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## **Draft Working Discussion Document**

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**Guidelines for the drafting of EU cofinanced programmes for monitoring and eradication  
of zoonotic *Salmonella* in certain poultry populations**

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This document is a staff working document for discussion purposes and does not necessarily represent the views of the European Commission

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## **Guidelines for the drafting of EU cofinanced programmes for monitoring and eradication of zoonotic *Salmonella* in certain poultry populations**

Concerning the *Salmonella* programmes submitted for co-financing, as already implemented in previous years, eligible costs concern those activities needed to meet EU minimum requirements<sup>1</sup>. Some measures going beyond EU minimum requirements can be and are already co-financed because deemed so far to be sufficiently justified on an epidemiological point of view (e.g. vaccination, disinfection efficacy tests). Others may become also eligible provided they are duly justified. For example, as explained below, eradication measures in breeders are considered to be eligible for all five target serovars, despite only required under EU legislation for *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium.

Member States (MS) can of course go beyond EU minimum requirements (e.g. take samples more often, take more samples per visit, perform more bacteriological analyses, take samples in flocks for which no official sampling is required in the EU legislation (e.g. rearing flocks, layers flocks in holdings with less than 1,000 laying hens, all layer flocks in holdings with more than 1,000 layers), but these activities are not supposed to be covered by EU co-financing.

Concerning *Salmonella* programmes, please find below, based on EU minimum requirements in the concerned poultry populations, some practical information on **eligible activities** which should be taken into consideration for the drafting of the 2016 *Salmonella* programmes.

Please note that due to the big differences between Member States, it is not possible to have guidelines which would exactly fit all situations therefore flexibility is accepted provided justifications are given.

### **A. BREEDERS**

Eligible official sampling visits in breeder flocks are those routinely performed at hatchery or in poultry houses for flocks comprising at least 250 adult breeders.

#### 1) Number of official visits to take samples

##### a) If FBO samplings are done at the hatchery:

For one flock, the number of sampling sessions (i.e. number of official visits for flock sampling as required by EU legislation) on a whole laying phase (about 10 months) is 2 at the holding and 3 at the hatchery. As a consequence, we can consider that **no more than 3 official visits per flock per calendar year on average** are needed (as not all flocks have their whole laying phase on one calendar year)(two fifth of the visits at the holding, three fifth at the hatchery).

Some additional official visits (probably very variable between MSs but estimated to 10% of the number of flocks covered by the programme) are expected for taking confirmatory samples at the holding because positive samples for target serovars (FBO or official) at the hatchery (as required under EU legislation).

##### b) If FBO samplings are done at the holding:

For one flock, the number of sampling sessions (i.e. number of official visits for flock sampling as required by EU legislation) on a whole laying phase (about 10 months) is 3.

As a consequence, we can consider that **no more than 2 official visits per flock per calendar year on average** are generally expected (as not all flocks have their whole laying phase on one calendar year).

NB: if the EU target is achieved for more than 2 years in the whole MS and the MS decides to decrease the sampling frequency (this information should be given in the programme submitted),

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<sup>1</sup> If the EU minimum requirements are not implemented, FVO auditors will notice it and request the MS to implement them. On the other hand, measures which are going beyond EU minimum requirements are those for which, if not implemented, FVO auditors could not blame the Member state for not doing them.

the number of sampling sessions (i.e. number of official visits for flock sampling as required by EU legislation) on a whole laying phase (about 10 months) is 2. As a consequence, we can consider that probably **no more than 1.5 visits per flock per calendar year on average** are generally expected (as not all flocks have their whole laying phase on one calendar year).

2) Number of routine bacteriological tests

Two per official visit at the holding, one per official visit at the hatchery.

3) Serovars concerned for eligible eradication measures

EU legislation only prescribes compulsory eradication measures when *Salmonella* Enteritidis (SE) or Typhimurium (ST) are identified. On the other hand, EU target includes also *Salmonella* Hadar, Infantis and Virchow. As requested by several Member States and already implemented in previous years as duly justified on the epidemiological point of view, compensation for birds and eggs can be considered eligible when eradication measures (slaughtering or culling of birds, destruction or heat treatment of eggs) are implemented for any of the five target serovars (so not only for SE or ST) provided they are described in the submitted programmes and applied in the concerned MSs.

4) Compensation of hatching eggs

Non incubated hatching eggs can be compensated for destruction or heat treatment. Incubated hatching eggs can be compensated for destruction. As a roughly expected amount, it can be estimated that 10-15 eggs per infected breeding hen need to be eligible. Higher number would be accepted provided justifications are given (e.g. details on timing of restriction implementation to results confirmation are provided).

## B. LAYERS

Layer flocks covered by the programme are all flocks of layers except those described in Article 1.3 of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003: domestic or direct local supply of table eggs (for the latter, national rules shall cover these activities).

Layer flocks that are included in the routine official sampling process are those covered by the programme and belonging to holdings having more than 1,000 laying hens.

1) Number of official visits to take samples

One routine visit per year per holding comprising at least 1,000 laying hens (to take samples on one flock of that holding).

Additional official visits are expected as required under EU legislation (one official sampling visit can be counted each time a flock is sampled) in the following cases:

- suspicion of *Salmonella* infection in the context of a food borne outbreak investigation,
- other flocks on a holding where an infected flock was identified,
- on a flock of laying hens introduced in a house where a target *Salmonella* serovar was detected on the preceding flock.

For planning purposes a rough estimation of the number of additional official visits is 10% of the number of flocks covered by the programme. A different percentage would be accepted provided justification is given (e.g. prevalence, epidemiological situation in the country).

2) Number of bacteriological tests (on samples taken during routine and additional official visits)

EU minimum requirement is 3 samples per official visit (possible additional samples for ensuring representative sampling): 2 bags of faeces or 2 pairs of boot swabs (pooled before laboratory analysis), and one additional sample. In average **2 bacteriological tests** shall be done per flock officially sampled. [updated]

NB: confirmatory sampling can be performed to exclude false positive initial result. In the programme the following information shall be described:

- criteria of suspicion of false positive initial result;
- sampling protocol normally used in this circumstances (7 environmental samples or 300 birds or 4000 eggs, related respectively to 7, 300 and 100 bacteriological tests);
- estimated number of flocks concerned.

### 3) Compensation of eggs

For table eggs EU cofinancing only concerns their destruction (not the heat treatment).

As a roughly expected amount, it can be estimated that 10-15 eggs per infected laying hen need to be eligible. Higher number would be accepted provided justifications are given (e.g. details on timing of restriction implementation to results confirmation are provided).

## C. BROILERS

Broiler flocks that shall be officially sampled are those in holdings comprising at least 5,000 broilers.

### 1) Number of official visits to take samples

One visit per year on 10% of the holdings with more than 5,000 broilers to take sample on one flock.

### 2) Number of routine bacteriological tests

In the majority of the case **one** (pooled boot swab samples) but, if dust samples are also taken (to be described in the programme), **no more than 2** will be EU cofinanced per official sampling visit.

## D. BREEDING TURKEYS

Breeding turkey flocks that shall be officially sampled are those comprising at least 250 adult breeding turkeys (sampling shall take place when they are between 30 and 45 weeks of age) and those with elite, great grand parents and grand parents breeding turkeys.

### 1) Number of official visits to take samples

One visit per year per flock comprising at least 250 adult breeding turkeys (to be sampled between 30 and 45 weeks of age), and one visit per year on holdings with elite, great grand parents and grand parents breeding turkeys.

Some additional official visits (probably very variable between MSs but estimated to 10% of the number of flocks covered by the programme) are expected for taking confirmatory samples at the holding because positive samples for target serovars (FBO or official) at the hatchery (as required under EU legislation).

### 2) Number of routine bacteriological tests

Two per official visit (sampling at the holding) or one per official visit (sampling at the hatchery).

## E. FATTENING TURKEYS

Fattening turkey flocks that shall be officially sampled are those in holdings comprising at least 500 fattening turkeys.

### 1) Number of official visits to take samples

One visit per year on 10% of the holdings with more than 500 birds.

## 2) Number of routine bacteriological tests

In the majority of the case one (pooled boot swab samples) but, if dust samples are also taken (to be described in the programme), no more than two will be EU cofinanced per official sampling visit.

## F. ALL POULTRY POPULATIONS

### 1) Serotyping

It can be estimated that up to 10% of the bacteriological tests will be followed by a serotyping. Probably very variable rates exist between MSs and a different percentage would be accepted provided justification is given (e.g. prevalence, epidemiological situation in the country).

### 2) Antimicrobial detection tests

A maximum of 10% of the number of the bacteriological tests would be a fair estimation of the number of antimicrobial detection tests.

Probably very variable rates exist between MSs and a different percentage would be accepted provided justification is given (e.g. prevalence, epidemiological situation in the country, high number of suspicion in the holdings).

### 3) Vaccine

The number of doses eligible is based on the vaccination programme (which shall comply with the relevant EU requirements mainly Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006) described in the programme submitted for co-financing.

From 2016 on, considering that vaccination is not an EU requirement (except for high prevalences which is not any more the case in any MS) and that breeder flocks are supposed to benefit of a high level of biosecurity protection, vaccination of this population is not any more eligible for EU cofinancing.

### 4) Disinfection efficacy tests

The procedure shall be described in the submitted programmes, defining the principles defining the number of tests to be performed per disinfected house. One official visit can be counted per house checked.

### 5) Other eligible measures

According to the document SANCO/10181/2014, in addition to these "traditional" eligible measures, **other measures become eligible** as slaughtering or culling costs, cleaning, disinfection, disinsectisation of the holding and equipment in case of full flock depopulation (flock infected by a target serovar). To become eligible these measures shall be included in the submitted programmes, and incurred costs shall be described and justified. Measures aimed at improving the biosecurity (excluding infrastructure costs) may also become eligible.

As a consequence, the following figures are critical and shall be included in the programmes submitted:

<b>BREEDERS</b>	
Number of flocks comprising at least 250 adult breeders.	
Number of these flocks where FBO sampling is at the hatchery	
Number of these flocks where FBO sampling is at the holding	
Official sampling frequency decreased (because EU target achieved for more than 2 years)	YES / NO
<b>LAYERS</b>	
Number of holdings covered by the programme	
Number of flocks in these holdings	
Number of holdings with more than 1,000 adult layers	
Number of flocks in these holdings	
<b>BROILERS</b>	
Number of holdings covered by the programme	
Number of flocks in these holdings	
Number of holdings with more than 5,000 broilers	
Number of flocks in these holdings	
<b>BREEDING TURKEYS</b>	
Number of flock comprising at least 250 adult breeding turkeys	
Number of these flocks where FBO sampling is at the hatchery	
Number of these flocks where FBO sampling is at the holding	
Number of holdings with elite, great grand parents and grand parents breeding turkeys	
<b>FATTENING TURKEYS</b>	
Number of holdings covered by the programme	
Number of flocks in these holdings	
Number of holdings with more than 500 fattening turkeys	
Number of flocks in these holdings	

## **ANNEX: example of evaluation of eligible measures for breeder flocks in a Member state**

A Member state has 100 flocks comprising at least 250 adult breeders; the sampling frequency has not been decreased. For 60 flocks, FBO sampling takes place at the hatchery and for the other 40, FBO sampling takes place at the holding.

An estimation of the eligible measures is:

- Official routine sampling visits: **up to 266** (260 routine and 6 confirmatory visits due to positive results at the hatchery)  
60 X 3 (including 72 holding visits and 108 hatchery visits) + 40 X 2 (holding visits) =  
180 + 80 = 260 (152 at holdings and 108 at hatcheries)  
6 confirmatory visits (holding visits)  
Total: 158 holding visits and 108 hatchery visits
- Routine bacteriological analyses: **up to 424**  
158 X 2 + 108 X 1 = 424

In the same Member State, declaring in the submitted programme that the EU target is achieved for more than 2 years in the whole MS and the decision was taken to decrease the sampling frequency, an estimation of the eligible measures is:

- Official routine sampling visits: **up to 156** (150 routine and 6 confirmatory visits due to positive results at the hatchery)  
60 X 1.5 (including 45 holding visits and 45 hatchery visits) + 40 X 1.5 (holding visits) =  
= 150 routine visits (105 at holdings and 45 at hatcheries)  
6 confirmatory visits (holding visits)  
Total: 111 holding visits and 45 hatchery visits
- Routine bacteriological analyses: **up to 267**  
111 X 2 + 45 X 1 = 267