level and at regional level at the following Regional Diagnostics Veterinary Institutes (RDVI) :

- RDVI Veliko Tarnovo;
- RDVI Stara Zagora;

The samples for official control are been tested by the NRL and the 2 Regional Institutes, but all these of positive or suspect result are forwarded for confirmatory retesting in the NRL in the town of Sofia. The NRL for salmonellae is accredited and takes part in all respective inter laboratory tests.

The samples taken under the initiative of the owner or another person authorised by her/him are to be tested in the laboratories specified in the programme, all these laboratories operating in accordance with the ISO 6579 standard.

4.3. Description and delimitation of the geographical and administrative areas in which the programme is to be implemented.

The programme shall be implemented on the territory of the whole country comprising 28 districts.

4.4 Measures implemented under the programme:

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

- ↓ **COMMISSION DECISION 2007/873/EC**, approving the national programme for the control of salmonella in breeding flocks of Gallus gallus submitted by Bulgaria
- ↓ **REGULATION 1003/2005/EC** implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 as regards a Community target for the reduction of the prevalence of certain salmonella serotypes in breeding flocks of Gallus gallus and amending Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003
- ↓ **REGULATION (EC) No 2160/2003** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the control of salmonella and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents;
- ↓ **REGULATION (EC) No 1177/ 2006**, implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards requirements for the use of specific control methods in the framework of the national programmes for the control of salmonella in poultry
- ↓ **ORDINANCE 9/28.01.2006** on the monitoring of zoonoses in their prevention, limitation and eradication(Published in SG 15/ 17.02.2006), transposing **DIRECTIVE 2003/99/EC** of 17 November 2003 on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, amending Council Decision 90/424/EEC and repealing Council Directive 92/117/EEC

4.4.1. Measures and terms of legislation as regards the registration of holdings:

The National veterinary service is the official competent authority for the registration of animal holdings.

The owners of animal-breeding holdings shall submit an application of registration, conformed to a specimen to the director of RVS. Within a time period of up to 7 days from the submission of the application, the director of RVS 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 RVS 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 RVS, 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 RVS.

The director of RVS 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.

Each animal holding shall keep records with the following information.

1. Total number of birds in the holding
2. The new entered birds
3. The birds for slaughtering.
4. The birds for sale
5. The number of death birds

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

4.4.3. Measures and terms of legislation as regards the notification of the disease:

The Law on Veterinary Activities, Art.124 and Ordinance No.23 / 14.12.2005 on the order and the way of notification and registration of infectious diseases in animals, which is harmonized with Council Directive 82/894/EEC

4.4.4. Measures and terms of legislation as regards the measures in case of a positive result:

In case of suspicion or confirmation of Salmonella enteritidis or Salmonella typhimurium the NRL shall notify immediately the NVS.

In case of suspicion of infection the NVS and the relevant authorities:

- prohibited the movement of birds and eggs
- take additional samples for conformation of infection

When a breeding herd is confirmed for the presence of Salmonella enteritidis or Salmonella typhimurium:

- ✦ Non-incubated eggs from the flock must be destroyed or may be used for human consumption if they are treated in a manner that guarantees the elimination of Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium in accordance with Community legislation on food hygiene.

✦ b) Adult birds:

- must be slaughtered and used for human consumption if they are treated in a manner that guarantees the elimination of Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium in accordance with Community legislation on food hygiene.
- must be destroyed in accordance with the requirements of the Ordinance on the requirements to activities, carried out at all stages from collecting to disposal of animal by-products and products derived from them as well as their use, marketing and transit, issued in accordance to Article 66, paragraph 2 from the Law on Veterinary Activity.

Where eggs for hatching from infected flocks are still present in a hatchery, they must be destroyed.

Non-incubated eggs from the flock must be destroyed or may be used for human consumption if they are treated in a manner that guarantees the elimination of salmonella.

4.4.7 Measures and terms of legislation as regard the control (testing, vaccination) of the disease:

In Republic of Bulgaria 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 NVS vaccines in the way indicate by the official veterinarian responsible for the poultry holdings.

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. The objective is to ensure proper basis for differentiation between vaccination and field strain in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1177/2005.

4.4.8. Measures and terms of legislation as regards the compensation for owners of slaughtered and killed animals:

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 compulsorily slaughtered or killed.

According to Bulgarian legislation, it is not foreseen that owners should be compensated, if in case of salmonellosis their birds would be subjected to slaughtering and further heat treatment.

What is paid, however, is the cost of disinfecting agent used for the disinfecting of the plant in which the poultry have been channelised to be slaughtered.

5. General description of costs and benefits

1. Costs related to taking and transportation of samples for testing to diagnostics laboratories
2. Costs for the purchase of the required diagnostics kits
3. Costs for compensations to the owners of compulsively killed birds
4. Costs for remuneration of the labor of the executors of the program

6. Data on the epidemiological evaluation during the last five years:

6.1 Data on herds for *Salmonella*:

Year: 2001

Disease: Salmonellosis

Animal species: birds

Region	Total number of herds under the programme	Total number of tested herds	Number of positive herds
Blagoevgrad	100	71	
Burgas	2000	2213	4- Salmonella pullorum
Varna	1000	368	3- Salmonella pullorum
V. Tarnovo	80	185	1- Salmonella pullorum
Vidin	200	0	
Vratza	100	8	
Gabrovo	30	94	1- Salmonella pullorum
Dobrich	200	39	1- Salmonella pullorum
Kardjali	20	10	
Kustendil	10	8	1- Salmonella pullorum
Lovech	600	59	1- Salmonella pullorum
Montana	100	89	
Pazardjik	10	5	1- Salmonella pullorum
Pernik	50	0	
Pleven	830	606	2- Salmonella pullorum, 1- S. enteridis
Plovdiv	50	0	
Razgrad	720	415	
Ruse	100	17	1- Salmonella pullorum
Silistra	300	0	
Sliven	30	10	
Smolyan	200	307	
Sofia - city	100	120	
Sofia - region	500	352	
Stara Zagora	200	222	
Targovishte	50	0	
Haskovo	100	210	1- Salmonella pullorum
Shoumen	300	88	
Yambol	390	568	
Total	10170	6064	17- Salmonella pullorum

Disease: Salmonellosis

Animal species: birds

Year: 2002

Region	Total number of herds under the programme	Total number of tested herds	Number of positive herds
Blagoevgrad	100	59	
Burgas	400	1207	3- Salmonella pullorum
Varna	500	49	3- Salmonella pullorum
V. Tarnovo	400	443	
Vidin	200	0	
Vratza	30	20	
Gabrovo	50	112	
Dobrich	300	43	1- Salmonella pullorum
Kardjali	20	23	
Kustendil	10	0	
Lovech	300	500	
Montana	50	159	1- S. pullorum; 1- S. enteridis; 1- S. gallinarum
Pazardjik	5	0	
Pernik	10	10	
Pleven	650	400	1- S. enteridis
Plovdiv	50	0	
Razgrad	100	130	
Russe	100	104	
Silistra	300	0	
Sliven	10	0	
Smolyan	200	204	
Sofia - city	100	42	
Sofia - region	300	302	
Stara Zagora	200	273	4- Salmonella pullorum
Targovishte	50	10	
Haskovo	100	110	2- Salmonella pullorum
Shoumen	200	245	
Yambol	330	480	
Total	5065	1905	14- Salmonella pullorum ; 2- S. enteridis; 1-

Year: 2003		Disease: Salmonellosis		S. gallinarum	
Region	Total number of herds under the programme	Animal species: birds	Total number of tested herds	Number of positive herds	
Blagoevgrad	100		15		
Burgas	200		552		
Varna	500		60		
V.Turnovo	100		1		
Vidin	20		9		
Vratza	20		76		
Gabrovo	50		782		
Dobrich	300		275		
Kardjali	20		18		
Kustendil	10		0		
Lovech	200		0		
Montana	50		247		
Pazardjik	100		0		
Pernik	10		10		
Pleven	670		234		
Plovdiv	50		0		
Razgrad	100		120		
Russe	100		158		
Silistra	200		0		
Sliven	0		0		
Smolyan	100		104		
Sofia - city	100		30		
Sofia - region	200		80		
Stara Zagora	200		307		
Targovishte	50		28		
Haskovo	80		128		2- Salmonella pullorum
Shoumen	200		390		
Yambol	710		182		

Total	4440	3706	2- Salmonella pullorum
Year: 2004	Disease: Salmonellosis	Animal species: birds	
Region	Total number of herds under the programme	Total number of tested herds	Number of positive herds
Blagoevgrad	100	5	
Burgas	200	33	2- Salmonella pullorum; 2 - S. enteridis
Varna	300	15	
V. Tarnovo	100	446	2 - S. enteridis
Vidin	10	0	
Vratza	20	37	
Gabrovo	70	3	
Dobrich	500	122	
Kardjali	20	2	
Kustendil	10	0	
Lovech	100	100	
Montana	50	58	
Pazardjik	20	0	
Pernik	10	8	
Pleven	670	533	
Plovdiv	50	0	
Razgrad	50	50	
Russe	100	19	
Silistra	200	0	
Sliven	10	10	
Smolyan	100	100	
Sofia - city	0	0	
Sofia - region	200	52	
Stara Zagora	250	192	
Targovishte	40	12	
Haskovo	80	63	1- Salmonella pullorum
Shoumen	50	57	
Yambol	700	700	

Total	4010	2637	3- Salmonella pullorum ;	4 - S. enteridis
Year: 2005				
Region	Disease: Salmonellosis		Animal species: birds	
	Total number of herds under the programme	Total number of tested herds	Number of positive herds	
Blagoevgrad	50	12		
Burgas	0	93		
Varna	200	8		10- Salmonella pullorum; 1- S. Typhimurium
V. Tarnovo	300	175		
Vidin	10	11		
Vratza	20	128		
Gabrovo	20	7		
Dobrich	500	0		
Kardjali	20	12		
Kustendil	10	0		
Lovech	80	70		
Montana	50	51		
Pazardjik	50	4		
Pernik	10	4		
Pleven	700	749		
Plovdiv	70	0		
Razgrad	10	40		
Russe	0	1		
Silistra	100	0		
Sliven	10	10		
Smolyan	80	99		
Sofia - city	0	0		
Sofia - region	110	124		
Stara Zagora	250	90		
Targovishte	120	62		
Haskovo	60	64		
Shoumen	50	75		
Yambol	50	136		

Year: 2006	Region	Disease: Salmonellosis		Animal species: birds		10- Typhimurium	1- S.
		Total number of herds under the programme	Total number of tested herds	Total number of tested herds	Number of positive herds	pullorum	S.
	Total	2930		2025		10-	1- S.
	Blagoevgrad	50		54			
	Burgas	0		98			
	Varna	100		23		1- S. enteritidis	
	V. Tarnovo	300		256			
	Vidin	60		29			
	Vratza	20		19			
	Gabrovo	20		17			
	Dobrich	500		16			
	Kardjali	10		0			
	Kustendil	20		6			
	Lovech	50		74			
	Montana	50		52			
	Pazardjik	100		5			
	Pernik	10		4			
	Pliven	600		1669			
	Plovdiv	60		0			
	Razgrad	10		10			
	Russe	10		0			
	Silistra	100		0			
	Sliven	10		10			
	Smolyan	60		60			
	Sofia - city	0		0			
	Sofia - region	100		86			
	Stara Zagora	200		179			
	Targovishte	120		17			
	Haskovo	50		39			
	Shoumen	50		72		6- Salmonella pullorum	

Yambol	50	112	
Total	2710	2907	6- Salmonella pullorum; 1- S. enteritidis

Year: 2007	Disease: Salmonellosis		Animal species: birds
	Total number of herds under the programme	Total number of tested herds	
Blagoevgrad	10	3	
Burgas	10	42	
Varna	100	12	
V. Tarnovo	200	243	
Vidin	50	30	
Vratza	20	8	
Gabrovo	10	15	
Dobrich	500		
Kardjali	10		
Kustendil	20	13	
Lovech	50	69	
Montana	0		
Pazardjik	5	2	
Pernik	10	2	
Pleven	0	181	
Plovdiv	60		
Razgrad	10	22	
Russe	10		
Silistra	60		
Sliven	10	10	
Smolyan	60	60	
Sofia - city	0		
Sofia - region	100	6	
Stara Zagora	200	149	
Targovishte	120	174	

Haskovo	50		126	
Shoumen	50		102	
Yambol	40		1269	0
Total	1765			

Annex I

SAMPLES FOR SALMONELLOSIS

Number of samples for 2009

Region	Number of breeding flocks	Number of farms with	Hatcheries	Number of samples
	Number of farms	Number of samples	Number of hatcheries	
1. Blagoevgrad	0	0	0	0
2. Bourgas	1	10	2	50
3. Varna	1	10	1	26
4. Veliko Tarnovo	1	10	4	100
5. Vidin	0	0	0	0
6. Vratsa	1	10	1	26
7. Gabrovo	1	10	0	0
8. Dobrich	2	14	2	52
9. Kardjali	0	0	0	0

10. Kustendil	0	0	0	0	0	0
11. Lovech	0	0	0	0	0	0
12. Montana	5	50	1	1	26	26
13. Pazardjik	0	0	1	1	26	26
14. Pernik	0	0	0	0	0	0
15. Pleven	3	30	4	4	100	100
16. Plovdiv	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Razgrad	0	0	0	0	0	0
18. Rouse	2	14	1	1	26	26
19. Silistra	0	0	3	3	78	78
20. Sliven	0	0	2	2	52	52
21. Smolyan	0	0	0	0	0	0
22. Sofia city	0	0	0	0	0	0
23. Sofia region	2	20	2	2	52	52
24. Stara Zagora	4	40	5	5	130	130
25. Targovishte	2	20	1	1	26	26
26. Haskovo	0	0	0	0	0	0
27. Shoumen	1	10	2	2	50	50
28. Jambol	2	20	2	2	50	50
Total	27	268	34	34	870	870
Samples for conformation		20			50	50
Totally		288			920	920

6.1.1. Data on evolution of zoonotic salmonellosis

Year: 2008

Animal species: Breeding locks

Situation on date: 31.12.2007
 Disease/infection (a): Salmonellosis

Region (a1)	Type of flock (b)	Total number of flocks (c)	Total number of animals	Total number of flocks under the programme	Total number of animals under the programme	Number of flocks checked (d)	Number of positive flocks (e)	Number of depopulated flocks (a)	Total number of animals slaughtered or destroyed (a)	Quantity of eggs destroyed (number or kg) (a)	Quantity of eggs channelled to egg products (number or kg) (a)
Republic of Bulgaria	Breeding flocks	73	1 111 906	73	1 111 906	59	0	0	0	0	0 kg (a)

7.1.2. Targets on testing of flocks (1)

Year: 2008

Animal species: Breeding flocks

Situation on date: 31.12.2007

Disease/infection (a): Salmonellosis

Region (a1)	Type of flock (b)	Total number of flocks (c)	Total number of animals	Total number of flocks under the programme	Total number of animals under the programme	Expected number of flocks to be checked (d)	Number of flocks expected to be positive (e)	Number of flocks expected to be depopulated (a)	Total number of animals expected to be slaughtered or destroyed (a)	Expected quantity of eggs to be destroyed (number or kg) (a)	Expected quantity of eggs channelled to egg products (number)

Republic of Bulgaria	1 111 906	73	1 111 906	73	0.73	0.73	11 119	0	or kg) (a)
Breeding flocks									0

Detailed analysis of the cost of the programme for the period 01.01.2009 - 30.12.2009

Costs related to	Specification	Number of Official Samples	Unitary cost in euro	Total amount in euro	Community funding requested (yes/no)
1. Testing					
1.1. Cost of the analysis	Bacteriological tests	250	20	5 000	yes
	Serotyping	50	30	1500	yes
1.2. Cost of sampling		250	1	250	yes
1.3. Other costs of packaging and transportation of samples to the laboratories		250	1	250	yes
3. Killing of birds				25 000	yes
4. Cleaning and disinfection				1 000	yes
5. Consumables and specific equipment				1 000	yes
7. Other costs				1 000	yes

Total:	35 000	yes
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Total amount requested for the programme for 2009: - 35 000 €

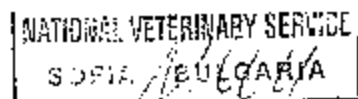


**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SUPPLY
NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICE
15 A "Pencho Slaveikov" Blvd, 1606 Sofia Bulgaria,
Tel. +35929159820, Fax: +35929549593**

APPROVED:

DIRECTOR GENERAL NVS:

/Assoc. Prof. Jeko Baichev, DVM/



**AN ANNUAL CONTROL PROGRAMME
CONTROL PROGRAMME
ON SALMONELLA IN LAYING HENS OF GALLUS GALLUS FOR
FINACIAL YEAR 2009**

1. General

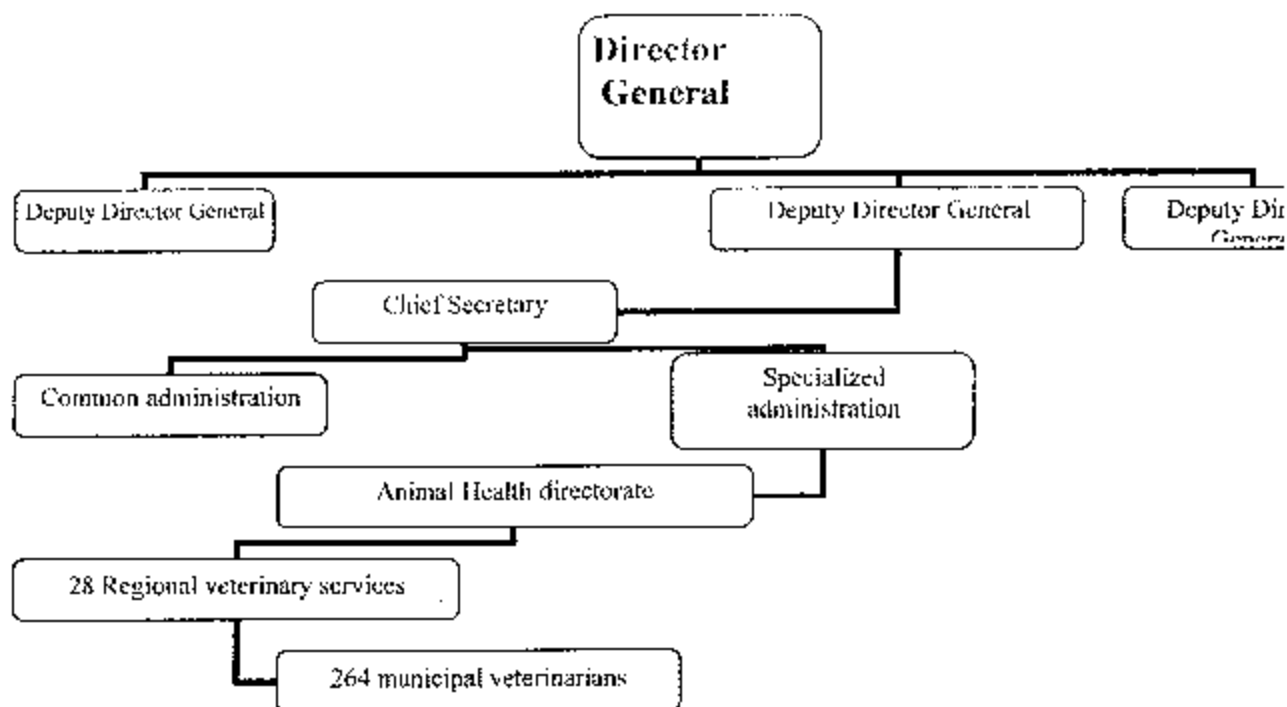
1.1. A short summary referring to the occurrence of the salmonellosis [zoonotic salmonella] in the Member State with specific reference to the results obtained in the framework of monitoring in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council¹, particularly highlighting the prevalence values of the salmonella serovars targeted in the salmonella control programmes:

See in Annex I.

1.2. The structure and organization of the relevant competent authorities. Please refer to the information flow between bodies involved in the implementation of the programme

National Veterinary Service and Directorate "Control of public health" at the Ministry of health are the competent authorities for control of Salmonella and their zoonotic agents.

Structure of NVS



1.3. Approved laboratories where samples collected within the programme are analysed.

The Minister of agriculture and food supply on the basis of proposal by the Director General of NVS, shall approve the national reference laboratories within the system of NVS. Laboratories shall meet the following minimum requirements:

1. to be determined for the types of examinations and analyses, that are carried out by them;
2. to meet the requirements for good laboratory practice;

3. to be capable for a quick communication with laboratories in the country, the respective reference laboratories of the Member States and the respective reference laboratory of the European Union;

The laboratory examinations for Salmonellosis are performed by the Reference Laboratory for diagnostics of Salmonellosis at the National Diagnostics Research Veterinary Institute (NDRVI) - Sofia, blvd. "Pencho Slaveikov" №15, tel: 02/9523903 at national level and at regional level at the following Regional Diagnostics Veterinary Institutes (RDVI)

- RDVI Veliko Tarnovo;
- RDVI Stara Zagora;

The samples for official control are been tested by the NRL and the 2 Regional Institutes, but all these of positive or suspect result are forwarded for confirmatory retesting in the NRL in the town of Sofia. The NRL for salmonellae is accredited and takes part in all respective inter laboratory tests.

1.4. Methods used in the examination of the samples in the framework of the programme.

The method recommended by the Community Reference Laboratory for salmonella in Bilthoven, Netherlands shall be used: the method is a modification of ISO 6579 (2002) where a semi-solid medium (MSRV) is used as the single selective enrichment medium. The semi-solid medium should be incubated at $41.5 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ for $2 \times (24 \pm 3)$ hours.

As regards the boot swab samples and other fecal material samples, referred to in paragraph 3.1, it is possible to pool incubated BPW enrichment broth for future culture. To do that, incubate both samples in BPW as normal. Take 1 ml of incubated broth from each sample and mix thoroughly, then take 0,1 ml of the mixture and inoculate the MSRV plates in the usual way.

1.5. Official controls (including sampling schemes) at feed, flock and/or herd level.

Official sampling on the feed stuffs from poultry:

In accordance with the Agreement for Interaction and Exchange of Information concerning the official controls in the area of feeds signed between in the National Veterinary Service (NVS) and the National Grain & Feed Service (NGFS) on 23.04.2007, sampling of feed stuffs must be performed as follows:

1. the NGFS is to perform the feed sampling done at producers of feed raw materials and wholesale traders in feed raw materials in bulk;
2. the NVS is to perform the feed sampling done at farms.

According the 2008 Consolidated Annual Plan for Feed Control the minimum number of samples to be taken and tested for Salmonella is:

- ↓ 35, which are to be performed by the NGFS at producers of feed raw materials and wholesalers of feed raw materials in bulk;

± 60, which are to be performed by the NVS at poultry farms

The number of samples has been calculated on the basis of risk assessment in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 882/2004 and the data of the analyses performed in 2006. This Plan involves also a minimum number of Salmonella samples taken from poultry feed consignments imported from third countries, where the planned number is 2 (two).

There have not been any positive results identified concerning this indicator. If a positive result would be identified, the measures and actions to be undertaken are pursuant and in accordance with the provision of Article 396, Paragraph 2, Item 5 of the Law on Veterinary Activities (LVA).

The samples taken from poultry feeds shall be taken and proceeded as provided for in Ordinance No. 44 of 07.10.2002 on sampling and analysis methods applied in all cases of feed control (promulgated in the State Gazette, Issue No. 109 of 20.11.2003, amended in SG. Issue No. 7 of 23.01.2007).

Official control at the other stages of the food chain:

The official inspections in the establishments for production, storage and trade with food are carried out in accordance with the Council Regulation 854/2004, laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption.

The number of samples has been calculated by the official veterinarians on the basis of risk assessment and the type and quality of the materials included in the food processing and the results of the previous inspections.

At the regional veterinary services (RVSS) the schedule for inspections in the controlled establishments of food was elaborated.

The samples from foods of poultry origin shall be taken and proceeded as provided in Council Regulation 2073/2005. The frequency of sample taking could be increased and decreased on the basis of the results of the sample testing.

• The structure of the production of food:

Production, storage and trade with food of animal origin are carried out in:

- producing establishments
- establishments for half-sailed
- establishments for retailed with food of animal origin
- restaurants

The establishments for production, storage and trade with food are approved by NVS in accordance with the hygiene requirements of the EU legislation. The public registers of approved establishments are kept in the RVSSs and the NVS.

The retailed establishments and restaurants are registered by the Ministry of Health and the NVS.

In all food establishments the permanent and periodical official control is carried out in accordance with the provisions of EU legislation.

- 1.6. Measures taken by the competent authorities with regard to animals or products in which the presence of *Salmonella spp.* have been detected, in particular to protect public health, and any preventive measures taken, such as vaccination.

Control measures and notification of positive results

In case of suspicion or confirmation of *Salmonella enteritidis* or *Salmonella typhimurium* the NRL shall notify immediately the NVS.

In case of suspicion of infection the NVS and the relevant authorities:

- prohibited the movement of birds and eggs
- take additional samples for confirmation of infection

When the laying hens flocks are confirmed for the presence of *Salmonella enteritidis* or *Salmonella typhimurium*:

1. Eggs shall not be used for direct human consumption as table eggs unless they originate from a commercial flock of laying hens subject to a national control programme and not under official restriction.

2. Eggs originating from flocks with unknown health status, that are suspected of being infected or that are infected with *Salmonella* serotypes for which a target for reduction has been set or which were identified as the source of infection in a specific human foodborne outbreak, may be used for human consumption only if treated in a manner that guarantees the destruction of all *Salmonella* serotypes with public health significance in accordance with Community legislation on food hygiene.

Eggs originating from flocks with unknown health status, that are suspected of being infected or that are infected with *Salmonella* serotypes for which a target for reduction has been set or which were identified as the source of infection in a specific human foodborne outbreak, shall be:

(a) considered as Class B eggs as defined in Article 2(4) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 557/2007 laying down detailed rules for implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1028/2006 on marketing standards for eggs;

(b) marked with the indication referred to in Article 10 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 557/2007 which clearly distinguishes them from Class A eggs prior to being placed on the market;

(c) prohibited access to packaging centres unless the competent authority is satisfied with the measures to prevent possible cross-contamination of eggs from other flocks.

3. When birds from infected flocks are slaughtered or destroyed, steps must be taken to reduce the risk of spreading zoonoses as far as possible. Slaughtering shall be carried out in accordance with Community legislation on food hygiene. Products derived from such birds may be placed on the market for human consumption in accordance with Community legislation on food hygiene and, once applicable, part E. If not destined for human

consumption, such products must be used or disposed of in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002.

- 1.7. National legislation relevant to the implementation of the programmes, including any national provisions concerning the activities set out in the programme.

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

- ↓ **COMMISSION DECISION 2007/848/EC**, approving certain national programmes for the control of salmonella in flocks of laying hens of *Gallus gallus*
- ↓ **Commission Decision 1168/2006/EC**, implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 as regards a Community target for the reduction of the prevalence of certain salmonella serotypes in laying hens of *Gallus gallus* and amending Regulation (EC) No 1003/2005;
- ↓ **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
- ↓ **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;
- ↓ **COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1237/2007**, amending Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Decision 2006/696/EC as regards the placing on the market of eggs from Salmonella infected flocks of laying hens
- ↓ **ORDINANCE 9/28.01.2006** on the monitoring of zoonoses in their prevention, limitation and eradication(Published in SG 15/ 17.02.2006), transposing **DIRECTIVE 2003/99/EC** of 17 November 2003 on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, amending Council Decision 90/424/EEC and repealing Council Directive 92/117/EEC

- 1.8. Any financial assistance provided to food and feed businesses in the context of the programme.

In Republic of Bulgaria, it is not foreseen that any plants for food or feed production would be subject to funding within the context of this programme.

2. Concerning food and feed businesses covered by the programme

2.2. The structure of the production of feed.

All feed intended for feeding of laying hens must be produced in feed producing-plants.

2.3. Relevant guidelines for good animal husbandry practices or other guidelines (mandatory or voluntary) on biosecurity measures defining at least:

A total of 200 000 informative brochures titled "How to protect our poultry? Six requirements for protection of your poultry" have been printed in 2008. Copies of these have been distributed to all the 28 veterinary regions /administrative districts/ of the country and have been provided to the owners of all holdings, where poultry are kept. This brochure lays down all the measures needed to protect poultry against infection.

All farms registered under the Law on Veterinary Activities must have their individual Guidelines for good farmer practices, which are subject to approval by the official veterinarian responsible for the control of the holding concerned.

- hygiene management at farms,
- measures to prevent incoming infections carried by animals, feed, drinking water, people working at farms, and
- hygiene in transporting animals to and from farms.

2.4. Routine veterinary supervision of farms.

Every year the 28th RVSs on the base of risk assessment present plans for controls of poultry farms within the respective region. Those plans are annually approved by the NVS.

2.5. Registration of farms.

All commercial holdings for laying hens are registered in accordance with Ordinance 25 laying down the minimal requirements regarding welfare during laying hens rearing, SG 42/23, May 2006, amend. SG 29/06, April 2007, transposing COMMISSION DIRECTIVE 2002/44/EC of 30 January 2002 on the registration of establishments keeping laying hens, covered by Council Directive 1999/74/EC.

2.6. Record-keeping at farms.

Each animal holding shall keep records with the following information.

- ↓ Total number of birds in the holding
- ↓ The new entered birds
- ↓ The birds for slaughtering.
- ↓ The birds for sale
- ↓ The number of death birds

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

2.7. Documents to accompany animals when dispatched.

During transport the live birds shall be accompanied with transport authorization, issued by the NVS, according to the Council Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport. Poultry may be moved, if only accompanied by animal health certificate issued by the veterinarian servicing the farm of origin and completed on a pre-printed model form after an appropriate clinical examination performed by this veterinarian.

2.8. Other relevant measures to ensure the traceability of animals.

Each consignment of laying hens intended for slaughtering or to other holding must be accompanied by information delivered by the veterinarian of the place of forwarding the consignment to the official veterinarian of their place of their destination.

PART B

1. Identification of the programme:

Member State: Republic of Bulgaria

Disease: infection of animals with zoonotic *Salmonella spp*

Animal population covered by the programme: Laying hens

Year of implementation: 2009

Reference of the document: COMMISSION DECISION 2007/848/EC

Contact:

Assoc. prof. Jeco Baichev

Director General and CVO

National Veterinary Service

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tel. ++359 2 915 98 20

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E-mail: J.Baichev@nvms.government.bg

Date sent to the Commission: 30.04.2008

2. Historical data on the epidemiological evolution of the disease:

See in Annex I.

3. Description of the Programme:

The target of the Program is to determine the health status of laying hens of *Gallus gallus* in Republic of Bulgaria with regard to *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella Typhimurium*.

4. Measures of the submitted program

4.1. Summary of measures under the program

Duration of the programme: 01.01.2009-31.12.2009

First year: 2009

- X Control
- X Testing
- X Slaughter of positive animals
- X Killing of positive animals
- X Vaccination
- X Treatment of animal products
- X Disposal of the products
- X Monitoring or surveillance
- Other measures (to be specified):

Last year: 2009

- X Control
- X Testing
- X Slaughter of positive animals
- X Killing of positive animals
- X Vaccination
- X Treatment of animal products
- X Disposal of the products
- X Monitoring or surveillance
- Other measures (to be specified):

4.2. Designation of the central authority charged with supervising and coordinating of the departments responsible for the implementing the programme

National Veterinary Service and Directorate "Control of public health" at the Ministry of health are the competent authorities for control of Salmonella and their zoonotic agents.

4.2.1 Department "Infectious diseases" within Directorate "Animal health" at the Headquarters of NVS 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. In case of disease outbreak – to take additional samples.
5. To summarize the data on positive holdings.
6. To keep a register in the database of all holdings with laying hens
7. To send annual report to the European Commission containing the data referred to in points 3-7.

4.2.2 At regional level the Regional Veterinary Services 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 laying hens.
6. To send annual reports containing the data referred to in points 1-6 to Directorate "Animal health" at NVS.

The municipal 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 laying 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 laying hens
7. To send annual reports containing the data referred to in points 1-6 to Directorate "Animal health" at the relevant RVS.

The Minister of agriculture and food supply, on the basis of proposal by the Director General of NVS, shall approve the national reference laboratories within the system of NVS. Laboratories shall meet the following minimum requirements:

1. to be determined for the types of examinations and analyses, that are carried out by them;
2. to meet the requirements for good laboratory practice;
3. to be capable for a quick communication with laboratories in the country, the respective reference laboratories of the Member States and the respective reference laboratory of the European Union;

The laboratory examinations for Salmonellosis are performed by the Reference Laboratory for diagnostics of Salmonellosis at the National Diagnostics Research Veterinary Institute (NDRVI) – Sofia, blvd. "Pencho Slaveikov" №15, tel: 02/9523903 at national level and at regional level at the following Regional Diagnostics Veterinary Institutes (RDVI) :

- RDVI Veliko Tarnovo;
- RDVI Stara Zagora;

The samples for official control are been tested by the NRL and the 2 Regional Institutes, but all these of positive or suspect result are forwarded for confirmatory retesting in the NRL in the town of Sofia. The NRL for salmonellae is accredited and takes part in all respective inter laboratory tests.

The samples taken under the initiative of the owner or another person authorised by her/him are to be tested in the laboratories specified in the programme, all these laboratories operating in accordance with the ISO 6579 standard.

4.3. Description and delimitation of the geographical and administrative areas in which the programme is to be implemented.

The programme shall be implemented on the territory of the whole country comprising 28 districts.

4.4 Measures implemented under the programme:

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

- ✦ **Commission Decision 1168/2006/EC**, implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 as regards a Community target for the reduction of the prevalence of certain salmonella serotypes in laying hens of Gallus gallus and amending Regulation (EC) No 1003/2005;
- ✦ **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
- ✦ **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;
- ✦ **ORDINANCE 9/28.01.2006** on the monitoring of zoonoses in their prevention, limitation and eradication(Published in SG 15/ 17.02.2006), transposing **DIRECTIVE 2003/99/EC** of 17 November 2003 on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, amending Council Decision 90/424/EEC and repealing Council Directive 92/117/EEC

4.4.1. Measures and terms of legislation as regards the registration of holdings:

All commercial holdings for laying hens are registered in accordance with Ordinance 25 laying down the minimal requirements regarding welfare during laying hens rearing, SG 42/23. May 2006, amend. SG 29/06. April 2007, transposing COMMISSION DIRECTIVE 2002/4/EC of 30 January 2002 on the registration of establishments keeping laying hens, covered by Council Directive 1999/74/EC.

Each animal holding shall keep records with the following information.

- ✦ Total number of birds in the holding
- ✦ The new entered birds
- ✦ The birds for slaughtering.
- ✦ The birds for sale
- ✦ The number of death birds

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

4.4.3. Measures and terms of legislation as regards the notification of the disease:

The Law on Veterinary Activities, Art.124 and Ordinance No.23 / 14.12.2005 on the order and the way of notification and registration of infectious diseases in animals, which is harmonized with Council Directive 82/894/EEC

4.4.4. Measures and terms of legislation as regards the measures in case of a positive result:

Control measures and notification of positive results

In case of suspicion or confirmation of *Salmonella enteritidis* or *Salmonella typhimurium* the NRI shall notify immediately the NVS.

In case of suspicion of infection the NVS and the relevant authorities:

- prohibited the movement of birds and eggs
- take additional samples for confirmation of infection

When the laying hens flocks are confirmed for the presence of *Salmonella enteritidis* or *Salmonella typhimurium*:

1. Eggs shall not be used for direct human consumption as table eggs unless they originate from a commercial flock of laying hens subject to a national control programme and not under official restriction.
2. Eggs originating from flocks with unknown health status, that are suspected of being infected or that are infected with *Salmonella* serotypes for which a target for reduction has been set or which were identified as the source of infection in a specific human foodborne outbreak, may be used for human consumption only if treated in a manner that guarantees the destruction of all *Salmonella* serotypes with public health significance in accordance with Community legislation on food hygiene.

Eggs originating from flocks with unknown health status, that are suspected of being infected or that are infected with *Salmonella* serotypes for which a target for reduction has been set or which were identified as the source of infection in a specific human foodborne outbreak, shall be:

(a) considered as Class B eggs as defined in Article 2(4) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 557/2007 laying down detailed rules for implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1028/2006 on marketing standards for eggs;

(b) marked with the indication referred to in Article 10 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 557/2007 which clearly distinguishes them from Class A eggs prior to being placed on the market;

(c) prohibited access to packaging centres unless the competent authority is satisfied with the measures to prevent possible cross-contamination of eggs from other flocks.

3. When birds from infected flocks are slaughtered or destroyed, steps must be taken to reduce the risk of spreading zoonoses as far as possible. Slaughtering shall be carried out in accordance with Community legislation on food hygiene. Products derived from such birds may be placed on the market for human consumption in accordance with Community legislation on food hygiene and, once applicable, part E. If not destined for human consumption, such products must be used or disposed of in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002.

4.4.7 Measures and terms of legislation as regard the control (testing, vaccination) of the disease:

In Republic of Bulgaria 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 NVS vaccines in the way indicate by the official veterinarian responsible for the poultry holdings.

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. The objective is to ensure proper basis for differentiation between vaccination and field strain in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1177/2005.

4.4.8. Measures and terms of legislation as regards the compensation for owners of slaughtered and killed animals:

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 slaughtered or killed.

According to Bulgarian legislation, it is not foreseen that owners should be compensated. if in case of salmonellosis their birds would be subjected to slaughtering and further heat treatment.

What is paid, however, is the cost of disinfecting agent used for the disinfecting of the plant, in which the poultry have been channelised to be slaughtered.

5. General description of costs and benefits

1. Costs related to taking and transportation of samples for testing to diagnostics laboratories
2. Costs for the purchase of the required diagnostics kits
3. Costs for compensations to the owners of compulsively killed
4. Costs for remuneration of the labor of the executers of the program

6. Data on the epidemiological evaluation during the last five years:

6.1 Data on herds for Salmonella:

Year: 2002	Disease: Salmonellosis		Animal species: birds
Region	Total number of herds under the programme	Total number of tested herds	Number of positive herds

Blagoevgrad	100	39	
Burgas	400	1207	3- Salmonella pullorum
Varna	500	49	3- Salmonella pullorum
V.Tarnovo	400	443	
Vidin	200	0	
Vratza	30	20	
Gabrovo	50	112	
Dobrich	300	43	1- Salmonella pullorum
Kardjali	20	23	
Kustendil	10	0	
Lovech	300	500	
Montana	50	159	1- S. pullorum; 1- S. enteridis; 1- S. gallinarum
Pazardjik	5	0	
Pernik	10	10	
Pleven	650	400	1- S. enteridis
Plovdiv	50	0	
Razgrad	100	130	
Russe	100	104	
Silistra	300	0	
Sliven	10	0	
Smolyan	200	204	
Sofia - city	100	42	
Sofia - region	300	302	
Stara Zagora	200	273	4- Salmonella pullorum
Targovishte	50	10	
Haskovo	100	110	2- Salmonella pullorum
Shoumen	200	245	
Yamhol	330	480	
Total	5065	4905	14- Salmonella pullorum ; 2- S. enteridis; 1- S. gallinarum

Year: 2003	Disease: Salmonellosis		Animal species: birds
Region	Total number of herds under the programme	Total number of tested herds	Number of positive herds
Blagoevgrad	100	15	
Burgas	200	552	
Varna	500	60	
V.Tarnovo	100	1	
Vidin	20	9	
Vratza	20	76	
Gabrovo	50	782	
Dobrich	300	275	
Kardjali	20	18	
Kustendil	10	0	
Lovech	200	0	
Montana	50	247	

Pazardjik	100	0	
Pernik	10	10	
Pleven	670	234	
Plovdiv	50	0	
Razgrad	100	120	
Russe	100	158	
Silistra	200	0	
Sliven	0	0	
Smolyan	100	104	
Sofia - city	100	30	
Sofia - region	200	80	
Stara Zagora	200	307	
Targovishte	50	28	
Haskovo	80	128	2- Salmonella pullorum
Shoumen	200	390	
Yambol	710	182	
Total	4440	3706	2- Salmonella pullorum

Year: 2004

Disease: Salmonellosis

Animal species: birds

Region	Total number of herds under the programme	Total number of tested herds	Number of positive herds
Blagoevgrad	100	5	
Burgas	200	33	2- Salmonella pullorum; 2 - S. enteridis
Varna	300	15	
V.Tarnovo	100	446	2 - S. enteridis
Vidin	10	0	
Vratza	20	37	
Gabrovo	70	3	
Dobrich	500	122	
Kardjali	20	2	
Kustendil	10	0	
Lovech	100	100	
Montana	50	58	
Pazardjik	20	0	
Pernik	10	8	
Pleven	670	553	
Plovdiv	50	0	
Razgrad	50	50	
Russe	100	19	
Silistra	200	0	
Sliven	10	10	
Smolyan	100	100	
Sofia - city	0	0	
Sofia - region	200	52	
Stara Zagora	250	192	
Targovishte	40	12	
Haskovo	80	63	1- Salmonella pullorum

Shoumen	50	57	
Yambol	700	700	
Total	4010	2637	3- Salmonella pullorum ; 4- S. enteridis

Year: 2005

Disease: Salmonellosis

Animal species: birds

Region	Total number of herds under the programme	Total number of tested herds	Number of positive herds
Blagoevgrad	50	12	
Burgas	0	93	10- Salmonella pullorum; 1- S. Typhimurium
Varna	200	8	
V.Tarnovo	300	175	
Vidin	10	11	
Vratsa	20	128	
Gabrovo	20	7	
Dobrich	500	0	
Kardjali	20	12	
Kustendil	10	0	
Lovech	80	70	
Montana	50	51	
Pazardjik	50	4	
Pernik	10	4	
Pleven	700	749	
Plovdiv	70	0	
Razgrad	10	40	
Russe	0	1	
Silistra	100	0	
Sliven	10	10	
Smolyan	80	99	
Sofia - city	0	0	
Sofia - region	110	124	
Stara Zagora	250	90	
Targovishte	120	62	
Haskovo	60	64	
Shoumen	50	75	
Yambol	50	136	
Total	2930	2025	10- Salmonella pullorum; 1- S. Typhimurium

Year: 2006

Disease: Salmonellosis

Animal species: birds

Region	Total number of herds under the programme	Total number of tested herds	Number of positive herds
Blagoevgrad	50	54	
Burgas	0	98	
Varna	100	23	1- S. enteritidis
V.Tarnovo	300	256	

Vidin	60	29	
Vratza	20	19	
Gabrovo	20	17	
Dobrich	500	16	
Kardjali	10	0	
Kustendil	20	6	
Lovech	50	74	
Montana	50	52	
Pazardjik	100	5	
Pernik	10	4	
Pleven	600	1669	
Plovdiv	60	0	
Razgrad	10	10	
Russe	10	0	
Silistra	100	0	
Sliven	10	10	
Smolyan	60	60	
Sofia - city	0	0	
Sofia - region	100	86	
Stara Zagora	200	179	
Targovishte	120	17	
Haskovo	50	39	
Shoumen	50	72	6- Salmonella pullorum
Yambol	50	112	
Total	2710	2907	6- Salmonella pullorum; 1- S. enteritidis

Year: 2007 Disease: Salmonellosis Animal species: birds

Region	Total number of herds under the programme	Total number of tested herds	Number of positive herds
Blagoevgrad	10	3	
Burgas	10	42	
Varna	100	12	
V. Tarnovo	200	243	
Vidin	50	30	
Vratza	20	8	
Gabrovo	10	15	
Dobrich	500		
Kardjali	10		
Kustendil	20	13	
Lovech	50	69	
Montana	0		
Pazardjik	5	2	
Pernik	10	2	
Pleven	0	181	
Plovdiv	60		

Razgrad	10	22	
Russe	10		
Silistra	60		
Sliven	10	10	
Smolyan	60	60	
Sofia - city	0		
Sofia - region	100	8	
Stara Zagora	200	149	
Targovishte	120	174	
Haskovo	50		
Shoumen	50	126	
Yambol	40	102	
Total	1765	1269	0

	(c)	programme	programme	be checked (d)	to be positive (a)	(a)	be slaughtered or destroyed (a)	destroyed (number or kg) (a)	channelled to egg products (number or kg) (a)
Republic of Bulgaria	Laying hens	1 765	4 301 706	1765	20	20	50 000	50 000	.
			4 301 706	1765					

SAMPLES FOR SALMONELLOSIS

Number of samples for 2009

Region	Number of holdings	Number of samples
Blagoevgrad	1	10
Burgas	3	30
Varna	11	110
V. Tarnovo	4	40
Vidin	2	20
Vratza	4	40
Vrabrovo	4	40
Dobrich	2	20
Kardjali	3	30
Kustendil	2	20
Lovech	3	30
Montana	0	0
Pazardjik	4	40
Pernik	5	50
Pleven	6	100
Plovdiv	8	80
Razgrad	2	20
Russe	4	40
Silistra	6	60
Sliven	2	20
Smolyan	1	10
Sofia - city	6	60
Sofia - region	8	80
Stara Zagora	6	60
Targovishte	5	50
Haskovo	4	40
Shoumen	0	0
Yambol	9	90
Total		900
Samples for conformation		100
Totally		1000

Detailed analysis of the cost of the programme for the period 01.01.2009 - 30.12.2009

Costs related to	Specification	Number of Official Samples	Unitary cost in euro	Total amount in euro	Community funding requested (yes/no)
1. Testing					
1.1. Cost of the analysis	Bacteriological tests	250	20	5 000	yes
	Serotyping	50	30	1 500	yes
1.2. Cost of sampling		250	1	250	yes
1.3. Other costs and transportation of the laboratories		250	1	250	yes
3. Killing and compensation of birds				100 000	yes
4. Cleaning and disinfection				1000	yes
5. Consumables and specific equipment				1000	yes
7. Other costs				1000	yes
Total:				110 000	yes

Total amount requested for the programme for 2009: -110 000 Euro.



**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SUPPLY
NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICE
15 A "Pencho Slaveikov" Blvd, 1606 Sofia Bulgaria,
Tel. +35929159820, Fax: +35929549593**

APPROVED:

DIRECTOR GENERAL NVS:

/Assoc. Prof. Jeko Baichev, DVM/

NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICE
SOFIA, BULGARIA

**AN ANNUAL CONTROL PROGRAMME
ON SALMONELLA IN BROILERS FOR FINACIAL YEAR 2009**

General

- 1.1. A short summary referring to the occurrence of the salmonellosis [zoonotic salmonella] in the Member State with specific reference to the results obtained in the framework of monitoring in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council¹, particularly highlighting the prevalence values of the salmonella serovars targeted in the salmonella control programmes:

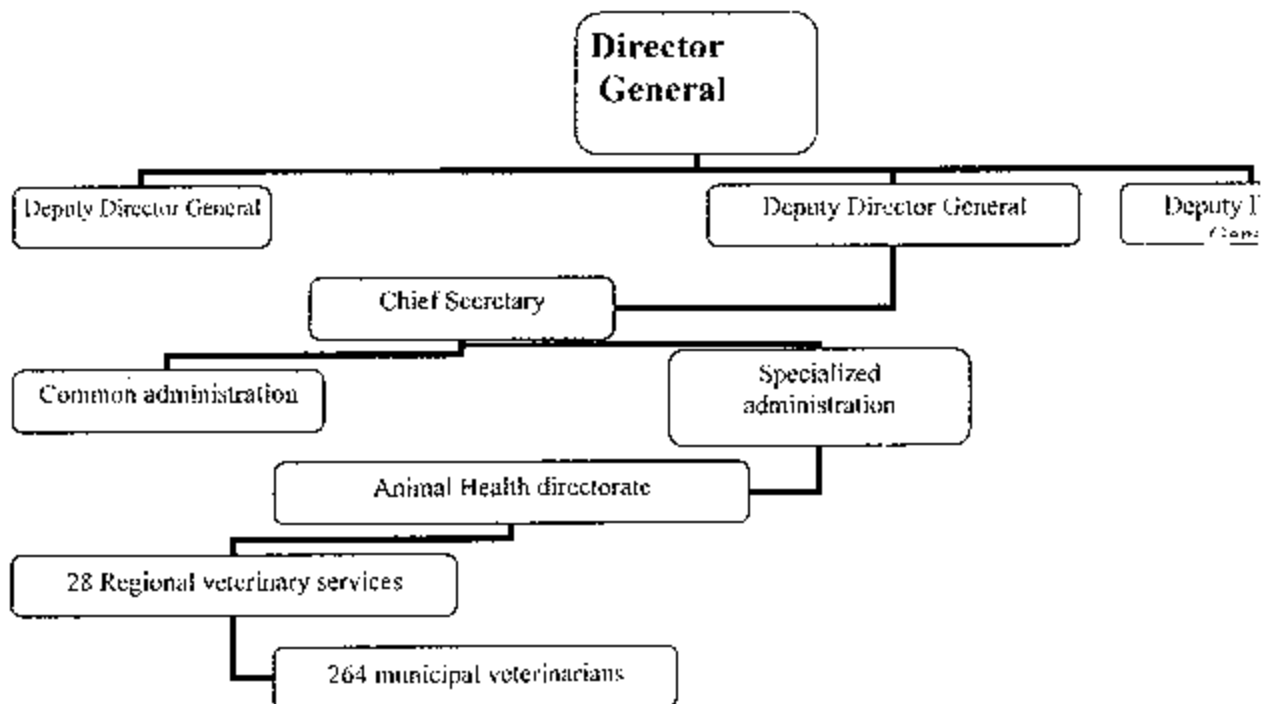
The samples taken and analysed for the purpose of control of salmonellosis in Republic of Bulgaria have been selected on the basis of risk analysis, the programmes being developed by the owners of industrial farms.

A total of 168 samples taken from broilers have been tested in the NRI in 2007, 9 of which have given positive result for Salmonella presence. The following serological types have been differentiated: S. Enteritidis in 6 of the 9 positive samples; S. Typhimurium in 1 of the 9 positive samples; and S. Manchester – in of the 2 positive samples.

- 1.2. The structure and organization of the relevant competent authorities. Please refer to the information flow between bodies involved in the implementation of the programme

National Veterinary Service and Directorate “Control of public health” at the Ministry of health are the competent authorities for control of Salmonella and their zoonotic agents.

Structure of NVS



- 1.3. Approved laboratories where samples collected within the programme are analysed.

The Minister of agriculture and food supply on the basis of proposal by the Director General of NVS, shall approve the national reference laboratories within the system of NVS.

Laboratories shall meet the following minimum requirements:

1. to be determined for the types of examinations and analyses, that are carried out by them;
2. to meet the requirements for good laboratory practice;
3. to be capable for a quick communication with laboratories in the country, the respective reference laboratories of the Member States and the respective reference laboratory of the European Union;

The laboratory examinations for Salmonellosis are performed by the Reference Laboratory for diagnostics of Salmonellosis at the National Diagnostics Research Veterinary Institute (NDRVI) – Sofia, blvd. “Pencho Slaveikov” №15. tel: 02/9523903 at national level and at regional level at the following Regional Diagnostics Veterinary Institutes (RDVI)

- RDVI Veliko Tarnovo;
- RDVI Stara Zagora;

The samples for official control are been tested by the NRL and the 2 Regional Institutes, but all these of positive or suspect result are forwarded for confirmatory retesting in the NRL in the town of Sofia. The NRL for salmonellae is accredited and takes part in all respective inter laboratory tests.

- 1.4. Methods used in the examination of the samples in the framework of the programme.

The method recommended by the Community Reference Laboratory for salmonella in Bilthoven, Netherlands shall be used: the method is a modification of ISO 6579 (2002) where a semi-solid medium (MSRV) is used as the single selective enrichment medium. The semi-solid medium should be incubated at $41.5 \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ for $2 \times (24 \pm 3)$ hours.

As regards the boot swab samples and other faecal material samples, referred to in paragraph 3.1, it is possible to pool incubated BPW enrichment broth for future culture. To do that, incubate both samples in BPW as normal. Take 1 ml of incubated broth from each sample and mix thoroughly, then take 0,1 ml of the mixture and inoculate the MSR/V plates in the usual way.

- 1.5. Official controls (including sampling schemes) at feed, flock and/or herd level.

Official sampling on the feed stuffs from poultry:

In accordance with the Agreement for Interaction and Exchange of Information concerning the official controls in the area of feeds signed between in the National

Veterinary Service (NVS) and the National Grain & Feed Service (NGFS) on 23.04.2007, sampling of feed stuffs must be performed as follows:

1. the NGFS is to perform the feed sampling done at producers of feed raw materials and wholesale traders in feed raw materials in bulk;
2. the NVS is to perform the feed sampling done at farms.

According the 2008 Consolidated Annual Plan for Feed Control the minimum number of samples to be taken and tested for Salmonella is:

- ✦ 35, which are to be performed by the NGFS at producers of feed raw materials and wholesalers of feed raw materials in bulk;
- ✦ 60, which are to be performed by the NVS at poultry farms

The number of samples has been calculated on the basis of risk assessment in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 82/2004 and the data of the analyses performed in 2006. This Plan involves also a minimum number of Salmonella samples taken from poultry feed consignments imported from third countries, where the planned number is 2 (two).

There have not been any positive results identified concerning this indicator. If a positive result would be identified, the measures and actions to be undertaken are pursuant and in accordance with the provision of Article 396, Paragraph 2, Item 5 of the Law on Veterinary Activities (LVA).

The samples taken from poultry feeds shall be taken and proceeded as provided for in Ordinance No. 44 of 07.10.2002 on sampling and analysis methods applied in all cases of feed control (promulgated in the State Gazette, Issue No. 109 of 20.11.2003, amended in SG, Issue No. 7 of 23.01.2007).

Official control at the other stages of the food chain:

The official inspections in the establishments for production, storage and trade with food are carried out in accordance with the Council Regulation 854/2004, laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption.

The number of samples has been calculated by the official veterinarians on the basis of risk assessment and the type and quality of the materials included in the food processing and the results of the previous inspections.

At the regional veterinary services (RVSS) the schedule for inspections in the controlled establishments of food was elaborated.

The samples from foods of poultry origin shall be taken and preceded as provided in Council Regulation 2073/2005. The frequency of sample taking could be increased and decreased on the basis of the results of the sample testing.

• The structure of the production of food:

Production, storage and trade with food of animal origin are carried out in:

- producing establishments

- establishments for hall-sailed
- establishments for retailed with food of animal origin
- restaurants

The establishments for production, storage and trade with food are approved by NVS in accordance with the hygiene requirements of the EU legislation. The public registers of approved establishments are kept in the RVSs and the NVS.

The retailed establishments and restaurants are registered by the Ministry of Health and the NVS.

In all food establishments the permanent and periodical official control is carried out in accordance with the provisions of EU legislation.

- 1.6. Measures taken by the competent authorities with regard to animals or products in which the presence of *Salmonella spp.* have been detected, in particular to protect public health, and any preventive measures taken, such as vaccination.

In case of suspicion or confirmation of *Salmonella enteritidis* or *Salmonella typhimurium* the NRI shall notify immediately the NVS.

In case of suspicion of infection the NVS and the relevant authorities:

- prohibited the movement of birds and eggs
- take additional samples for confirmation of infection

When a broiler flock is confirmed for the presence of *Salmonella enteritidis* or *Salmonella typhimurium*:

- ✦ The birds must be destroyed or may be used for human consumption if they are treated in a manner that guarantees the elimination of *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium* in accordance with Community legislation on food hygiene.
- ✦ The broilers must be slaughtered and used for human consumption if they are treated in a manner that guarantees the elimination of *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium* in accordance with Community legislation on food hygiene.

If the *Salmonella spp.* is detected during the inspection of carcasses in the slaughterhouse all measures must be applied in accordance with the Regulation 854/2004.

If the *Salmonella spp.* is detected during the inspection of food put on the market the competent authority must launch all the requirements under Art.7 of Regulation 2073/2005.

- 1.7. National legislation relevant to the implementation of the programmes, including any national provisions concerning the activities set out in the programme.

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

- ✦ **Council Regulation (EC) No 646/2007**, implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a Community target for the reduction of the prevalence of *Salmonella*

enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium in broilers and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1091/2005.

- ✦ **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
- ✦ **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;
- ✦ **ORDINANCE 9/28.01.2006** on the monitoring of zoonoses in their prevention, limitation and eradication(Published in SG 15/ 17.02.2006), transposing **DIRECTIVE 2003/99/EC** of 17 November 2003 on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, amending Council Decision 90/424/EEC and repealing Council Directive 92/117/EEC

1.8. Any financial assistance provided to food and feed businesses in the context of the programme.

In Republic of Bulgaria, it is not foreseen that any plants for food or feed production would be subject to funding within the context of this programme.

2. Concerning food and feed businesses covered by the programme

2.1. The structure of the production of the given species and products thereof

day-old chicks → broiler parents → hatchery → broilers → slaughterhouse

2.2. The structure of the production of feed.

All feed intended for feeding of broilers must be produced in feed producing-plants.

2.3. Relevant guidelines for good animal husbandry practices or other guidelines (mandatory or voluntary) on biosecurity measures defining at least:

A total of 200 000 informative brochures titled "How to protect our poultry? Six requirements for protection of your poultry" have been printed in 2008. Copies of these have been distributed to all the 28 veterinary regions /administrative districts/ of the country and have been provided to the owners of all holdings, where poultry are kept. This brochure lays down all the measures needed to protect poultry against infection.

All farms registered under the Law on Veterinary Activities must have their individual Guidelines for good farmer practices, which are subject to approval by the official veterinarian responsible for the control of the holding concerned.

- hygiene management at farms,
- measures to prevent incoming infections carried by animals, feed, drinking water, people working at farms, and
- hygiene in transporting animals to and from farms.

2.4. Routine veterinary supervision of farms.

Every year the 28th RVSs on the base of risk assessment present plans for controls of poultry farms within the respective region. Those plans are annually approved by the NVS.

2.5. Registration of farms.

The National veterinary service is the official competent authority for the registration of animal holdings.

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

Within a time period of up to 7 days from the submission of the application, the director of RVS 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 RVS 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 RVS, 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 RVS.

The director of RVS 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.

2.6. Record-keeping at farms.

Each animal holding shall keep records with the following information.

- ✦ Total number of birds in the holding
- ✦ The new entered birds
- ✦ The birds for slaughtering.
- ✦ The birds for sale
- ✦ The number of death birds

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

2.7. Documents to accompany animals when dispatched.

During transport the live birds shall be accompanied with transport authorization, issued by the NVS, according to the Council Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport. Poultry may be moved, if only accompanied by animal health certificate issued by the veterinarian servicing the farm of origin and completed on a pre-printed model form after an appropriate clinical examination performed by this veterinarian.

2.8. Other relevant measures to ensure the traceability of animals.

Each consignment of broilers intended for slaughtering must be accompanied by information delivered by the veterinarian of the place of forwarding the consignment to the official veterinarian of their place of their destination.

PART B

1. Identification of the programme:

Member State: Republic of Bulgaria

Disease: infection of animals with zoonotic *Salmonella spp*

Animal population covered by the programme: Broilers
Year of implementation: 2009
Reference of the document: COMMISSION Regulation 2007/646/EC

Contact:

Assoc.prof Jeco Baichev
Director General and CVO
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15A "Pencho Slaveikov" blvd.
1606 Sofia, Bulgaria
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fax: ++359 2 952 38 35
E-mail: J.Baichev@nvms.government.bg

Date sent to the Commission: 30.04.2008

2. Historical data on the epidemiological evolution of the disease:

See in Annex 1.

3. Description of the Programme:

The target of the Program is to determine the health status of broilers in Republic of Bulgaria with regard to *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella Typhimurium*.

The reduction of *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium* in broilers shall be a reduction of the maximum percentage of flocks of broilers remaining positive of *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium* to 1 % or less by 31 December 2011.

4. Measures of the submitted program

4.1. *Summary of measures under the program*

Duration of the programme: 01.01.2009-31.12.2009

First year: 2009

- X Control
- X Testing
- X Slaughter of positive animals
- X Killing of positive animals
- X Vaccination
- X Treatment of animal products
- X Disposal of the products
- X Monitoring or surveillance
- Other measures (to be specified):

Last year: 2009

- X Control
- X Testing
- X Slaughter of positive animals
- X Killing of positive animals
- X Vaccination
- X Treatment of animal products

- X Disposal of the products
- X Monitoring or surveillance
- . Other measures (to be specified):
- . Other measures (to be specified):

4.2 Designation of the central authority charged with supervising and coordinating of the departments responsible for the implementing the programme

National Veterinary Service and Directorate "Control of public health" at the Ministry of health are the competent authorities for control of Salmonella and their zoonotic agents.

National Veterinary Service and Directorate "Control of public health" at the Ministry of health are the competent authorities for control of Salmonella and their zoonotic agents.

Department "Infectious diseases" within Directorate "Animal health" at the Headquarters of NVS 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. In case of disease outbreak - to take additional samples.
5. To summarize the data on positive holdings.
6. To keep a register in the database of all holdings with breeding flocks.
7. To send annual report to the European Commission containing the data referred to in points 3-7.

At regional level the Regional Veterinary Services 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 seropositive 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 flocks.
6. To send annual reports containing the data referred to in points 1-6 to Directorate "Animal health" at NVS.

The municipal 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 flocks 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 seropositive 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 flocks
7. To send annual reports containing the data referred to in points 1-6 to Directorate "Animal health" at the relevant RVS.

NATIONAL REFERENCE DIAGNOSTICS LABORATORY FOR SALMONELLOSIS

NATIONAL DIAGNOSTIC AND RESEARCH VETERINARY INSTITUTE (NDRVI),
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Tel: 02/ 9523903
Mobile : 0887 827952

The Minister of agriculture and food supply on the basis of proposal by the Director General of NVS, shall approve the national reference laboratories within the system of NVS.

Laboratories shall meet the following minimum requirements:

1. to be determined for the types of examinations and analyses, that are carried out by them;
2. to meet the requirements for good laboratory practice;
3. to be capable for a quick communication with laboratories in the country, the respective reference laboratories of the Member States and the respective reference laboratory of the European Union;

The laboratory examinations for Salmonellosis are performed by the Reference Laboratory for diagnostics of Salmonellosis at the National Diagnostics Research Veterinary Institute (NDRVI) – Sofia, Blvd. "Pencho Slaveikov" №15, tel: 02/9523903 at national level and at regional level at the following Regional Diagnostics Veterinary Institutes (RDVI)

- RDVI Veliko Tarnovo;
- RDVI Stara Zagora;

The samples for official control are been tested by the NRI and the 2 Regional Institutes, but all these of positive or suspect result are forwarded for confirmatory retesting in the NRI in the town of Sofia. The NRI for salmonellae is accredited and takes part in all respective inter laboratory tests.

The samples taken under the initiative of the owner or another person authorised by her/him are to be tested in the laboratories specified in the programme, all these laboratories operating in accordance with the ISO 6579 standard.

4.3 Description and delimitation of the geographical and administrative areas in which the programme is to be implemented.

The programme shall be implemented on the territory of the whole country comprising 28 districts.

4.4 Measures implemented under the programme:

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

- ↓ **Council Regulation (EC) No 646/2007**, implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a Community target for the reduction of the prevalence of *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium* in broilers and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1091/2005.
- ↓ **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
- ↓ **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;
- ↓ **ORDINANCE 9/28.01.2006** on the monitoring of zoonoses in their prevention, limitation and eradication(Published in SG 15/ 17.02.2006), transposing **DIRECTIVE 2003/99/EC** of 17 November 2003 on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, amending Council Decision 90/424/EEC and repealing Council Directive 92/117/EEC

4.4.1 Measures and terms of legislation as regards the registration of holdings:

The National veterinary service is the official competent authority for the registration of animal holdings.

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

Within a time period of up to 7 days from the submission of the application, the director of RVS 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 RVS 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 RVS, 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 RVS.

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

The register contains the following information:

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

8. number and date of the order for delegation of the registration
9. changes in the circumstances entered.

Record-keeping at farms.

Each animal holding shall keep records with the following information.

- ↓ Total number of birds in the holding
- ↓ The new entered birds
- ↓ The birds for slaughtering.
- ↓ The birds for sale
- ↓ The number of death birds

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

4.4.3. Measures and terms of legislation as regards the notification of the disease:

The Law on Veterinary Activities, Art.124 and Ordinance No.23 / 14.12.2005 on the order and the way of notification and registration of infectious diseases in animals, which is harmonized with Council Directive 82/894/EEC

4.4.5 Measures and terms of legislation as regards the measures in case of a positive result:

Control measures and notification of positive results

In case of suspicion or conformation of *Salmonella enteritidis* or *Salmonella typhimurium* the NRL shall notify immediately the NVS.

In case of suspicion of infection the NVS and the relevant authorities:

- prohibited the movement of broilers
- take additional samples for conformation of infection

When the broilers are confirmed for the presence of *Salmonella enteritidis* or *Salmonella typhimurium*:

1. Fresh meat from broilers may be placed on the market on the condition that it meets the requirement of absence of *Salmonella* in 25 grams from the meat.
2. The requirement laid down in point 1 does not apply to fresh poultry meat destined for heat treatment or another treatment to eliminate salmonella in accordance with Community legislation on food hygiene.
3. The criterion laid down in point 1 does not apply to fresh poultry meat destined for industrial heat treatment or another treatment to eliminate salmonella in accordance with Community legislation on food hygiene.

Measures taken by the competent authorities with regard to animals or products in which the presence of *Salmonella spp.* have been detected, in particular to protect public health;

In case of suspicion or confirmation of *Salmonella enteritidis* or *Salmonella typhimurium* the NRL shall notify immediately the NVS.

In case of suspicion of infection the NVS and the relevant authorities:

- prohibited the movement of birds
- take additional samples for confirmation of infection

When a broiler flock is confirmed for the presence of *Salmonella enteritidis* or *Salmonella typhimurium*:

- ↓ The birds must be destroyed or may be used for human consumption if they are treated in a manner that guarantees the elimination of *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium* in accordance with Community legislation on food hygiene.
- ↓ The broilers must be slaughtered and used for human consumption if they are treated in a manner that guarantees the elimination of *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium* in accordance with Community legislation on food hygiene.

If the *Salmonella* spp. is detected during the inspection of carcasses in the slaughterhouse all measures must be applied in accordance with the Regulation 854/2004.

If the *Salmonella* spp. is detected during the inspection of food put on the market the NVS launch all the requirements under Art.7 of Regulation 2073/2005.

4.4.7 Measures and terms of legislation as regard the control (testing, vaccination) of the disease:

In Republic of Bulgaria 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 NVS vaccines in the way indicate by the official veterinarian responsible for the poultry holdings.

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. The objective is to ensure proper basis for differentiation between vaccination and field strain in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1177/2005.

Use of antimicrobials in accordance with the Council Regulation 2006/1177:

1. Antimicrobials shall not be used as a specific method to control *Salmonella* in broilers.
2. Antimicrobials may be used in the following exceptional circumstances:
 - poultry presenting salmonella infection with clinical signs in a way likely to cause undue suffering to the animals;
 - the infected flocks treated with antimicrobials shall still be considered infected with salmonella;
 - authorisation given by the NVS on a case-by-case basis for purposes other than salmonella control in a flock suspect of salmonella infection, in particular following the epidemiological investigation of a food-borne outbreak or the detection of salmonella at the holding;

3. The use of antimicrobials shall be subject to supervision of and reporting to the NVS. This use shall be based wherever possible on the results of bacteriological sampling and of susceptibility testing.

4.4.8. Measures and terms of legislation as regards the compensation for owners of slaughtered and killed animals:

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 slaughtered or killed.

According to Bulgarian legislation, it is not foreseen that owners should be compensated, if in case of salmonellosis their birds would be subjected to slaughtering and further heat treatment.

What is paid, however, is the cost of disinfecting agent used for the disinfecting of the plant, in which the poultry have been channelised to be slaughtered.

5. General description of costs and benefits

1. Costs related to taking and transportation of samples for testing to diagnostics laboratories
2. Costs for the purchase of the required diagnostics kits
3. Costs for compensations to the owners of compulsively killed
4. Costs for remuneration of the labor of the executers of the program

6. Data on the epidemiological evaluation:

The samples taken and analysed for the purpose of control of salmonellosis in Republic of Bulgaria have been selected on the basis of risk analysis, the programmes being developed by the owners of industrial farms.

A total of 168 samples taken from broilers have been tested in the NRL in 2007, 9 of which have given positive result for *Salmonella* presence. The following serological types have been differentiated: *S. Enteritidis* – in 6 of the 9 positive samples; *S. Typhimurium* – in 1 of the 9 positive samples; and *S. Manchester* – in of the 2 positive samples.

6. Testing scheme:

The sampling frame shall cover all flocks of broilers in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Sampling carried out by the owner of the holding or by a person authorized by the owner:

- within three weeks before the birds are moved to the slaughterhouse;

Official control sampling:

- sampling shall include each year at least one flock of broilers on 10 % of the holdings with more than 5 000 birds.
- if necessary

A sampling carried out by the NVS may replace the sampling on the initiative of the food business operator.

However, by way of derogation, the NVS may decide to sample at least one flock of broilers per round on holdings with several flocks if:

1. an all in/all out system is used;
2. the same management applies to all flocks;
3. feed and water supply is common to all flocks;
4. during one year and at least six rounds, *Salmonella* spp. were tested according to the aforementioned monitoring scheme in all flocks on the holding and samples of all flocks of at least one round were taken by the competent authority;
5. all results from the testing for *Salmonella enteritidis* or *Salmonella typhimurium* were negative.

II. Sampling protocol:

At least two pairs of boot/sock swabs shall be taken. For free range flocks of broilers, samples shall only be collected in the area inside the house. All boot/sock swabs must be pooled into one sample.

In flocks with less than 100 broilers, where it is not possible to use boot/sock swabs as access to the houses is not possible, they may be replaced by hand drag swabs, where the boot swabs or socks are worn over gloved hands and rubbed over surfaces contaminated with fresh faeces, or if not feasible, by other sampling techniques for faeces fit for the intended purpose.

Before putting on the boot/sock swabs, their surface shall be moistened with maximum recovery diluents (MRD: 0,8 % sodium chloride, 0,1 % peptone in sterile deionised water), or sterile water or any other diluent approved by the national reference laboratory referred to in Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003.

The use of farm water containing antimicrobials or additional disinfectants shall be prohibited.

The way to moisten boot swabs shall be to pour the liquid inside before putting them on. Alternatively, boot swabs or socks may be autoclaved with diluents within autoclave bags or jars before use. Diluents may also be applied after boots are put on using a spray or wash bottle. It shall be ensured that all sections in a house are represented in the sampling in a proportionate way. Each pair should cover about 50 % of the area of the house. On completion of sampling the boot/sock swabs shall be carefully removed so as not to dislodge adherent material. Boot swabs may be inverted to retain material. They shall be placed in a bag or pot and labeled.

The NVS shall supervise education of the food business operators to guarantee the correct application of the sampling protocol.

In the case of sampling by the competent authority because of suspicion of *Salmonella* infection and in any other case considered appropriate, the NVS shall satisfy itself by conducting further tests as appropriate so that the results of examinations for *Salmonella* in flocks of broilers are not affected by the use of antimicrobials in those flocks. Where the presence of *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium* is not detected but antimicrobials or bacterial growth inhibitory effect are detected, it shall be considered as an infected flock of broilers.

III. Examination of the samples:

Transport and preparation of the samples:

Samples shall be sent by express mail or courier to the laboratories referred to in point 3.2, **within 25 hours after collection**. At the laboratory samples shall be kept refrigerated until examination, which shall be carried out **within 48 hours** following receipt. If they are tested after 48 hours the results are invalidate.

The pair of boot/sock swabs shall be carefully **unpacked** to avoid dislodging adherent faecal material, pooled and placed in 225 ml buffered peptone water (BPW) which has been pre-warmed to room temperature. The sample shall be swirled to fully saturate it and culture shall be continued by using the detection method, described below.

Detection method:

The detection method recommended by the Community reference laboratory (CRL) for salmonella in Bilthoven, the Netherlands, shall be used.

In that detection method, a semi-solid medium (modified semi-solid Rappaport-Vassiladis medium, MSR V) is used as the single selective enrichment medium.

Serotyping

At least one isolate from each positive sample shall be serotyped, following the Kaufmann-White scheme.

Alternative methods:

With regard to samples taken on the initiative of the food business operator, the methods of analysis provided for in Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council (1), may be used instead of the methods for the preparation of samples, detection methods and serotyping provided for in this programme.

Storage of strains:

At least one isolated strain per house and per year shall be collected by the NVS and stored for future phagotyping or anti-microbial susceptibility testing, using the normal methods for culture collection, which must ensure integrity of the strains for a minimum of two years.

IV. Results and reporting:

A flock of broilers shall be considered positive for the purpose of verifying the achievement of the Community target, where the presence of *Salmonella enteritidis* and/or *Salmonella typhimurium* (other than vaccine strains) was detected in the flock at any occasion.

Positive flocks of broilers shall be counted only once per round, irrespective of the number of sampling and testing operations and only be reported in the year of the first positive sampling.

Reporting:

Reporting shall include:

- (a) the total number of flocks of broilers sampled by the competent authority or by the food business operator;
- (b) the total number of infected flocks of broilers;
- (c) all serotypes of Salmonella isolated (including other than Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium);
- (d) explanations of the results, in particular concerning exceptional cases.

The results and any additional relevant information shall be reported as part of the report on trends and sources provided for in Article 9(1) of Ordinance No 9 / 28.01.2006 on monitoring of the prophylaxis, control and eradication zones (Promulgated in SG, issue 15 dated 27.02.2006, in force from 2.5.2006), fully harmonized with Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (1).

Additional information:

At least the following information shall be made available from each flock of broilers tested for analysis at national level or by the European Food Safety Authority at its request:

- (a) sample taken by the competent authority or by the food business operator;
- (b) holding reference, remaining unique in time;
- (c) house reference, remaining unique in time;
- (d) month of sampling.

ANNEX 1:

SAMPLES FOR SALMONELLOSIS FOR 2009

REGION	NUMBER OF HOLDINGS	NUMBER OF SAMPLES
1. Bourgas	1	10
2. Varna	6	60
3. Veliko Tarnovo	26	260
4. Vratsa	4	40
5. Gabrovo	1	10
6. Dobrich	2	20
7. Kardjaly	1	10
8. Lovech	1	10
9. Monatan	7	70
10. Pazardjik	2	20
11. Pernik	12	120
12. Pleven	6	60
13. Razgrad	8	80
14. Rouse	18	180
15. Sliven	3	30
16. Smolyan	1	10
17. Stara Zagora	12	120

18. Targovishte	9	90
19. Haskovo	4	40
20. Shoumen	2	20
21. Jambol	2	20
Totally	128	1280
Samples for conformation	10	120
<i>Totally samples</i>	138	1400

(c)	programme	programme	be checked (d)	to be positive (a)	(a)	be slaughtered or destroyed (a)	destroyed (number or kg) (a)	channelled to egg products (number or kg) (a)
Republic of Bulgaria	7 325 075 2356	7 325 075 2356	2 356	23	23	73250	0	0

7. Detailed analysis of the cost of the programme for the period 01.01.2009 - 30.12.2009

Costs related to	Specification	Number of Samples	Unitary cost in euro	Total amount in euro	Community funding requested (yes/no)
1. Testing					
1.1. Cost of the analysis	Bacteriological tests	300	20	6 000	yes
	Serotyping	70	30	2 100	yes
1.2. Cost of sampling		300	1	300	yes
1.3. Other costs - and transportation of the laboratories		300	1	300	yes
3. Killing of birds				145 000	yes
4. Cleaning and disinfection				1000	yes
5. Consumables and specific equipment				1000	yes
7. Other costs				1000	yes
Total:				156 700	yes

Total amount requested for the programme for 2009: -156 700 Euro.