



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

SANCO/12915/2010

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

Control programme of Salmonella

Approved* for 2011 by Commission Decision 2010/712/EU

Malta

* in accordance with Council Decision 2009/470/EC

Program for Eradication : ANNEX 2

Country Geographical English Name	Malta
Submission number	1287404892621-436
Submission date	18/10/2010 14:28:13

(a) State the aim of the program

To carry out a monitoring and control programme for Zoonotic Salmonella in Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus in accordance to Council Regulation (EC) 2160/2003 and Commission Regulation (EC) no 646/2007 ; to achieve a reduction of the prevalence of Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium, as indicated in article 1 of CR 646/2007; a reduction of maximum percentage of flocks of broilers remaining positive of Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium to 1% or less by 31st December 2011"

(b) Animal population and phases of production which sampling cover

Gallus Slaughter Pigs	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus
Gallus Hens Pullets	
Partab Gallus Hens Laying	
Gallus Hens Day Old	
Gallus Four Week	
Gallus During Laying	
Partab-Gallus Day Old	
Gallus Breeding Pigs	
Gallus Before Laying	

(c) Demonstrate the evidence...

The registered and functioning broiler flocks of Gallus gallus reared for meat production on both the islands of Malta and Gozo are covered by the SNCP irrespective of their capacity. There are no breeding flocks presently on the islands.

FLOCKS INFECTED WITH TARGETED SEROVARS (SE/ST):

The owner of the infected holding or the owner's representative will be served with an official restriction notice in writing issued by the CVO. Restriction measures will apply with immediate effect. There is to be no movement of animals. The entry of vehicles and personnel is to be restricted and strict biosecurity measures (protective clothing, boots, the use of foot baths and disinfection pits for vehicles) respected to avoid spreading of infection out of the holding and between different houses located on the same holding.

The SNCP in broilers commenced in 2009 and up to date all infected flocks were considered unfit for human consumption and destroyed. A census was carried out by officials from the CA and culling of animals was carried out under the supervision of the CA. The carcasses were then placed in leak-proof bins supplied by the Thermal Facility and the bins are transported to the Thermal Facility in authorised vehicles. CA officials would be present at the Thermal facility to witness arrival of carcasses and record weights to carry out cross checks.

FURTHER PROCESSING OF CARCASSES FROM INFECTED FLOCKS (SE/ST)

The option will be given for processing plants to be able to use carcasses from infected flocks with the targeted serovars to use them for cooked process products.

An SOP to outline slaughter procedures and management of such carcasses has been compiled to guarantee reduction of spread of the zoonoses. The birds are caught and placed in clean crates under the supervision of CA officials. The crates are provided by the slaughterhouse and strict protocols of washing and disinfection after use has to be carried out. The CA officials will follow the birds to the designated slaughterhouse. The slaughter batch of infected flock have to be slaughtered or at the end of a slaughter day or on their own without other birds from other flocks being slaughtered afterwards.

The CV and auxiliaries will then follow the slaughtering procedure which will be in accordance to Community legislation on food hygiene. Weight readings will be recorded to have a total net live weight of the poultry slaughtered. The total number of birds slaughtered is also recorded. Cleaning and disinfection after slaughter has to be carried out with utmost care.

Fifteen neck skins per slaughter batch will be sampled and sent to the National Veterinary Laboratory for Salmonella isolation. The carcasses are placed in crates clearly identifying origin of flock and intended use. The animal by products produced are collected in bins, always supplied by the Thermal Facility. The feathers and green offals are collected in separate bins. CA officials will be present at the processing plants for the arrival of the chilled carcasses (transported in approved refrigerated vehicles). The processing plant is to ensure and verify that the batch number of the processed products can be traced back to the origin.

If no Salmonella spp. is isolated from the neck skins sampled during slaughter destination of such carcasses may be changed.

The CA will modify these specific requirements according to any modifications as detailed in the relevant Regulation.

(d) Specification of following points :

(d)1. General

(d)1.1 A short summary referring to the occurrence

The only information available comes from a base line study carried out in 2004.

A cross-sectional survey of poultry carcasses was carried out from January to August 2004, to determine the prevalence of Zoonotic Salmonella. The samples were taken at the slaughterhouses according to their respective throughput. The sampling scheme was designed to detect a prevalence of 50% with a confidence level of 95%.

A total of 418 samples were collected and analysed at the laboratory of the Food and Veterinary Division of the Veterinary Regulation, Fisheries Conservation and Control Division.

The isolates were sent abroad to be typed at VLA Weybridge UK.

The prevalence of salmonella in the local poultry meat was of 26.6% (out of 418 samples, 112 resulted positive).

The prevalence of salmonella was the serovar with the highest incidence. Salmonella enteritidis represented 3.6% of the serovars isolated while Salmonella typhimurium was 16.1%. Out of a total of 418 samples, 18 samples were infected with Salmonella typhimurium and 4 were infected with Salmonella enteritidis.

The SNCP commenced mid-2008 due to lack of human resources.

Number of flocks sampled and tested in 2009:

A total of eighty-seven flocks were sampled.

Targets:

Out of the 87 flocks, twenty-seven flocks were positive to Salmonellosis. Two of which were S.typhimurium. The flocks infected with the targeted serovars were culled and destroyed. From the

data of 2009, considering that analysis commenced mid-year, the overall prevalence was of Salmonellosis 31% with a 2.2% prevalence of Salmonella typhimurium. By the end of 2010, the real prevalence in the local broiler flocks will be known.

(d)1.2 A short summary referring to the occurrence of the salmonella

There is only one Competent Authority being the Agriculture and Fisheries Regulation Department (AFRD) under the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs. The Agriculture and Fisheries Regulation Division is made up of three Directorates:

- Plant Health Directorate
- Veterinary Regulation Directorate
- Fisheries Directorate.

The Veterinary Regulation Directorate (VRD): is in charge of supervising, coordinating and implementing the Salmonella Control Programme. The island of Malta is 350sqm and therefore there is only one central authority; all offices are situated in the same premises, with the exception of the Border Inspection post and of the office on the smaller island of Gozo. The office on the island of Gozo is only responsible of sampling the few broiler farms on that island.

The Veterinary Regulation Directorate: is made up of three sections:

- A) The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL): responsible for the co-ordination and implementation of the SNCP.
- B) The Animal Health & Welfare Section: which helps in the co-ordination of the sampling officers, in carrying out a census and supervising culling of flock and for destruction of infected products.
- C) Safety of the Food Chain

A) The National Veterinary Laboratory:

- (i) Senior veterinary officer in charge will be responsible for:
 - appropriate training of personnel responsible for collecting the samples in charge of supervising that the programme is adhered to and that the samples are collected according to the programme.
 - all necessary material needed for sampling eg. Boot swabs, sterile bags, etc are available.
 - ensure that samples are analysed in accordance to time frame and methodology as laid down in the programme
 - carry out analysis up to isolation and biochemical testing.
 - co-ordinate with Public Health Laboratory (NRL) for typing of positive isolates.
 - reporting suspect positives / confirmed results to the Animal health section and CVO
 - co-ordinate with the Public Health Laboratory (NRL) parallel analysis of suspect samples, if necessary.
 - inform Director of Safety of the Food Chain or Veterinary Officer in charge of white meat slaughterhouse of any infected flocks collecting/ filing all relevant data and reporting of results.

B) Animal Health & Welfare Section:

- (ii) Senior veterinary support officer in charge of the poultry section will be responsible for:
 - co-ordinating sampling team
 - making appointments with the farmers and preparing daily sampling schedules
 - collaborating with the senior veterinary officer i/c lab
 - organizing on farm investigation in cases of suspect/confirmed positive results
 - collaborate in census, movement restriction, eradication and disinfection measures
 - collaborate in farm investigations in view of repopulation of farm

(iii) Assistant Veterinary Support Officers will be responsible for:

- Ensuring to follow appropriate training
- collecting and transporting samples appropriately



deliver samples within 24 hours from collection to the laboratory ensure that accompanying documents are filled appropriately

(iv) Veterinary Officer responsible for by products is responsible of ensuring that biosecurity measures and provisions in Council Regulation 1174/2002 are adhered to during disposal of carcasses and products.

(v) Animal welfare officer responsible for ensuring that animal welfare provisions are respected during culling of infected flocks.

C) Section for Safety of the Food Chain Director is responsible for

informing the national contact person for the rapid alert system when necessary.

(d)1.3 A short summary referring to the occurrence of the salmonella

The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL) of the Ministry For Resources and Rural Affairs is responsible for the analysis of the samples up to biochemical identification collected under the framework of this programme.

To date, (Mid -2010); it is important to note that the CA was also exclusively responsible for carrying out non-official sampling and analysis under the responsibility of the business operator, as laid down in Commission Regulation EC No 646/2007. This decision was taken in consideration of the limited capacity of the farms and that there are no private laboratories accredited for Salmonella microbiological testing in Malta apart from the NRL.

However, business operators have been given the option to be trained in sampling techniques and carry out non-official samples. In such cases, the CA will verify full compliance with Regulations. A training programme on sampling techniques in accordance to Commission requirements has been set up by the CA to train business operators who would like to carry out their own non-official sampling. At the end of the training session an attendance certificate is given. The business operator can also choose to send non-official samples to an accredited laboratory abroad approved by the CA. A list has been drawn up by the CA of approved accredited Laboratories in Italy. Few business operators have expressed the wish to take their own samples and test abroad. The business operator would have to present the results of non-official tests prior to slaughter, otherwise slaughtering would not be permitted. Checks would be carried out randomly to verify self-checks such as receipts, transport documents etc.

The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL), to date, is not accredited however there is a quality assurance system in place in accordance to the requirements of current EN/ISO standards. The NVL has also begun the process of accreditation and has successfully participated in ring-trials organised by the VLA - UK. The National Reference Laboratory is the Public Health Laboratory which falls under a different Ministry from the CA being the Ministry for Social Policy. The NRL is accredited according to ISO 17025 and carries out the typing of positive isolates.

The slaughter houses, processing plants and feed mills sent the sampling from their HACCP programmes to local private laboratories, which are not yet accredited but have quality assurances systems in place.

The larger of the two hatcheries send samples for analysis of Salmonella to an accredited laboratory in Italy.

(d)1.4 Methods in examination

To date both official and non-official samples are collected by CA staff. However, the business operator has the opportunity to attend a training session organised by the CA and carry out non-official sampling. To date very few operators have opted to self-sample and analyse in a different laboratory. The samples are brought to the National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL) within a few hours from collection, with the exception of samples from Gozo, which are delivered the next day and fill such time kept refrigerated.

The samples are generally always analysed on the day of delivery. If a particular situation arises, at the latest, the samples will be examined within 48 hours from receipt and kept refrigerated until such time.

Analysis of faecal, dust and environmental samples are carried out in accordance to Commission Regulation 646/2007. The method of analysis used is that recommended by the Community Reference Laboratory for Salmonella, being the current version of draft Annex D of ISO 6579 (2002): Detection of Salmonella spp. in animal faeces and in samples of primary production. The National Veterinary Laboratory carries out analysis until biochemical identification of the isolates. The positive isolates are then sent immediately to the Public Health Laboratory (just 15 minutes away) for serotyping.

Serotyping is carried out following the Kaufmann-White scheme by the Public Health laboratory, who send results through e-mail and later by mail to the NVL.

(d)1.5 A short summary referring to the occurrence of the salmonellosis

Official controls at feed level:

There are six main feed mills. These import and produce the majority of feed supplied to local farms. The feed mills import premixes and concentrates from approved EU countries (predominantly UK). These are then mixed with other ingredients such as cereals and soya imported from EU and non-EU countries. A small number of farms carry out home mixing.

To date only two of the feed mills carry out their own sampling. (one sends the samples to a local laboratory and one sends samples abroad).

Official visits are now being carried out on all feed mills and also the home mixers. The large commercial companies have an HACCP programme in place and are visited at least once annually by CA officials. Documentation regarding auto-control checks are verified during official controls and an annual sampling programme has been set up whereby official samples are collected. The home mixers have been given a time-frame to correct deficiencies and to submit their HACCP plan.

In 2009, 26 samples of poultry feeds (layer / broiler) were analysed from the commercial feed mills and all resulted negative to Salmonella isolation. Samples of feed are also collected from the all holdings at least once annually as part of the SNCP.

Official controls at flock-level:

All registered and functioning broiler flocks on both Malta and Gozo are included in the national control programme, irrespective of the capacity.

To date the CA carried out all sampling described in point 1 of the Annex of Commission Regulation EC No 646/2007, this means that the CA carries out both official and non-official sampling of all broiler farms.

Official Samples to be taken

- (i) from at least one flock of broilers on 10% of those holdings with more than 5,000 birds.
- (ii) If necessary official sampling is carried out in accordance to point 1 (c) of the Annex of Commission Regulation EC No 646/2007.
- (iii) in case of suspicion of Salmonella infection and in any other case considered appropriate.

Samples are taken two - three weeks prior to slaughtering. This is around 5 - 6 weeks of age in Malta.

Two boot swabs are taken from each house. Each pair of boot swabs is used to cover 50% of the house. The two boot swabs are then pooled together.

All separate houses on the same premises are now being considered as a separate flock and sampled separately.

(d) 1.6 Measures

Council Regulation 2160/2003, Commission Regulation 646/2007 and Commission Regulation 1177/2006 are directly applicable. To date, Malta considered broiler flocks infected with Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium as unfit for human consumption and were destroyed. However further processing may be permitted as long as steps are taken to guarantee that there is no risk of spreading the infection.

In the frame of the Salmonella control programme in broilers of Gallus gallus, the provisions of CR No 646/2007/EC paragraph 1/2/4 (particularly provisions on exceptional cases) are implemented.

FLOCK DEFINITION:

All houses are now sampled separately and considered as a flock acc. to Reg. No 2160/2003.

(1) MEASURES TAKEN IN CASES OF SALMONELLA TYPHIMURIUM AND SALMONELLA ENTERITIDIS POSITIVE FLOCKS:

Official restriction notice issued by CVO to business operator.

Biosecurity measures will be strengthened to ensure that the infection does not spread between the different houses (if it is the case) and other holdings; such as, no movement of live animals, external disinfection of vehicles transporting products out of farm and proper disinfection of equipment used.

DESTINATION OF FLOCK:**(a) CULLING:**

Culling is carried out under supervision of CA officials, who also supervise transport of carcasses to Thermal Facility (there is only one such unit based on Malta). Records from thermal unit are double checked for weight reference according to census records of CA. Carcasses are transported in leak-proof bins a by approved vehicles.

(b) FURTHER PROCESSING OF CARCASSES FROM INFECTED FLOCKS (SE/ST)

The option will be given for processing plants to be able to use carcasses from infected flocks with the targeted serovars to use them for further processing.

An SOP to outline slaughter procedures and management of such carcasses has been compiled to guarantee reduction of spread of the zoonoses. The birds are caught on farm under the supervision of CA officials. The crates are provided by the slaughterhouse and strict protocols of washing and disinfection after use has to be carried out. The CA officials will follow the birds to the designated slaughterhouse. The slaughter batch of infected flock have to be slaughtered or at the end of a slaughter day or on their own without other birds from other flocks being slaughtered afterwards.

Slaughtering procedure supervised by the OVI auxiliaries will be in accordance to Community legislation on food hygiene. Weight readings and the total number of birds slaughtered is also recorded. Cleaning and disinfection after slaughter has to be carried out with utmost care.

Fifteen neck skins per slaughter batch will be sampled and sent to the National Veterinary Laboratory for Salmonella isolation. The carcasses are placed in crates clearly identifying origin of flock and intended use. The animal by products produced are collected in bins, always supplied by the Thermal Facility.

CA officials will be present at the processing plants for the arrival of the chilled carcasses (transported in approved refrigerated vehicles). The processing plant is to ensure and verify that the batch number of the processed products can be traced back to the origin.

If no Salmonella spp. is isolated from the neck skins sampled during slaughter destination of such carcasses may be changed.

PROPER CLEANING AND DISINFECTION of infected houses is carried out by the business operator, according to official guides produced.

Lifting of restrictions and re-population permitted only if environmental samples result negative.

II) IN CASES WHERE OTHER SALMONELLA SPP. ARE ISOLATED:

Operator is informed in writing.
 There will be no restrictions on flock
 However, operator will be encouraged to review and strengthened biosecurity measures.
 After the infected flock has reached end of production and has been slaughtered, thorough cleaning and disinfection procedures will be carried out.

(d)1.7 A short summary referring to the occurrence of the salmonellos

IMPLEMENTATION

The Veterinary Service Act, Chapter 437, art 5.1, states that the Minister may prescribe rules concerning the prevention and control of diseases.
 Collection of information on Zoonosis and Zoonotic Agent Rules - LN 28/2005.
 Council and Commission Regulations are directly applicable.

NOTIFICATION

The Veterinary Services Act, Chapter 437, art 35.1(f) provides for the obligation of notification of any suspicion of zoonosis or other disease or any other phenomenon or circumstances liable to present a serious threat to animal or public health.

FINANCIAL COMPENSATION

The Veterinary Service Act, Chapter 437, art 18.1 regards financial contribution in connection with national schemes for the eradication of particular diseases.
 Collection of information on Zoonosis and Zoonotic Agent Rules - LN 28/2005 art 8.1.
 regulates financial contribution for zoonotic control programmes.

A National legal notice under the Veterinary Service Act regarding compensation rates for all poultry flocks under the Salmonella Control Programme is soon to be issued (Attached final draft).

(d)1.8 Financial assistance

A National Legal Notice is soon to be issued regarding compensation rates to be applied to the poultry flocks under the Salmonella Control programmes.
 The valuation of birds will be calculated by the CA, in accordance to details listed in the Legal Notice. However, since compensation is not to exceed the current market value this can vary and that is why exact figures are not detailed in the legal notice since it takes too long to issue any changes. Notices with the precise figures can be issued under the LN, when it is in force. These notices can be issued in shorter time-frames to account for changes in the market value. To date a scale of compensation for birds is not yet publicly available.
 Business operators are being compensated for the loss of culled broiler flocks.

(d)2. Food and business covered by the programme

(d)2.1 Structure of the production

Malta and the smaller sister Island of Gozo are considered as one region for the surveillance and control of disease. The Competent Authority responsible for the Salmonella Control Programme at farm level, feed level, primary production and manufacturing level excluding retail, falls under the Veterinary Regulation Directorate (VRD) under the Agriculture and Fisheries Regulation Division within Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs.

Registration of Farms:

There are no breeding flocks of Broilers in Malta at present.

Broiler farms are registered with the CA. The operators book the number of birds or day-olds for the next rearing from the hatcheries who import hatching eggs and day-olds. The farmers do not import any day-olds for their selves but all book through the hatcheries. There is no association of poultry breeders and the industry is made up of a quite a number of small farms, all operating individually.

Hatcheries

There are two registered hatcheries on the Island of Malta. However one of these is responsible for supplying the vast majority of farms and also imports day-olds for the farms.

Hatching Regulations LN48 of 1997 lays down the provisions that regulate the national hatchery establishments.

Hatching eggs are imported from EU member states, primarily from France, Italy, Netherlands and Belgium. All consignments are imported with the official Intra Trade Certificate issued according to Council Directive 539/90. In 2009, a total of 3.1 million broiler hatching eggs were imported.

The hatcheries are legally obliged to the report to the VRD, as competent authority, the number of hatching eggs imported, submitting a copy of import/trade documents. The competent authority then prints out a hatch report which is passed on to the hatchery. This form is returned to the competent authority once the particular batch of eggs have been hatched and sold. This hatch report includes a list of farms which are the destination of chicks sold. From this documentation, staff at the Animal Health section record all relevant data on the IntraTrade database.

A movement document is issued by the competent authority and given to the farmer. This document follows the flock up to the slaughterhouse, where the slaughterhouse fills in the number of birds slaughtered. The movement document is then returned to the CA. A new movement document for a new batch of birds is only issued after a three-week resting period between rearing of different batches.

There are around 90 functional broiler holdings which amount to an average of 760 flocks per year.

Capacity of Broiler Holdings:

Over 70,000	- 0
50,000 -70,000	-0
30,000 -50,000	- 3
20,000-30,000	- 6
10,000 -20,000	- 17
5,000 - 10,000	- 32
2,000 -5,000	-37
1,000 -2,000	-5
500 -1,000	- 7
Less than 500	- 3

Structure of Broiler Farms:

There are no free-range farms on Malta / Gozo. All broilers are bred in closed houses, kept on bedding.

The slaughter age of the broilers can vary slightly depending on the market demand such as a seasonal request for capons in December, however, on average the animals are slaughtered between 5 - 6 weeks. The general rule is all in all out system with a three -week resting period between flocks.

Total Hatching eggs imported:-	4,212,360
Total amount of day-olds hatched -	3,102,898
Total amount of birds slaughtered -	2,617,333

The operators have individual agreements with the slaughterhouses to whom they sell their birds. There are four slaughter houses all located on the Island of Malta. Generally each slaughter

house maintains working relationships with the same number of operators. The slaughterhouses would then sell the produce to retail outlets (butcher shops, supermarkets).

(d)2.2 Structure of the production of feed

There are six commercial feed mills and a small number of home mixers. The commercial feed mills import and produce the majority of feed supplied to local farms. The feed mills import premises and concentrates from approved EU countries (predominantly UK). These are mixed with other ingredients such as cereals and soya imported from EU and non-EU countries. To date only two of the feed mills carry out their own sampling programme. (one carries out analysis locally and one sends the samples abroad).
Legal notice 374/2005 regulates the responsibility of feed mills.

(d)2.3 Relevant guidelines

(d)2.3.1 Hygiene management at farms

The Community guidelines have been distributed to the farmers and a seminar was held in May 2010 to explain the relative legislation and hygiene practice. A concise and illustrated version is being compiled for clarity and easy reference. Emphasis was given to the correct use of vehicle disinfection pits. If a vehicle disinfection pit cannot be placed at the farm entrance, pressure washers are used on the wheels of visiting vehicles, especially the delivery trucks from feed mills.

The use of pans soaked with disinfectant outside each house is constantly being enforced and reminded by sampling staff which visit the farms on a very regular basis. Pest control (mice, rats and birds) is generally addressed through the use of nets on the windows, correct maintenance of building structures and the use of venom.

All farms producing manure have to store solid manure in an enclosed place known as the manure clamp, for six months a year (from the 15th October to 15th March). All farms are to have a leak proof cesspit, to collect foul water arising from cleaning etc. The manure clamp is to be connected to the cesspit. The water is kept for 15 days then collected by a bowser. These regulations serve to reduce the environmental pollution and the nitrate level in fields fertilised with manure. However, they also provide a tool to permit biosecurity measures to limit spread of disease.

The Animal Health Section within the CA will only issue movement documents for batches of birds if a three-week period is respected between rearing of different flocks, to permit for appropriate cleaning. This is stated in LN 119 of 2005 "Rearing of Broilers Regulation".

(d)2.3.2 Relevant guidelines

MEASURES FOR PREVENTING INFECTIONS:

Most holdings have PITS for the disinfection of the vehicles entering or leaving the premises. In the summer months, the pits dry up very quickly but operators have become much more attentive of this since the start of the SNCP. No farm has separate entrances. It is recommended that as much as possible vehicles should not go into a farm. The use of a pressure washer for the wheels is highly recommended.

The FEED is bought fresh from the feed mills, even though there are those farms that also have their own silos. Due to the islands high humidity levels, farmers are not in the habit of storing large quantities of feed to avoid the formation of yeasts and moulds. Feeds are usually kept in their bags within the sheds in a dark, dry corner. Other in-coming vehicles would be from the hatchery and when day-olds are brought in. The farmers have become very conscience of the risk of infection and are really beginning to address the issue of the same vehicle moving amongst different farms.

The water supply can be direct from the main government supply or from private bore holes. In the latter case, control of the water is purely voluntary; however this is not frequently carried out unless the family uses the water from the bore hole for their own personal use.

A high percentage of farms are small in capacity and are family-run, therefore few people would be responsible for the daily management of the animals. There is no legal obligation for people handling live animals to carry out medical checks. The larger holdings have employees.

PEST CONTROL (mice, rats and birds) is generally addressed through the use of nets on the windows, correct maintenance of building structures and the use of venom.

USE OF CLEAN PROTECTIVE CLOTHING, DISINFECTION PANS: The use of clean protective clothing and disinfection of boots when moving between houses is continuously being reminded by sampling staff. A problem that arises is when there are mixed farms with swine animals also reared on the premises.

The hatchery transports the day-old chicks to the farms. While the slaughterhouse provides the operator with clean crates which are used for transporting the birds to the slaughterhouse. Each operator is responsible for transporting his flock to the slaughterhouse. Cleaning and disinfection of such vehicles is important in avoiding contamination between flocks.

(d)2.3.3 Hygiene in transporting animals to and from farms

Birds are usually only transported from the hatchery to the farm and then once again on the day of slaughter. The larger hatchery is responsible for supply the vast majority of farms, therefore the farmers have become aware of this problem as being a very possible source of infection. The correct use and replenishing of the disinfection pit, combined with the use of pressure-washers for the wheels of the vehicles is being observed. The operator is responsible for transporting the flock to the slaughter house. The distances are very short. Cleaning and disinfection of crates (which are shared through the slaughterhouse) and of vehicles is highly recommended and noted by the OV at the slaughterhouse. The vast majority of operators use pressure-washers for the cleaning of such vehicles.

(d)2.4 Routine veterinary supervision of farms

Routine veterinary inspection on farm

According to national legislation, "The Veterinary Service Act, Chapter 437 of 2001, article 35 (f) states that "the owner, the keeper, the dealer or the importer, the consignee, the carrier, the retailer or any other person authorised under the provisions of this Act shall notify the veterinary services of any suspicion of zoonosis or other diseases or any other phenomenon or circumstances liable to present a serious threat to animal or public health." The Animal Welfare Act 439 regulates welfare issues. Local farms being generally small in capacity, do not have their own private veterinarian visiting on a regular basis but only in case of necessity. One of the largest local feed mills provides free technical support. A lot of the farmers buying their feed mill make regular use of the technical personnel. If there is any cause for suspicion, the company's veterinarian is then called out. There is no delegation of official control of poultry in Malta.

Since the SNCP has been implemented, all sampling under the framework of the legislation to date has been carried by the CA. Any official control is carried out by auxiliaries under the supervision of the OV, when the OV cannot perform himself the official control. From the beginning of the programme, the officers conduct an animal welfare check list at least once annually per registered farm. The check-list holds information regarding not only animal welfare issues but also details about biosecurity measures. Every check-list is a control document.

A private veterinarian who would have carried out an ante-mortem inspection on farm prior to the flock leaving the holding. If the farmer does not present an ante-mortem inspection, therefore the official veterinarian carries out the ante-mortem at the slaughterhouse.

(d)2.5 Registration of farms

Legal notice 119/2005 under chapter 36 of the national legislation enforces registration of all farms having more than 20 broilers with the CA. The CA is always the VRD under the AFRD. There is only one central CA and no regional offices.

Each registered farm is given a licence number by the CA. This number is unique and not re-issued if the farm ceases to operate. The number is made up of letters and numbers. The letters indicate if the farm has an exclusive licence for broiler rearing or also for rearing layers. The rearing of both categories is not permitted simultaneously. PB stands for poultry broiler, while PBL stands for poultry broiler, layer. The last letter is either M or G indicating the territory of Malta or Gozo. After the letters a series of numbers follow. These have been conferred consecutively. To date the registration is made up of a three-digit number. The licence is re-issued annually. If no broilers are reared in a 12-month period the licence is not renewed. The CA (VRD) keeps all relevant information of the registered holding on a database system which is managed by the Animal Health section. All information relative to different flocks reared on the holding eg. number of birds, date of hatch, batch number of birds, slaughter date and results of the SNCP are accessible to all authorised personnel. The same batch of birds bought from the hatchery may be split up in different houses and therefore will be considered as different flocks, however these flocks would have the same batch code.

(d)2.6 Record keeping at farm

In accordance to point 5 of the Schedule to the Farm Animals(Protection) Regulations of 2003 (Legal Notice 266 of 2003), and point 16 of Schedule B of LN 119 of 2005 " Rearing of Broilers Regulations"; owners or keepers shall maintain a record for each unit of an establishment of the -

- Number and origin of chickens brought in;
- daily mortality
- feed consumption
- temperature
- Number of chickens sent for slaughter;
- The number of culls with reason for cull, leg culls shall be specifically identified;
- Medicine and vaccine administration records, these records shall include the prescription, duration of treatment, dosage and signature of the veterinary surgeon.

All this information has to be kept on an official register. This book is presented to the official veterinarian at the slaughterhouse. The records shall be retained for a period of at least three years and shall be made available to the competent authority when carrying out an inspection or when otherwise requested.

(d)2.7 Documents to accompany animals when dispatched

The capacity of local operators is too small and currently no operator holds the licence to rear poultry for breeding purposes. To date there has never been any export of birds or hatching eggs to any EU Member State, however, if the case arises Malta would issue the ITAHC in accordance to EU Directive 90/539/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) 2180/2003 article 9.1. Issuing of all ITAHC falls under the responsibility of the CA, being the Veterinary Regulation Directorate (VRD) and as stated before, there is only one central office and no district offices. All activities under the responsibility of the CA are carried out at the same premises, with the exception of the BIP.

(d)2.8 Other relevant measures to ensure the traceability of animals

OWNERS/KEEPERS of commercial broiler flocks (having more than 20 birds) are legally obliged in accordance to point 5 of the Schedule to the Farm Animals(Protection) Regulations of 2003 (Legal Notice 266 of 2003), and point 16 of Schedule B of LN 119 of 2005 " Rearing of Broilers Regulations"; to maintain records as already elaborated in point 2.6.

(i) Document accompanying birds from hatchery to holding:

The farmer has to obtain an authorization form from the competent authority (copy submitted) to be able to buy the day-old chicks from the hatchery.

(ii) Documents accompanying birds from holding to slaughterhouse.

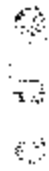
On the information held in the hatch report, a movement document (Attach. 2) is issued by the competent authority and given to the farmer. This document follows the flock up to the slaughterhouse, where the slaughterhouse fills in the number of birds slaughtered. The movement document is then returned to the competent authority

HATCHERIES:

Hatching Regulation LN 48 of 1997 lays down the provision regulating hatcheries. Amongst the provisions there are also legal obligation for the maintenance of records, eg. registration number of establishment of origin of hatching eggs or day-olds, Number of eggs or day-olds imported, date on import, batch ID code, number of eggs hatched, list of recipient farms, date of delivery of day-olds. The hatchery are obliged to submit a copy of all import and trade documents to the CA (Animal Section). The CA issues a hatch report on the trade documents submitted, on hatching of eggs the hatchery fills in details regarding number of eggs hatched and amount sold to each farm and Batch code. The CA generates a movement document with an individual batch code number given to each batch of day-olds sold to each individual farm. This batch number follows the birds up to slaughter. Records are to be kept for three years.

PRODUCTS:

The batches of birds at the slaughter house continue to carry the identification code number conferred to them as day-olds by the CA. This number is reproduced on the label of the generated products.



TRACES, also falls under the responsibility of the CA. It is localized at the Border Inspection Post and the authorised officials at the BIP have access to it. The BIP is the only office of the CA localized in a different area. To date, no poultry or hatching eggs have ever been exported.

1. Identification of the programme

Disease	Zoonotic Salmonella
Species	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus
Other Species	
Requestperiod To	2012
Requestperiod From	2011

1.1 Contact

Contact Name	Susan Chircop
Contact Phone	00356-25095304
Contact Fax	00356-21238105
Contact Email	susan.chircop@gov.mt

2. Historical data on the epidemiological evolution of the disease

In 2008, Malta carried out the baseline study on broiler carcasses for Salmonella spp. and Campylobacter according to Commission Decision 2007/518/EC. A total of 367 samples were analysed and 77 were positive to Salmonella spp. isolation. Out of 94 farms from which carcasses had been collected, 42 were positive. Salmonella typhimurium was isolated from 10 farms, while Salmonella enteritidis was not isolated. Salmonella brednay (representing 36.3% of positives) and Salmonella kentucky (representing 19.4% of positives) were the most frequently isolated. These results lead us to now expect a larger number of farms positive for Salmonella typhimurium than what was predicted based on the 2004 study.

The SNCP in broiler flocks commenced in the last quarter of 2009 in Malta. Therefore it is still too early to be able to monitor the progress and efficiency of the SNCP. The real prevalence of the targeted serovars will be known at the end of 2010. Obtaining this data will be the real starting point for Malta to monitor the progress of the SNCP in achieving the targets set for the targeted serovars (S.enteritidis / S.typhimurium).

In 2009, a total of eighty-seven (87) flocks were sampled out of five hundred and eight (508) flocks (SNCP commenced the last quarter of 2009). Out of the holdings covered by the programme, twenty-seven (27) farms were positive to Salmonella spp. isolation. The prevalence of 31% of broiler holdings positive for salmonella spp. infection is being over estimated since not all flocks were tested.

Positive farms:

Two farms were positive for Salmonella typhimurium isolation in 2009. Prevalence of 2,2% of Salmonella typhimurium infection in local broiler holdings.

This data is only based on a few months analysis . The infected flocks were culled and re-stocking was permitted only after environmental samples resulted negative after thorough cleaning was carried out on the positive holdings.

3. Description of the submitted programme

The main objectives of this programme is to monitor and control all broiler flocks of Gallus gallus in Malta and Gozo, in accordance to Commission Regulation 2160/2003 for Zoonotic Salmonella spp. Flocks found infected with Salmonella typhimurium and Salmonella enteritidis may be either, condemned and killed with incineration of products or further processing may be permitted under strict specific provisions , in order to achieve a reduction in the prevalence of these serotypes in the national flock, as indicated in Commission Regulation 646/2007 article 1, reduction of maximum percentage of flocks of broilers remaining positive of Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium to 1% or less by the 31st December 2011

The target population would be all broiler flocks of Gallus gallus. Malta and Gozo will be considered as one region.

All registered and functioning farms (90) will be tested. Total population of approximately 3 million. The testing scheme would be to analyse all houses on a holding by sampling 2 pairs of boot swabs per house.

Targeted age-group :
Broilers: 2 weeks prior to slaughter (i.e between 2-3 weeks of age)

OFFICIAL SAMPLES:

The collection of official samples will be carried out by the CA. Samples are transported to the laboratory within a few hours from collection, with the exception of the few farms on Gozo. In the latter case the samples arrive after 24 hours and are kept refrigerated. Analyses of samples will be carried out by the NVL and typing will be carried out at the Public Health Lab.

Boot swabs taken from one same house will be pooled together.
Analysis of the boot swabs and environmental samples will be carried out in accordance to Commission Regulation 646/2007. The method of analysis used is that recommended by the Community Reference Laboratory for Salmonella, being the current version of draft Annex D of ISO 6579 (2002): Detection of Salmonella spp. in animal faeces and in samples of primary production. Modified semi-solid Rappaport-Vassiliadis medium (MSRV) will be used as a single selective medium. Serotyping will be carried following the Kaufmann-White scheme.

The competent authority is also responsible for the national residue plan.
Each farm will be tested for antibiotic-residue during the sampling for the salmonella control programme.

NON-OFFICIAL SAMPLES:

To date the non-official samples were also collected and analysed by the CA since there are no private laboratories accredited for Salmonella isolation. The only lab accredited is the NRL for salmonella which is the Public Health Lab (PHL). This lab falls under the Ministry for Social Policy (a.k.a Ministry of Health) and is responsible amongst other things for food analyses at retail level. The PHL only carries out typing or parallel testing in exceptional cases. However some operators would most probably be taking over their own analyses. In this case the samples will be sent to labs , most probably in Sicily accredited for Salmonella isolation on the specific matrixes requested. A short training course has been set up CA officials to train the operators in sampling techniques. At the end of this short course a certificate of attendance is conferred. It is planned that after a few years , a refresher course will be carried out. CA officials will also be carrying out spot-checks on a certain percentage of holdings to verify sampling techniques and all documentation relative to the integrity of samples and time lapse during transport and analyses.

DEFINITION OF POSITIVE CASE:

- (i) When one isolate is serotyped as Salmonella enteritidis or Salmonella typhimurium from an official or non-official sample.
- (ii) When the illegal use of antimicrobials is asserted and no Salmonella spp. was isolated.

A holding is no longer considered infected once environmental samples result negative and re-stocking is permitted.

4. Measures of the submitted programme

4.1 Summary of measures under the programme

Duration of the programme :	2010 to 2011
First year :	
Control	X
Testing	X
Slaughter and animals tested positive	
Killing of animals tested positive	X
Vaccination	
Treatment of animal products	
Disposal of products	X
Monitoring or surveillance	
Other, please specify	control of antimicrobial administration
Last year :	
Control/eradication	X
Testing	X
Slaughter of positive animals	X
Killing of animals tested positive	X
Extended slaughter or killing	
Disposal of products	X

4.2 Designation of the central authority in charge of supervising and coordinating the departments responsible for implementing the programme

There is only one Competent Authority being the Agriculture and Fisheries Regulation Department (AFRD) under the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs. The Agriculture and Fisheries Regulation Division is made up of three Directorates:

- Plant Health Directorate,
- Veterinary Regulation Directorate
- Fisheries Directorate.

The Veterinary Regulation Directorate (VRD) is in charge of supervising, coordinating and implementing the Salmonella Control Programme. The Island of Malta is 350sqm and therefore there is only one central authority; all offices are situated in the same premises, with the exception of the Border Inspection post and of the office on the smaller island of Gozo. The office on the Island of Gozo is only responsible of sampling the few broiler farms on that island.

The Veterinary Regulation Directorate is made up of three sections:

- A) The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL): responsible for the co-ordination and implementation of the SNCP.
- B) The Animal Health & Welfare Section: which helps in the co-ordination of the sampling officers, maintenance of the Intratrace database system, in carrying out a census and supervising culling of flock and/or destruction of infected products.
- C) Safety of the Food Chain

A) The National Veterinary Laboratory:

- (i) Senior veterinary officer in charge will be responsible for:
 - appropriate training of personnel responsible for collecting the samples in charge of supervising that the programme is adhered to and that the samples are collected according to the programme.
 - all necessary material needed for sampling eg. Boot swabs, sterile bags, etc are available.
 - ensure that samples are analysed in accordance to time frame and methodology as laid down in the programme
 - carry out analysis up to isolation and biochemical testing.
 - co-ordinate with Public Health Laboratory (NRL) for typing of positive isolates.
 - reporting suspect positives / confirmed results to the Animal health section and CVO
 - co-ordinate with the Public Health Laboratory (NRL) parallel analysis of suspect samples, if necessary.
 - inform Director of Safety of the Food Chain or Veterinary Officer in charge of white meat slaughterhouse of any infected flocks collecting/ filing all relevant data and reporting of results.

B) Animal Health & Welfare Section:

- (ii) Senior veterinary support officer in charge of the poultry section will be responsible for:
 - co-ordinating sampling team
 - making appointments with the farmers and preparing daily sampling schedules
 - collaborating with the senior veterinary officer i/c lab
 - organizing on farm investigation in cases of suspect/confirmed positive results
 - collaborate in census, movement restriction, eradication and disinfection measures
 - collaborate in farm investigations in view of repopulation of farm

(iii) Assistant Veterinary Support Officers will be responsible for:

- Ensuring to follow appropriate training
- collecting and transporting samples appropriately
- deliver samples within 24hours from collection to the laboratory
- ensure that accompanying documents are filed appropriately

- (iv) Veterinary Officer responsible for by products:
 - is responsible of ensuring that biosecurity measures and provisions in Council Regulation 1174/2002 are adhered to during disposal of carcasses and products.

(v) Animal welfare officer: responsible for ensuring that animal welfare provisions are respected during culling of infected flocks.

C) Section for Safety of the Food Chain

(vi) Director is responsible for informing the national contact person for the rapid alert system when necessary.

Chief Veterinary Officer

Following recommendations from senior veterinary officer (v) lab;

Responsible for issuing restriction movement documents

issuing of documentation for lifting restriction measures on a farm and for permitting repopulation.

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

The Islands of Malta and Gozo are covered by this programme and are considered as one region. The VRD under the Agriculture and Fisheries Regulation Division administers the whole region.

Malta is approximately 360Km² being the larger of the two islands. Gozo lies north of Malta and is much smaller at less than half Malta's surface area.

4.4 Measures implemented under the programme

4.4.1 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the registration of holdings

Legal notice 119/2005 under chapter 36 of the national legislation enforces registration of all farms having more than 20 broilers.

Measures:

The hatcheries are obliged to the report to the VRD, as competent authority, the number of hatching eggs imported, submitting a copy of import/trade documents. The competent authority then prints out a hatch report which is passed on to the hatchery. This form is returned to the competent authority once the particular batch of eggs have been hatched and sold. This hatch report includes a list of farms which are the destination of chicks sold.

A movement document is issued by the competent authority and given to the farmer. This document follows the flock up to the slaughterhouse, where the slaughterhouse fills in the number of birds slaughtered.

(elaborated in point 2.5 / 2.8)

4.4.2 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the identification of animals

not applicable

4.4.3 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the notification of the disease

The Veterinary Services Act, Chapter 437, art 36.1(f) provides for the obligation of notification of any suspicion of zoonosis or other disease or any other phenomenon or circumstances liable to present a serious threat to animal or public health.

4.4.4 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the measures in case of a positive result

The provisions of the implementing legislation, Commission Regulation (EC) no: 646/2007, in particular paragraph 1 and 2 (frequency and status of sampling) 4 (results and reporting) particularly provisions on exceptional cases of the Annex are implemented.

MEASURES TAKEN ON POSITIVE FLOCKS (SE/ST)

- Restrictive/preventive measures will apply immediately on positive flocks, even when self-checks result positive.
- The owner of the infected holding or the owners representative will be served with an official notice in writing issued by the CVO within 24 hours of a positive laboratory result (excluding weekends).
- Restrictions measures will apply with immediate effect. There is to be no movement of animals. The control of vehicles and strengthening of biosecurity measures is important to prevent spread of infection

To date flocks were considered unfit for human consumption and culled with destruction of all products.

A) IN CASE OF CULLING OF INFECTED FLOCK.

- The CA officials from the Animal Health section carry out a visit to conduct a census and organise the details for the culling of the flock. Valuation of the situation on the holding will normally be carried out before culling. Compensation is affected by the biosecurity standards on the farm, amongst other factors.
- Mobile enclosed trailers or containers can be transported on site if required.
- Killing of the birds will be supervised by CA officials and the OV responsible for animal welfare has to ensure that welfare provisions are respected. All personnel involved in culling are required to wear protective clothing, gloves and nose/mouth masks.
- The carcasses will be disposed of through incineration at the Thermal unit run by the Waste Serv Ltd. There is only one public incinerator which falls under the administration of the Waste Serv. Ltd, which falls under the ministry of Resources and rural Affairs.
- The carcasses have to be transported in leak-proof containers supplied by Waste Serv and transported drip-proof in authorised vehicles that must be disinfected externally before leaving the holding.
- CA Officials have to supervise all procedures and keep records of the weights registered at the Thermal Unit for cross-reference.

- Feeds will also be considered contaminated and will be destroyed if not consumed.

Cleaning and disinfection is started as soon as the animals have been all killed and removed from the holding and must be carried out in a methodical way. Detailed procedures are laid down in the good animal husbandry guidelines. (steam cleaning is recommended)
Environmental samples are taken and repopulation will be permitted and all restriction bans lifted when there is a negative result to isolation of salmonella spp. The CVO is responsible for issuing such a notice.

B) IN CASE FURTHER PROCESSING IS PERMITTED:

- The option will be given for processing plants to be able to use carcasses from infected flocks to use them for cooked process products.
- An SOP has been compiled covering slaughter procedures and management to guarantee reduction of spread of the zoonoses.
- The birds are caught and placed in clean crates under the supervision of CA officials. The crates provided by the slaughterhouse and strict protocols of washing and disinfection after use has to be carried out.
- The CA officials will follow the birds to the designated slaughterhouse. The slaughter batch of infected flock have to be slaughtered or at the end of a slaughter day or on their own without other birds from other flocks being slaughtered afterwards.
- Weight readings & a total net live weight of the poultry recorded.
- 15 neck stings sampled by CA and tested, if negative destination of products may be changed.
- The processing plant ensures that the batch number of the processed products can be traced back to the origin.

4.4.5 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the different qualifications of animals and herds

Commission Regulation (EC) No. 646/2007 and Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1237/2007 are directly applicable.

A.) Salmonella enteritidis or salmonella typhimurium infected flock:

1. Isolation of Salmonella enteritidis or Salmonella typhimurium serotyped from one isolate from official and non-official samples.
2. The flock would be considered infected with targeted serovars, if it concluded that there was use of antimicrobials was used as preventive measure and no Salmonella spp. isolated from samples taken from that flock.

B.) Flock considered not infected by targeted serovars.

1. Flocks whereby no salmonella spp. isolated from all samples taken from the flock.
2. Salmonella spp. isolated from one or more of the samples taken from that flock but not Salmonella enteritidis or Salmonella typhimurium.

4.4.6 Control procedures and in particular rules on the movement of animals liable to be affected or contaminated by a given disease and the regular inspection of the holdings or areas concerned

Control procedures.

When restriction measures are applicable to a holding:

The official i/c poultry from the Animal Section of the CA, together with veterinary support officers/ s will carry out an investigation on the farm and conduct a census to verify and update information held on the database of the CA regarding the different batches of birds present on the premises and the quantities of birds.

No poultry carcasses, animal feed, material or waste may leave the holding without a written authorisation issued by an official veterinarian.

Persons not directly involved in taking care of the animals are not permitted to enter buildings where infected flocks are kept.

Appropriate means of disinfection, using a disinfectant officially approved as effective against Salmonella spp., is to be used at the entrances and exits of the building housing poultry and of the holding itself.

Vehicles and equipment used for transport of animals or products have to be cleaned and disinfected with an officially approved disinfectant effective against Salmonella spp. immediately after the movement.

Disposal of manure from infected flock is carried out through incineration.

When different flocks on the same holding are not infected, an intense and rigid application of biosecurity measures must be implemented. Such as: different clothing, foot baths and separate water and feed systems.

4.4.7 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the control (testing, vaccination, ...) of the disease

Council Regulation 2160/2003 and Commission Regulation 646/2007, are directly applicable and followed in setting up the sampling scheme, testing regime and setting of targets.

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 on the requirements for use of antimicrobials and vaccines in control programmes for poultry will be adhered to. Malta does not permit the use of antimicrobials as preventive measures in any Salmonella control programme. A sample for antimicrobial testing is lifted during every official sampling session. One chicken is taken randomly from one of the flocks on the premises, and tested at the NVL for presence of antimicrobial agents. A screening test is run using the six-plate test.

To date vaccination is not used in Broiler flocks.

4.4.8 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the compensation for owners of slaughtered and killed animals

A Legal notice is soon to be in force under the Veterinary Services Act Chapter 437, titled "Measures for the Eradication of Salmonella Regulations, 2010" (see attachment) A National Legal Notice is soon to be issued regarding compensation rates to be applied to the poultry flocks under the Salmonella Control programmes.

The valuation of birds will be calculated by the CA, in accordance to details listed in the Legal Notice. However, since compensation is not to exceed the current market value this can vary and that is why exact figures are not detailed in the legal notice since it takes too long to issue any changes. Notices with the precise figures can be issued under the LN, when it is in force. These notices can be issued in shorter time-frames to account for changes in the market value. To date a scale of compensation for birds is not yet publicly available.

4.4.9 Information and assessment on bio-security measures management and infrastructure in place in the flocks/holdings involved

The Community guidelines are not available on line but the guidelines for laying hens was distributed to the farmers at a seminar held in May 2010. This seminar was held to explain the relative legislation and hygiene practices on farm. A concise and illustrated version is being compiled for clarity and easy reference. A DVD is also being produced. A veterinarian employed on contract with the Ministry has been carrying out on site-visits on all poultry farms in order to explain clearly and individually biosecurity measures and improvements each farmer can implement.

OV's and auxiliaries carrying out any official controls, make use of checklists in accordance to the requirements of Council regulation (EC) no: 853/2004 CA officials carry out a checklist for animal welfare issues annually on all registered farms. Biosecurity measures has also been integrated in this checklist. When a farm is found to be infected with one of the targeted serovars, the OV or auxiliary staff carry out a census on farm and also verify biosecurity measures. The result of such verification is not only important in prevention of spreading of disease but also affects compensation.

5. General description of the costs and benefits of the programme

The costs to the poultry industry is very high especially since the local poultry industry often splits up one batch of birds in a number of small houses in very close proximity. These, according to EU legislation, have to be considered as separate flocks and therefore the costs are very heavy on the small operators. The programme is very costly and is a heavy burden on the local poultry industry for other reasons, like having to send samples abroad, if the operator would like to use a private lab. Even if a better quality product should increase sales, considering the capacity of the local market, the competition is very tough in comparison to other imported poultry products. The benefits lie in reducing the incidence of Salmonella infection in humans.

6. Data on the epidemiological evolution during the last five years

6.1 Evolution of the zoonotic salmonellosis

Year	Region	Type of flock	Total number of flocks (a)	Total number of animals	Total number of flocks of animals under the programme	Number of positive flocks (c)	Total number of animals slaughtered or destroyed	kg/number destroyed	Quantity of eggs destroyed	kg/number (eggs destroyed)	Quantity of eggs destroyed	kg/number (eggs destroyed product)
2,009	Malta / Gozo	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	508	2,940,050	508	2	8,920	kg	0	kg	0	0

6. Data on the epidemiological evolution during the last five years

6.1 Evolution of the zoonotic salmonellosis

Year	Region	Type of flock	Total number of flocks (a)	Total number of animals	Total number of flocks under the programme	Total number of animals under the programme	Number of flocks checked (b)	Serotype	Number of positive flocks (c)	Number of flocks depopulated	Total number of animals slaughtered or destroyed	kg/number of eggs destroyed	Quantity of eggs destroyed	kg/number of eggs destroyed (product)	Quantity of eggs channelled to egg product
2,008	Malta / Gozo	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	0	3,500,000	0	35,000,000	0	salmonella enteritidis or salmonella typhimurium	0	0	0	kg	0	0	0
2,007	Malta / Gozo	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	0	4,400,000	0	4,400,000	0	salmonella enteritidis or salmonella typhimurium	0	0	0	kg	0	0	0
2,006	Malta / Gozo	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	0	4,000,000	0	4,000,000	0	salmonella enteritidis or salmonella typhimurium	0	0	0	kg	0	0	0
2,005	Malta / Gozo	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	0	0	0	0	0	salmonella enteritidis or salmonella typhimurium	0	0	0	kg	0	0	0
		Sum:	598	14,840,050	598	46,217,333	87		2	2	8,920	0	0	0	0

6.2 Stratified data on surveillance and laboratory tests

6.2.1 Stratified data on surveillance and laboratory tests for year :

Year	Region	Test Type	Test Description	Number of samples tested	Number of positive samples
2009	Malta / gozo	microbiological test	ISO 6579	57	3
2009	Malta / gozo	serological test	kaufmann-white	30	5
2009	Malta / gozo	other test	six-plate inhibition test	86	2

6.2 Stratified data on surveillance and laboratory tests

6.2.1 Stratified data on surveillance and laboratory tests for year :

Year	Region	Test Type	Test Description	Number of samples tested	Number of positive samples
2008	Malta / Gozo	microbiological test	only carcasses tested acc. to 516/2007	0	0
2007	Malta / Gozo	microbiological test	ISO 6579	0	0
2006	Malta / Gozo	microbiological test	ISO 6579	0	0
2005	Malta / Gozo	microbiological test	ISO 6579	0	0
Sum:				173	10

6.3 Data on infection for year :

Year	Region	Number of herds infected	Number of animals infected
2009	Malta / Gozo	2	15,250
2008	Malta / Gozo	0	0
2007	Malta / Gozo	0	0
2006	Malta / Gozo	0	0
2005	Malta / Gozo	0	0
Sum:		2	15,250

6.4 Data on vaccination or treatment programmes for year :

Year	Region	Total number of herds	Total number of animals	Number of herds in vaccination or treatment programme	Number of animals vaccinated or treated	Number of doses of vaccine or treatment administered
2009	Malta / Gozo	0	0	0	0	0

6.4 Data on vaccination or treatment programmes for year :

Year	Region	Total number of herds	Total number of animals	Number of herds in vaccination or treatment programme	Number of herds vaccinated or treated	Number of animals vaccinated or treated	Number of doses of vaccine or treatment administered
2008	Malta / Gozo	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007	Malta / Gozo	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	Malta / Gozo	0	0	0	0	0	0
2005	Malta / Gozo	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sum:	0	0	0	0	0	0

7. Targets

7.1 Targets related to testing (one table for each year of implementation)

7.1.1 Targets on diagnostic tests for year :

Year	Region	Type of the test (description)	Target population (categories and species targeted)	Type of sample	Objective	Number of planned tests
2,011	Malta / Gozo	antimicrobial residue testing	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	muscle	surveillance	300
2,011	Malta / Gozo	microbiology	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	Faeces	surveillance	820
2,011	Malta / Gozo	serology	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	isolate	surveillance	250
2,012	Malta / Gozo	antimicrobial residue testing	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	muscle	surveillance	250
2,012	Malta / Gozo	microbiology	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	Faeces	surveillance	800
2,012	Malta / Gozo	serology	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	isolate	surveillance	200
				Sum:		2,620

7.1.2 Targets on testing of flocks for year :

7.1.2 Targets on testing of flocks for year :

Year	Region	Type of flock	Total number of flocks (a)	Total number of animals	Total number of flocks under the programme	Number of flocks checked (b)	Serotype	Number of positive flocks (c)	Number of flocks depopulated	Total number of animals slaughtered or destroyed	kg/number of eggs destroyed	Quantity of eggs channelled to egg product
2011	Malta / Gozo	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	760	3,000,000	760	760	salmonella enteritidis or salmonella typhimurium	8	8	50,000 kg	0.0	0.0
2012	Malta / Gozo	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	750	3,000,000	750	750	salmonella enteritidis or salmonella typhimurium	5	5	40,000 kg	0.0	0.0
		Sum:	1,510	6,000,000	1,510	1,510		Sum: 13	13	90,000	0.0	Sum: 0.0

7.2 Targets on vaccination or treatment

7.2.1 Targets on vaccination or treatment for year :

Year	Region	Total number of herds in vaccination or treatment programme	Total number of animals in vaccination or treatment programme	Number of herds or flocks expected to be vaccinated or treated	Number of animals expected to be vaccinated or treated	Number of doses of vaccine or treatment expected to be administered
2011		0	0	0	0	0
2012		0	0	0	0	0
	Sum:	0	0	0	0	0

8. Detailed analysis of the cost of the programme for year :

Year	Category	Specification	Cost related to	Number of units	Unitary cost	Total amount in EURO	Community funding requested

8. Detailed analysis of the cost of the programme for year :

Year	Category	Specification	Cost related to	Number of units	Unitary cost	Total amount in EURO	Community funding requested
2011	1. Testing	Microbiology	Cost of analysis	50	35	1,750	yes
	1. Testing	serology	Cost of analysis	25	30	750	yes
	1. Testing	antimicrobial residue test	Cost of analysis	20	6	120	yes
	2. Vaccination or treatment	0	0	0	0	0	no
	3. Slaughter and destruction (without any salaries)	culled flock	Compensation of animals in kg of dead weight	119,000	1	138,040	yes
	4. Cleaning and disinfection	removal of bedding / waste	transport / destruction	8	1,000	8,000	no
	5. Salaries (staff contracted for the programme only)	lab staff	Salaries	2	7,800	15,600	yes
2012	5. Salaries (staff contracted for the programme only)	farm visits	Salaries and fuel	45	6	270	yes
	5. Salaries (staff contracted for the programme only)	staff for culling and removal of waste/carcasses	salaries for average of 12 hrs	12	100	1,200	no
	6. Consumables and specific equipment	0	0	0	0	0	no
	7. Other costs	0	0	0	0	0	no
						185,730	
	1. Testing	microbiology	Cost of analysis	40	35	1,400	yes
	1. Testing	serology	Cost of analysis	20	30	600	yes
1. Testing	antimicrobial residue tests	Cost of analysis	20	6	120	yes	
2. Vaccination or treatment	0	0	0	0	0	no	
3. Slaughter and destruction (without any salaries)	culling of infected flock	compensation in kg of dead weight	90,000	1	104,400	yes	
4. Cleaning and disinfection	removal of bedding / waste	transport and destruction	5	1,000	5,000	yes	
5. Salaries (staff contracted for the programme only)	lab staff	Salaries	2	7,800	15,600	yes	
5. Salaries (staff contracted for the programme only)	culling staff	Salaries	10	100	1,000	yes	

8. Detailed analysis of the cost of the programme for year :

Year	Category	Specification	Cost related to	Number of units	Unitary cost	Total amount in EURO	Community funding requested
2012	5. Salaries (staff contracted for the programme only)	farm visits	salaries and fuel	42	6	252	no
	6. Consumables and specific equipment	0	0	0	0	0	no
	7. Other costs	0	0	0	0	0	no
Total				209,301		294,102	

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revision: 2011

ANNEX II - PART A

General requirements for the national salmonella control programmes

Member state: MALTA

(a) State the aim of the program

(max. 4000 chars) :

to carry out a monitoring and control programme for Zoonotic Salmonella in laying flocks of Gallus gallus in accordance to Council Regulation 2160/2003 and Commission Regulation 1168/2006; to achieve a reduction of the prevalence of Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium. Malta had not carried out the typing of the isolates cultured during the baseline study of 2004 and therefore the true prevalence values of Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium are not known. During the baseline study however the overall prevalence of Salmonellosis was of 43.87%. In 2009 the Salmonella Control programme on production flocks of laying hens commenced. The programme could only start being implemented by mid-2009, owing to lack of human resources. All farms were tested twice by the end of the year. The overall flock prevalence of Salmonellosis is around 25.6%. In 2009 there were no positive flocks for the targeted serovars. Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium was not confirmed, in accordance to CR 1237/2007, in four cases. The real prevalence value will be known by the end of 2010. On the basis of current findings, one can assume that the prevalence of the targeted serovars may oscillate between 10% and 20%. Therefore in accordance to article 1 by the end of 2011, at least a 30% reduction of positive flocks of adult laying hens would be achieved.

(b) Animal population and phases of production which sampling cover

Demonstrate the evidence that it complies with the minimum sampling requirements laid down in part B of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council OJ L 325, 12 12 2003, p. 1, indicating the relevant animal population and phases of production which sampling must cover

It is mandatory to fill in the box about Animal populations to make the rest of the questions visible.

Animal population Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

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- rearing flocks** day-old chicks
 pullets two weeks before moving to laying phase or unit
- laying flocks** every 15 weeks during the laying phase

(c) Demonstrate the evidence...

demonstrate the evidence that it complies with the specific requirements laid down in Parts C, D and E of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003

(max. 1000 chars) :

All commercial egg-laying flocks of *Gallus gallus* registered with the competent authority are under the Salmonella National Control Programme. All registered and functioning farms will be tested irrespective of the capacity.

Malta and Gozo will be considered as one region for the purpose of the Salmonella Control Programme.

The total number of operational holdings at present is forty-seven (47). These include eleven (11) holdings have less than 1000 birds.

Number of flocks: There are approximately 110 separate houses on the forty-seven holdings. The number of houses in use can fluctuate but the average would be around 100-110 houses. The close proximity of the houses within the same holding and family-run management does not always guarantee the biosecurity between the different houses. However, distinct and separate houses within the same holding are considered as a separate epidemiological unit and are sampled and analysed separately.

Flocks found to be infected with the targeted serovars (*Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium*) are placed under official restrictions and eggs originating from such flocks are not sold as fresh eggs but have to be either destroyed or heat-treated.

There is no heat-treating facility on the Island therefore if the business operator prefers to opt for heat-treatment; the eggs are sent to Italy to a heat-treating facility. The eggs are stored over a few days at the holding and not permitted to be moved from the premises. The eggs are sent to Italy, approximately twice weekly. Officials from the Competent Authority (CA) carry out regular (generally daily) on-site checks to verify the number of Class B eggs produced and that biosecurity measures are respected. All records of this census are kept at the CA. When the eggs are dispatched, an Intra-trade document is issued by the CA and signed by the Official Veterinarian.

If the operator decides to destroy the eggs, the eggs are stored on the premises over a number of days. Officials from the CA carry out regular (generally daily) on-site checks to verify the number of eggs stored. The eggs are then placed in approved leak-proof bins and transported in approved vehicles to the only

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Thermal facility Unit present on the Island for incineration. Loading into the bins and transport/arrival to the Thermal facility is carried out under the supervision of officials from the CA. Records from the Thermal facility are also kept at the CA and verified with the records obtained from the checks carried out on-farm.

When the infected flock are culled, officials from the CA carry out a census prior to culling. Once culled the birds are loaded in leak-proof bins and the same procedure as detailed above for the eggs is followed. The whole procedure is carried out under the supervision of the CA. All birds from an infected flock, when culled, are sent for incineration.

There are no breeding flocks on the island.

(d) Specification of following points :

(d)1. General

(d)1.1 A short summary referring to the occurrence

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 Council OJ L 325 12.12.2003, p. 31, particularly highlighting the prevalence values of the salmonella serovars targeted in the salmonella control programmes

(max. 4000 chars) :

1 The incomplete information available regarding the occurrence of salmonellosis in layer flocks of Gallus gallus dates back to the baseline study carried out within the framework of EU Directive 2003/99 and Council Regulation 2160/2003.

The study was carried out between October 2004 and September 2005. All farms registered and functioning within that period were sampled in accordance to the legislative requirements.

The overall prevalence of Salmonellosis in the national layer farms was of 43.85%. Twenty-five (25) farms resulted positive out of a total of fifty-seven (57) farms. However the isolates were not typed and therefore there was no available information regarding the prevalence values of Salmonella serovars, primarily Salmonella typhimurium and Salmonella enteritidis.

In 2009 the Salmonella Control programme on production flocks of laying hens commenced. The programme could only start being implemented in mid-2009, owing to lack of human resources. All farms were tested twice until the end of the year. The overall prevalence of Salmonellosis is around 25.6%; Salmonella kentucky being by far the most commonly isolated serovar.

However by the end of 2009 Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium was not confirmed on retesting, in accordance to CR 1237/2007. Therefore, for 2009, there were no positive flocks for the targeted serovars. The real prevalence values of the targeted serovars will be known at the end of 2010.

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(d)1.2 A short summary referring to the occurrence of the salmonella

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

(max. 4000 chars) :

There is only one Competent Authority being the Agriculture and Fisheries Regulation Department (AFRD) under the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs.

The Agriculture and Fisheries Regulation Division is made up of three Directorates:

- Plant Health Directorate,
- Veterinary Regulation Directorate
- Fisheries Directorate.

The Veterinary Regulation Directorate (VRD): is in charge of supervising, coordinating and implementing the Salmonella Control Programme. The Island of Malta is 350sqm and therefore there is only one central authority; all offices are situated in the same premises, with the exception of the Border Inspection post and of the office on the smaller Island of Gozo. The office on the island of Gozo is only responsible of sampling the 6 layer farms on that Island.

The Veterinary Regulation Directorate: is made up of three sections:

A) The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL): responsible for the co-ordination and Implementation of the SNCP.

B) The Animal Health & Welfare Section: which helps in the co-ordination of the sampling officers, in carrying out a census and supervising culling of flock and /or destruction of infected products.

C) Safety of the Food Chain

A) The National Veterinary Laboratory:

(i) Senior veterinary officer in charge will be responsible for:

- appropriate training of personnel responsible for collecting the samples
- in charge of supervising that the programme is adhered to and that the samples are collected according to the programme.
- all necessary material needed for sampling eg. Boot swabs, sterile bags, etc are available.
- ensure that samples are analysed in accordance to time frame and methodology as laid down in the programme
- carry out analysis up to isolation and biochemical testing.
- co-ordinate with Public Health Laboratory (NRL) for typing of positive isolates.
- reporting suspect positives / confirmed results to the Animal health section and CVO
- co-ordinate with the Public Health Laboratory (NRL) parallel analysis of suspect samples, if necessary.
- inform Director of Safety of the Food Chain or Veterinary Officer in charge of white meat slaughterhouse of any infected flocks
- collecting/ filing all relevant data and reporting of results.

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B) Animal Health & Welfare Section:

(ii) Senior veterinary support officer in charge of the poultry section will be responsible for:

- co-ordinating sampling team
- making appointments with the farmers and preparing daily sampling schedules
- collaborating with the senior veterinary officer i/c lab
- organizing on farm investigation in cases of suspect/confirmed positive results
- collaborate in census, movement restriction, eradication and disinfection measures
- collaborate in farm investigations in view of repopulation of farm

(iii) Assistant Veterinary Support Officers will be responsible for:

- Ensuring to follow appropriate training
- collecting and transporting samples appropriately
- deliver samples within 24 hours from collection to the laboratory
- ensure that accompanying documents are filled appropriately

(iv) Veterinary Officer responsible for by-products:

- is responsible of ensuring that biosecurity measures and provisions in Council Regulation 1174/2002 are adhered to during disposal of carcasses and products.

(v) Animal welfare officer:

- responsible for ensuring that animal welfare provisions are respected during culling of infected flocks.

C) Section for Safety of the Food Chain

(vi) Director is responsible for;

- informing the national contact person for the rapid alert system when necessary.

Chief Veterinary Officer

Following recommendations from senior veterinary officer i/c lab;

- Responsible for issuing restriction movement documents
- issuing of documentation for lifting restriction measures on a farm and /or permitting repopulation.

Flow diagram attached.

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Article 11(1)(d)

(d) 1.3 A short summary referring to the occurrence of the salmonella

Approved laboratories where samples collected within the programme are analysed.

(max. 4000 chars) :

The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL) of the VRD under the Ministry For Resources and Rural Affairs is responsible for the analysis of the samples up to biochemical identification collected under the framework of this programme.

To date, (Mid -2010); it is important to note that the CA was also exclusively responsible for carrying out non-official sampling and analysis under the responsibility of the business operator, as laid down in Commission Regulation 1168/2006. This decision was taken in consideration of the limited capacity of the farms and that there are no private laboratories approved for Salmonella microbiological testing in Malta apart from the NRL.

However, business operators have been given the option to be trained in sampling techniques and carry out non-official samples. In such cases, the CA will verify full compliance with Regulations. A training programme on sampling techniques in accordance to Commission requirements has been set up by the CA to train business operators who would like to carrying out their own non-official sampling. At the end of the training session an attendance certificate is given. The business operator can also choose to send non-official samples to an accredited laboratory abroad approved by the CA. A list has been drawn up by the CA of approved accredited Laboratories in Italy. Business operators of layer farms have not yet expressed the wish to take own samples and test abroad, however the option is available. If the option of testing abroad is taken up, the business operator would have to pass a copy of all the results of non-official tests within one week from receipt. The CA would issue a warning if the operator does not comply and after a further two weeks, if the results of non-official sampling are not handed to the CA, an official restriction would be handed to the operator.

The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL), to date, is not accredited however there is a quality assurance system in place in accordance to the requirements of current EN/ISO standards. The NVL has also begun the process of accreditation and has successfully participated in ring-trials organised by the VLA - UK. The National Reference Laboratory is the Public Health Laboratory which falls under a different Ministry from the CA being the Ministry for Social Policy. The NRL is accredited according to ISO 17025 and carries out the typing of positive isolates and re-confirmatory testing, if necessary.

The slaughter houses , processing plants and feedmills sent the sampling from their HACCP programmes to local private laboratories, which are not yet accredited but have quality assurances systems in place.

The larger of the two hatcheries send samples for analysis of Salmonella to an accredited laboratory in Italy.

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(max. 250)

(d)1.4 Methods in examination

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

(max. 4000 chars) :

To date both official and non-official samples are collected by CA staff. However, the business operator has the opportunity to attend a training session organised by the CA and carry out non-official sampling. To date very few operators have opted to self-sample and analyse in a different laboratory.

The samples are brought to the National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL) within a few hours from collection, with the exception of samples from Gozo, which are delivered the next day and till such time kept refrigerated. However there are only six (6) layer farms on Gozo.

The samples are generally always analysed on the day of delivery. If a particular situation arises, at the latest, the samples will be examined within 48 hours from receipt and kept refrigerated until such time.

Analysis of faecal, dust and environmental samples are carried out in accordance to Commission Regulation 1168/2006. The method of analysis used is that recommended by the Community Reference Laboratory for Salmonella, being the current version of draft Annex D of ISO 6579 (2002): "Detection of Salmonella spp. in animal faeces and in samples of primary production". The National Veterinary Laboratory carries out analysis until biochemical identification of the isolates. The positive isolates are then sent immediately to the Public Health Laboratory (just 15 minutes away) for serotyping.

Serotyping is carried out following the Kaufmann-White scheme by the Public Health laboratory, who send results through e-mail & later by mail to the NVL.

(d)1.5 A short summary referring to the occurrence of the salmonellosis

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

(max. 4000 chars) :

Official controls at feed level:

There are six main feed mills. These import and produce the majority of feed supplied to local farms. The feed mills import premixes and concentrates from approved EU countries (predominantly UK). These are then mixed with other ingredients such as cereals and soya imported from EU and non-EU countries. A small number of farms carry out home mixing.

To date only two of the feed mills carry out their own sampling. (one sends the samples to a local laboratory and one sends samples abroad).

Official visits are now being carried out on all feed mills and also the home mixers. The large commercial

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Annex 2.1.1

companies have an HACCP programme in place and are visited at least once annually by CA officials. Documentation regarding auto-control checks are verified during official controls and an annual sampling programme has been set up whereby official samples are collected. The home mixers have been given a time-frame to correct deficiencies and to submit their HACCP plan.

In 2009, 26 samples of poultry feeds were analysed from the commercial feed mills and all resulted negative to Salmonella isolation.

Samples of feed are also collected from the all holdings at least once annually as part of the SNCP.

Official controls at flock-level:

All registered and functioning egg-layer flocks on both Malta and Gozo are included in the national control programme, irrespective of the capacity.

To date the CA carried out all sampling described in point 2 of the Annex of CR.EC 1168/2006, this means that the CA carries out both official and non-official sampling of all layer farms.

Targeted age-groups:

Official Samples to be taken

(i) Pullets (from flocks housed in buildings where salmonella was detected in previous flock)

2 weeks prior to caged laying flocks:

Pullets usually enter into laying around 20 weeks, therefore the birds will be sampled around 18 weeks.

2x150g of naturally pooled faeces from belts

2 dust samples: (100g in 250ml) or 1 dust + 1 sample of 150g naturally pooled faeces.

1 bird tested for antibiotic residues

It is estimated that this could amount to an average between 10-20 pullet flocks per year.

(ii) Laying hens: once during the laying period (on all flocks having at least 1,000 birds) and all other flocks on a holding where *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium* were isolated:

2x150g of naturally pooled faeces from belts

2 dust samples: (100g in 250ml) or 1 dust + 1 naturally pooled faeces

1 bird tested for antibiotic residues

This is estimated to amount to an average of 100-120 flocks per year.

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max. 1200

(d)1.6 Measures

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

(max. 4000 chars) :

Council Regulation 2160/2003, Commission Regulation 1168/2006, Commission Regulation 1237/2007 and Commission Regulation 1177/2006 are directly applicable. Only those poultry flocks and their products found to be infected with *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium*, will be considered unfit for human consumption.

FLOCK DEFINITION in programme:

The SNCP commenced mid-2009. In the very beginning, during the first round of sampling, in consideration of the very close proximity of the houses on a holding and the fact that most premises are family-run, not all houses were sampled. This was corrected in the second round of sampling in 2009. This explains the smaller number of all *Salmonella* positive flocks in 2009 with respects to the intermediate report of 2010. This is not because there was an increase in the prevalence but because the flocks on one holding had been initially considered as one epidemiological unit. All houses are now sampled separately and are being considered as an individual flock and are reported as an individual epidemiological unit.

In the frame of the SCP laying flocks of *Gallus gallus* the provisions of paragraph 1 and 2 (frequency of sampling) 4 (results and reporting) of Annex of Commission regulation (EC) No 1168/2006 (particularly provisions on exceptional cases) are implemented.

CONFIRMATORY SAMPLING has been taken and run in parallel with the Public Health Laboratory (being the NRL) in the first months that the programme began, also because NVL is not yet accredited. However, never in cases where flocks were source of human infection. The sample strategy and verification of use of antimicrobials was according to CR 1237/2007 Annex 1 D pt 4.

(1) MEASURES TAKEN IN CASES OF SALMONELLA TYPHIMURIUM AND SALMONELLA ENTERITIDIS POSITIVE FLOCKS:

• Official restriction notice issued by CVO to business operator.

Biosecurity measures will be strengthened to ensure that the infection does not spread between the different houses (if it is the case) and other holdings; such as, no movement of live animals, external disinfection of vehicles transporting products out of farm and proper disinfection of equipment used.

• The farm will be under constant vigilance of the competent authority and official sampling would be repeated every eight weeks from any flocks not infected on the holding until 2 weeks after the last

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.....

infected flock is culled.

Eggs from infected flocks cannot be sold as fresh eggs, the eggs are either destroyed or sent for heat-treatment abroad. The Class B eggs have to be stored on the premises. CA officials carry out regular on-farm checks on the quantity of Class B eggs stored.

Culling of infected flocks and /or destruction of eggs.

CA officials supervise transport of carcasses to thermal unit. Records from thermal unit are double checked for weight reference according to census records of CA. Carcasses/products are transported in leak-proof bins and only by approved vehicles.

Lifting of restrictions and re-population permitted only once environmental samples result negative to *Salmonella* spp. isolation, after thorough cleaning and disinfection.

VACCINATION of new flocks with approved vaccines will probably be mandatory, if more than 10% prevalence of SE/ST flocks by the end of 2010.

Official samples will continue to be taken in accordance to CR (EC) 1168/2006 Annex pt 2 of for the one year after re-population.

(II) IN CASES WHERE OTHER SALMONELLA SPP. ARE ISOLATED:

Operator is informed in writing.

• There will be no restrictions on the use of eggs.

• However, operator will be encouraged to review and strengthened biosecurity measures.

After the infected flock has reached end of production and has been slaughtered, thorough cleaning and disinfection procedures will be carried out. Re-population will be permitted on the holding or in a particular house only when environmental samples result negative to *Salmonella* spp. isolation.

(d)1.7 A short summary referring to the occurrence of the salmonellos

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

(max. 4000 chars) :

IMPLEMENTATION

The Veterinary Service Act, Chapter 437, art 5.1, states that "the Minister may prescribe rules concerning the prevention and control of diseases".

Collection of information on Zoonosis and Zoonotic Agent Rules - LN 28/2005.

Council and Commission Regulations are directly applicable.

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(max. 200)

NOTIFICATION

The Veterinary Services Act, Chapter 437, art 35.1(f) provides for the obligation of notification of any suspicion of zoonosis or other disease or any other phenomenon or circumstances liable to present a serious threat to animal or public health..

FINANCIAL COMPENSATION

The Veterinary Service Act, Chapter 437, art 18.1 regards financial contribution in connection with national schemes for the eradication of particular diseases.

Collection of information on Zoonosis and Zoonotic Agent Rules - LN 28/2005 art 8.1, regulates financial contribution for zoonotic control programmes.

A National legal notice under the Veterinary Service Act regarding compensation rates for all poultry flocks under the Salmonella Control Programme is soon to be issued. (Attachment of final draft).

Commission Regulations and Decisions are directly applicable in the Maltese National legal structure.

(d)1.8 Financial assistance

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

(max. 4000 chars) :

National Legal Notice is soon to be issued regarding compensation rates to be applied to the poultry flocks under the Salmonella Control programmes.

The valuation of birds will be calculated by the CA, in accordance to details listed in the Legal Notice. However, since compensation is not to exceed the current market value this can vary and that is why exact figures are not detailed in the legal notice since it takes too long to issue any changes. Notices with the precise figures can be issued under the LN, when it is in force. These notices can be issued in shorter time-frames to account for changes in the market value. To date a scale of compensation for birds is not yet publicly available.

(d)2. Food and business covered by the programme

Concerning food and feed businesses covered by the programme

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Annex 2.01

(d)2.1 Structure of the production

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

(max. 4000 chars) :

LOCAL SITUATION:

There are no parent stock flocks on the Islands of Malta and Gozo.

There are two registered hatcheries on the Island of Malta.

Hatching Regulations LN48 of 1997, lays down the provisions that regulate the national hatchery establishments.

Hatching eggs are imported from EU member states, primarily from France, Italy, Netherlands and Belgium. All consignments are imported with the official Intra Trade Certificate issued according to Council Directive 539/90. In 2007, 251,280 egg-laying hatching eggs were imported. Day-old chicks and layer pullets are also imported from EU countries, mainly Italy.

The hatcheries are legally obliged to report to the VRD, as competent authority, the number of hatching eggs imported, submitting a copy of import/trade documents. The competent authority then prints out a "hatch report" which is passed on to the hatchery. This form is returned to the competent authority once the particular batch of eggs have been hatched and sold with the details of all the farms which are the destination of chicks sold.

The farmers can either sell the eggs produced directly to shops, supermarkets or egg-collectors, who in turn would deliver to shops / supermarkets. There is no central egg-packing plant. All farmers pack their own egg produce. The majority pack the eggs manually, only a few producers have automation for grading, stamping and packing.

Layer farms are registered in terms of the Egg Marketing Standard Regulations LN 345 of 2003 under Chapter 427 -The Product Safety Act. In accordance to this law each individual egg-laying farm is given a unique identity number that has to be printed on all the eggs produced on that farm and sold to shops, supermarkets or egg-collectors. This legislation excludes eggs sold directly to the consumer. The CA is responsible for issuing the unique identity number. Egg laying farms are therefore registered with the CA, whereby a unique registration number is given to the farm, following registration then the unique marking number for the eggs is issued.

The farmers are requested to send in monthly reports to the CA-Animal health Section. One of the reports involves details that include the daily production of eggs, number of live birds, number of deaths and quantity of feed consumed. The second report is a sales report where the farmer is declaring the quantity of eggs sold supported by fiscal receipts.

There are currently 47 operational layer farms. (6 are found on the island of Gozo)

Capacity of layer Holdings

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Over 70,000 -	1
50,000 -70,000 -	0
30,000 – 50,000 -	2
20,000-30,000 -	1
10,000 – 20,000 -	9
5,000 - 10,000 -	7
2,000 – 5,000 -	13
1,000 – 2,000-	4
500 – 1,000 -	4
Less than 500 -	8

STRUCTURE OF LAYER FARMS:

To date, there are no free-range farms and all the birds are kept in cages on more than one tier, usually up to a maximum of five tiers. All cage houses have manure belts.

The majority of farms operate on a first-in, first-out basis. Malta has a constant problem of space, so it is uncommon to find large houses. The vast majority of holdings are made up of a number of houses having small capacities. The houses are usually in close proximity of one another. The birds kept in one house are considered as an individual epidemiological unit in accordance to the Regulation.

NUMBER OF FLOCKS:

The number of houses that are used may vary slightly; however on the 47 holdings, taking in account the different houses; this amounts to a total of approx. 102 flocks on the Islands.

Layer (Gallus gallus) Imports for 2009:

Hatching eggs -235,000

Day-old chicks - 47,500

Point-to-lay pullets - 66,197

(d)2.2 Structure of the production of feed

The structure of the production of feed.

(max. 4000 chars) :

There are six commercial feed mills and a small number of home mixers. The commercial feed mills import and produce the majority of feed supplied to local farms. The feed mills import premixes and concentrates from approved EU countries (predominantly UK). These are mixed with other ingredients such as cereals and soya imported from EU and non-EU countries.

To date only two of the feed mills carry out their own sampling programme. (one carries out analysis locally and one sends the samples abroad).

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(Annex 2.3)

Legal notice 374/2005 regulates the responsibility of feed mills.

(d)2.3 Relevant guidelines

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

(d)2.3.1 Hygiene management at farms

hygiene management at farms

(max. 4000 chars) :

The Community guidelines have been distributed to the farmers and a seminar was held in May 2010 to explain the relative legislation and hygiene practice. A concise and illustrated version is being compiled for clarity and easy reference. Emphasis was given to the correct use of vehicle disinfection pits. If a vehicle disinfection pit cannot be placed at the farm entrance, pressure washers are used on the wheels of visiting vehicles, especially the delivery trucks from feed mills.

The use of pans soaked with disinfectant outside each house is constantly being enforced and reminded by sampling staff which visit the farms on a very regular basis. It is difficult for the farmer to change clothing if houses are just a few steps apart but the use of pans soaked with disinfectant outside each house is constantly being enforced and reminded by sampling staff which visit the farms on a very regular basis. Pest control (mice, rats and birds) is generally addressed through the use of nets on the windows, correct maintenance of building structures and the use of venom.

Almost all farms have automatic cleaning belts while few carry out the cleaning manually. Cleaning is usually carried out weekly. The faecal material falls into the pits where it is usually shoveled out into dumpers and taken to the manure clamp by van.

All farms producing manure have to store solid manure in an enclosed place known as the manure clamp, for six months a year (from the 15th October to 15th March). All farms are to have a leak proof cesspit, to collect foul water arising from cleaning etc. The manure clamp is to be connected to the cesspit. The water is kept for 15 days then collected by a bowser. These regulations serve to reduce the environmental pollution and the nitrate level in fields fertilised with manure. However, they may also provide a tool to permit biosecurity measures to limit spread of disease.

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(d)2.3.2 Relevant guidelines

measures to prevent incoming infections carried by animals, feed, drinking water, people working at farms

(max. 4000 chars) :

MEASURES FOR PREVENTING INFECTIONS:

Most holdings have pits for the disinfection of the vehicles entering or leaving the premises. In the summer months, the pits dry up very quickly but operators have become much more attentive of this since the start of the SNCP. No farm has separate entrances. It is recommended that as much as possible vehicles should not go into a farm. The use of a pressure-washer for the wheels is highly recommended. The feed is bought fresh from the feed mills, even though there are those farms that also have their own silos. Due to the island's high humidity levels, farmers are not in the habit of storing large quantities of feed to avoid the formation of yeasts and moulds. Feeds are usually kept in their bags within the sheds in a dark, dry corners. Other in-coming vehicles would be from the hatchery and when live pullets are brought in. The larger of the two hatcheries is also the importer of pullets. The farmers have become very conscience of the risk of infection and are really beginning to address the issue of the same vehicle moving amongst different farms.

The water-supply can be direct from the main government supply or from private bore holes. In the latter case, control of the water is purely voluntary; however this is not frequently carried out unless the family uses the water from the bore hole for their own personal use.

A high percentage of farms are small in capacity and are family-run, therefore few people would be responsible for the daily management of the animals. There is no legal obligation for people handling live animals to carry out medical checks. The larger holdings have employees.

Eggs are packed on farm, manually or automatically. The majority of business operators personally distribute the eggs to shops, supermarkets etc.; however there are a few who sell to third parties, who in turn distribute the produce.

(d)2.3.3 Hygiene in transporting animals to and from farms

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(max. 2,000)

hygiene in transporting animals to and from farms

(max. 4000 chars) :

In the layer industry, there is not much less movement of animals. There are no breeder flocks on the Islands and operators do not sell any live animals between themselves. Operators are aware of the risk of spread of infection via vehicles and are careful of disinfecting their own vehicles, especially when going to places where other operators go.

The main source of movement of animals to farms is when day-old chicks and pullets are brought to the farm. The vast majority are supplied by the larger of the two hatcheries and therefore the farmers have become aware of this problem as being a very possible source of infection. The correct use and replenishing of the disinfection pit, combined with the use of pressure-washers for the wheels of the vehicles is being observed.

In Malta spent hens are not yet being slaughtered and utilised by the industry in any way. Spent birds are culled and destroyed. The farmers transport the spent hens to the Thermal facility in approved leak-proof bins.

(d)2.4 Routine veterinary supervision of farms

Routine veterinary supervision of farms

(max. 4000 chars) :

Routine veterinary inspection on farms:

According to national legislation, "The Veterinary Service Act, Chapter 437 of 2001, article 35 (f) states that "the owner, the keeper, the dealer or the importer, the consignee, the carrier, the retailer or any other person authorised under the provisions of this Act shall notify the veterinary services of any suspicion of zoonosis or other diseases or any other phenomenon or circumstances liable to present a serious threat to animal or public health." The Animal Welfare Act 439 regulates welfare issues.

Local farms being generally small in capacity, do not have their own private veterinarian visiting on a regular basis but only in case of necessity. One of the largest local feed mills provides free technical support. A lot of the farmers buying their feed from this feed mill make regular use of the technical personnel. If there is any cause for suspicion, the company's veterinarian is then called out. There is no delegation of official control of poultry in Malta.

Since the SNCP has been implemented, all sampling under the framework of the legislation to date has been carried by the CA. Any official control is carried out by auxiliaries under the supervision of the OV, when the OV cannot perform himself the official control. From the beginning of the programme, the officers conduct an animal welfare check list at least once annually per registered farm. The check-list holds information regarding not only animal welfare issues but also details about biosecurity measures. Every check-list is a control document.

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(max. 100)

(d)2.5 Registration of farms

Registration of farms

(max. 4000 chars) :

There are two LN regulating registration of egg-laying farms.

The Poultry Breeding Stock Regulations LN 50 of 1997 requires that any person breeding any poultry is obliged to hold a licence issued by the CA. The Egg Marking Standard Regulations LN 345/2003, on the other hand require that all eggs sold at retail level, excluding those sold directly to the consumers on farm, have to be marked by a unique identity number. This unique number that is printed on the eggs is correlated with the farms unique registration number. The unique identity mark for eggs is issued by the competent authority, which is the VRD. Therefore all commercial egg-laying farms have to be registered with the CA for such an identity number to be issued. There is only one central CA and there are no regional offices owing to the size of the territory. Each registered farm is given a unique registration number. The registration number is made up of three or four letters and a three digit number. The letters indicate if it is a layer, broiler or mixed farm in Malta or Gozo eg. PLM stands for Poultry layer Malta, PLG - Poultry Layer Gozo while PBLM stands for Poultry Broiler Layer Malta. The licence of the registered farms is renewed annually by the CA. If no rearing was carried out on the farm for a period of 12 months, the licence is not renewed. All data relevant to the licenced egg-laying farms are kept on the Intratrace database of the CA. Details of the individual batch code number, number of different batches of birds, the size and date of hatch of each batch is all kept on the database. The batch code number also identifies if the birds were hatched locally or brought in as day-olds or as point of lay pullets. As detailed in point 2.1, the egg-laying farms are also requested to send two monthly reports to the CA which are kept in the file of each relevant holding.

(d)2.6 Record keeping at farm

Record keeping at farms

(max. 4000 chars) :

The Egg Marketing Standard Regulation LN 345 of 2003 requires the licenced egg-laying business operators to keep a register with certain details regarding the flocks and production. This is tied up to the fact that the competent authority requests that each registered farm submits two monthly reports. One sheet holds all details of the production on farm. This report details the daily production of eggs, number of birds, number of deaths, quantity of feed used. The second report is a sales report were the farmer is

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(max. 2000 chars)

declaring the quantity of eggs sold with proof of fiscal receipts. As stated in the LN, these records are to be kept for three years. To date, the operator kept a book that was hand-filled. The CA has now issued a printed register with all the details that need to be filled in already printed on the top of each page. There is a page per month for a total of three years. This register is numbered. The Veterinary Service Act Cap.437 requires that records of medicinals and vaccination carried out also be kept on farm. When the sampling officers from the CA collect samples the operator signs the sampling record sheet that is then submitted to the laboratory. The results of samples taken under the frame work of the SNCP were being kept at the CA, while the farmers were being informed verbally or by e-mail, when requested. Salmonella results of the SNCP started to be sent to the business operators in the last months of 2010 and on the result sheet the operator is being asked to also keep such results for a period of three years.

(d)2.7 Documents to accompany animals when dispatched

Documents to accompany animals when dispatched

(max. 4000 chars) :

The capacity of local operators is too small and currently no operator holds the licence to rear poultry for breeding purposes. To date there has never been any export of birds or hatching eggs to any EU Member State. however, if the case arises Malta would issue the ITAHC in accordance to EU Directive 90/539/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) 2160/2003 article 9.1.

Issuing of all ITAHC falls under the responsibility of the CA, being the Veterinary Regulation Directorate (VRD) and as stated before, there is only one central office and no district offices. All activities under the responsibility of the CA are carried out at the same premises, with the exception of the BIP..

(d)2.8 Other relevant measures to ensure the traceability of animals

Other relevant measures to ensure the traceability of animals

(max. 4000 chars) :

Local legislation requires that the any company importing hatching eggs or live birds to be sold to commercial flocks is to submit submit a copy of the ITAHC to the poultry section of the CA. In the case of live birds (day-olds or point -to - lay pullets), the importer has to provide the list of farms where the birds were sold. The CA therefore has a record of the origin of hatching eggs and live birds with details of the establishment of origin, date of hatch and quantity. The CA issues a unique batch code number for the batch .The unique batch code no is made up of letters and numbers. The letters would indicate if the batch is point of lay (POL), day-olds (DOL) or hatched locally(PL). Then according to the number of farms

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where the birds are distributed, further numbers are added so that each batch received by an individual farm has a unique batch number that follows the birds till slaughter or culling. The letters and first numbers making up the batch code are tied up to the original batch number of birds hatched locally or imported. The CA issues a movement document for each group of the day-olds and pullets imported, sold to each individual farmer. In the case of imported hatching eggs, the CA issues a "hatch report" for each batch of eggs imported which is given to the hatchery. The hatchery then fills in the information and returns the hatch report to the competent authority once eggs are hatched. This "hatch report" includes, the batch code, the list of farms which are the destination of the chicks and quantities. On the hatch report received, the competent authority then issues a movement document (see attachment) with all relevant details which is given to the individual farm which has received the day-olds. As for the imported birds, a unique batch number is given by the CA to each single group of day-olds sold to each individual farm. This number is written on the movement document together with other details such as origin, date of hatch and quantities. This unique number ensures tracability.

Spent hens are not used by the industry. The spent hens are therefore delivered to the Thermal Facility and recorded in line with procedures laid down for all animal by-products. A document is issued by the Thermal Unit, which includes details of the registered farm delivering the spent hens, unique batch number and the weight of carcasses. A copy of this document is passed on to the competent authority by the farmer, together with the original movement document on which the farmer records the final number of spent hens of that particular batch. The CA then records the date of culling of that particular batch on the Intratrace database.

The farmer is legally obliged to keep all records for three years.

TRACES, also falls under the responsibility of the CA. It is localized at the Border Inspection Post and the authorised officials at the BIP have access to it. The BIP is the only office of the CA localized in a different area. To date, no poultry or hatching eggs have ever been exported.

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max 1200

ANNEX II - PART B

1. Identification of the programme

Disease Zoonotic Salmonella

Species: Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

Request of Community co-financing from : 2011 To

1.1 Contact

Name : Susan Chircop

Phone : 00356: 25905.304

Fax. : 00356.25905173

Email : susan.chircop@gov.mt

2. Historical data on the epidemiological evolution of the disease

A concise description is given with data on the target population (species, number of herds and animals present and under the programme), the main measures (resting, testing and slaughter, testing and culling, qualification of herds and animals). The information is given for distinct periods if the measures were substantially modified. The information is documented by relevant summary epidemiological tables, graphs or maps.

(max. 4000 chars) :

No extensive epidemiological evolution data is available.

The incomplete information available regarding the occurrence of salmonellosis in layer flocks of Gallus gallus dates back to the baseline study carried out within the framework of EU Directive 2003/99 and Council Regulation 2160/2003.

The study was carried out between October 2004 and September 2005. All farms registered and functioning within that period were sampled in accordance to the legislative requirements.

The overall prevalence of Salmonellosis in the national layer farms was of 43.85%. Twenty-five (25) farms resulted positive out of a total of fifty-seven (57) farms. However the isolates were not typed and therefore there was no available information regarding the prevalence values of Salmonella serovars,

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primarily *Salmonella typhimurium* and *Salmonella enteritidis*.

In 2009 the *Salmonella* Control programme on production flocks of laying hens commenced. The programme could only start being implemented in mid-2009, owing to lack of human resources. All farms were tested twice until the end of the year. The overall prevalence of *Salmonellosis* is around 25.6%. *Salmonella kentucky* being by far the most commonly isolated serovar. However by the end of 2009 *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium* was not confirmed. Therefore, for 2009, there were no positive flocks for the targeted serovars. The real prevalence values of the targeted serovars will be known at the end of 2010. Following results to date, it is being assumed that the prevalence value of the targeted serovars would probably oscillate between 15 - 20%. In this case; in accordance to article 1 by the end of 2011, at least a 30% reduction of positive flocks of adult laying hens would be achieved.

3. Description of the submitted programme

A concise description of the programme is given with the main objective(s) (monitoring, control, eradication, qualification of herds and/or regions, reducing prevalence and incidence), the main measures (testing, testing and slaughter, testing and killing, qualification of herds and animals, vaccination), the target animal population and the area(s) of implementation and the definition of a positive case

(max. 4000 chars) :

The main objectives of this programme is to monitor and control all egg-laying flocks of *Gallus gallus* in Malta and Gozo, in accordance to Commission Regulation 2160/2003 for Zoonotic *Salmonella* spp. Flocks found infected with *Salmonella typhimurium* and *Salmonella enteritidis* will be put under restriction until eradicated and their products heat-treated or destroyed to achieve a reduction in the prevalence of these serotypes in the national flock, as indicated in Commission Regulation 1168/2006. The prevalence of *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium* is assumed to oscillate around 20%, therefore in accordance to article 1 by the end of 2011, at least a 30% reduction of positive flocks of adult laying hens would be achieved.

The target population would be all registered egg-laying flocks of *Gallus gallus*.

Malta and Gozo will be considered as one region.

All registered and functioning farms will be tested. There are currently 47 holdings operational farms which are functioning.

Sampling / Testing:

The sampling scheme as elaborated in point d(1.5) includes both the official and operators programme, since as stated before, the CA took over the sampling delegated to the food business operator, as laid down in Commission Regulation 1168/2006. Few business operators have opted to carry out self-sampling and to send samples to other laboratories abroad.

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10/07/2011

The competent authority is also responsible for the national residue plan. If the results are positive to antimicrobial residue analysis; the flock will be considered suspect of infection with *Salmonella enteritidis*/ *Salmonella typhimurium*, and an official investigation will be conducted.

Definition of positive case;

1 Isolation of *Salmonella enteritidis* and / or *Salmonella typhimurium*..

At the beginning of implementation of the SNCP, the CA ran confirmatory sampling according to Part D, art.4 b of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1237/2007. Microbiological analysis was run in parallel with the Public Health Laboratory (National Reference Laboratory for *Salmonella*). This was mainly due to the fact that the NVL is not accredited and the programme had just began. Confirmatory sampling was always carried out in line with the Regulation, never in cases where the flock was suspected as a cause of human cases and respecting the sampling modalities.

2.The flock would be considered infected with targeted serovars, if it concluded that there was use of antimicrobials was used as preventive measure.

Salmonella enteritidis / *S. typhimurium* positive flocks:

Restriction measures (no movement of birds & intensified biosecurity)

Eggs have to be heat-treated or destroyed

Infected flock eventually culled

Restrictions lifted and re-stocking permitted only if environmental tests are negative for Salmonellosis

Compensation : Legal notice to be still issued. However the actual current market price for eggs would not be exceeded.

other *Salmonella* positive herds:

biosecurity measures reviewed.

eggs fit for human consumption

Re-population permitted following negative environmental samples.

Vaccination:

The CA is also responsible of the registration of veterinary drugs and vaccines. Only those live vaccines that can be bacteriologically detected from the live strain, will be permitted to be registered. Vaccination of locally hatched birds will commence by the end of 2010. To date vaccination has not been carried out locally, even because the real prevalence values were not known and those birds vaccinated were imported from other EU countries.

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Article 2.01

4. Measures of the submitted programme

4.1 Summary of measures under the programme

Duration of the programme: 2010 to 2011

First year :

- Control
- Testing
- Slaughter and animals tested positive
- Killing of animals tested positive
- Vaccination
- Treatment of animal products
- Disposal of products
- Monitoring or surveillance

Last year :

- Control/eradication
- Testing
- Slaughter of positive animals
- Killing of animals tested positive
- Extended slaughter or killing
- Disposal of products

Other, please specify

reduction of target according to Commission Regulation

4.2 Designation of the central authority in charge of supervising and coordinating the departments responsible for implementing the programme

Describe the authorities in charge of supervising and coordinating the departments responsible for implementing the programme and the different operators involved. Describe the responsibilities of all involved.

(max. 4000 chars):

The competent authority in charge of supervising and coordinating is the Veterinary Regulation Directorate under the Agriculture and Fisheries Regulation Department which falls under the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs.

The Veterinary Regulation Directorate is made up of three sections:

- A) The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL): responsible for the co-ordination and Implementation of the SNCP.
- B) The Animal Health & Welfare Section: which helps in the co-ordination and provides the sampling staff.
- C) Safety of the Food Chain

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Table 1.2.11

A) The National Veterinary Laboratory:

(i) Senior veterinary officer in charge will be responsible for:

- appropriate training of personnel responsible for collecting the samples
- in charge of supervising that the programme is adhered to and that the samples are collected according to the programme.
- all necessary material needed for sampling eg. Boot swabs, sterile bags, etc are available.
- ensure that samples are analysed in accordance to time frame and methodology as laid down in the programme
- carry out analysis up to isolation and biochemical testing.
- co-ordinate with Public Health Laboratory (NRL) for typing of positive isolates.
- reporting suspect positives / confirmed results to the Animal health section and CVO
- co-ordinate with the Public Health Laboratory (NRL) parallel analysis of suspect samples.
- inform Director of Safety of the Food Chain or Veterinary Officer in charge of white meat slaughterhouse of any infected flocks
- collecting/ filing all relevant data and reporting of results.

B) Animal Health & Welfare Section:

(ii) Senior veterinary support officer in charge of the poultry section will be responsible for:

- co-ordinating sampling team
- making appointments with the farmers and preparing daily sampling schedules
- collaborating with the senior veterinary officer i/c lab
- organizing on farm investigation in cases of suspect/confirmed positive results
- collaborate in census, movement restriction, eradication and disinfection measures
- collaborate in farm investigations in view of repopulation of farm

(iii) Assistant Veterinary Support Officers will be responsible for:

- Ensuring to follow appropriate training
- collecting and transporting samples appropriately
- deliver samples within 24 hours from collection to the laboratory
- ensure that accompanying documents are filled appropriately

(iv) Veterinary Officer responsible for by-products:

- is responsible of ensuring that biosecurity measures and provisions in Council Regulation 1174/2002 are adhered to during disposal of carcasses and products.

(v) Animal welfare officer:

- responsible for ensuring that animal welfare provisions are respected during killing on farm.

C) Section for Safety of the Food Chain

(vi) Director is responsible for:

- informing the national contact person for the rapid alert system when necessary.

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Chief Veterinary Officer

Following recommendations from senior veterinary officer i/c lab:

- Responsible for issuing restriction movement documents
- issuing of documentation for lifting restriction measures on a farm and /or permitting repopulation.

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

Describe the name and denomination, the administrative boundaries, and the surface of the administrative and geographical areas in which the programme is to be applied. Illustrate with maps.

(max. 4000 chars):

The Islands of Malta and Gozo are covered by this programme and are considered as one region. The CA administers the whole region.

Malta is approximately 360Km² being the larger of the two Islands. Gozo lies north of Malta and is much smaller, at less than half Malta's surface area.

4.4 Measures implemented under the programme

Where appropriate Community legislation is mentioned. Otherwise the national legislation is mentioned.

4.4.1 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the registration of holdings

(max. 4000 chars):

The Egg marketing Standard regulations LN 345 of 2003 under Chapter 427 The Product Safety Act.
Refer to Part A point 2.5

4.4.2 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the identification of animals

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(max. 4000 chars)

Not applicable for poultry

(max. 4000 chars):

N/A

4.4.3 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the notification of the disease

(max. 4000 chars):

The Veterinary Services Act, Chapter 437, art 35.1(f) provides for the obligation of notification of any suspicion of zoonosis or other disease or any other phenomenon or circumstances liable to present a serious threat to animal or public health.

4.4.4 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the measures in case of a positive result

A short description is provided of the measures as regards positive animals (slaughter, destination of carcasses, use or treatment of animal products, the destruction of all products which could transmit the disease or the treatment of such products to avoid any possible contamination, a procedure for the disinfection of infected holdings, a procedure for the restocking with healthy animals of holdings which have been depopulated by slaughter

(max. 4000 chars):

The provisions of the implementing legislation, Commission Regulation (EC) no: 1168/2006, in particular paragraph 1 and 2 (frequency and status of sampling) of the Annex will be observed, as explained previously. However, owing to the particular situation in Malta, very few farmers carry out self-checks. The CA carries out all status of sampling as detailed in paragraph 2.1 of the Annex.

The provisions on confirmatory sampling according to Annex 1 Part D, art.4 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1237/2007 will be implemented. As already explained in Part A, point 3, confirmatory sampling was carried out in parallel with the Public Health Laboratory (NRL for Salmonella) in the beginning of implementation of the SNCP. Now that the programme is well underway, successful ring trials have been conducted and accreditation procedures are being pushed forward, confirmatory sampling will be implemented according to provisions of CR (EC) no. 1237/2007 to exclude false-positive results. The provisions in paragraph 4 of the annex ((results and reporting) are implemented. Reporting will be done of the flock numbers of the different status of sampling.

SALMONELLA ENTERITIDIS AND SALMONELLA TYPHIMURIUM POSITIVE FLOCKS:

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(max. 2.00)

Restrictive/preventive measures will apply immediately on positive flocks, even when self-checks result positive.

- The owner of the infected holding or the owner's representative will be served with an official notice in writing issued by the CVO. The operator has 24 hours to communicate his decision, whether to cull infected flocks immediately or heat-treat eggs abroad for a certain period of time. Restrictions measures will apply with immediate effect. There is to be no movement of animals. The control of vehicles and strengthening of biosecurity measures is important of prevent spread of infection.

The valuation of the animals on the holding will be carried out before they are killed. Mobile enclosed trailers or containers can be transported on site. Killing of the birds will be supervised by officials from the CA and the OV responsible for animal welfare has to ensure that welfare provisions are respected. All personnel involved in culling are required to wear protective clothing, gloves and nose/mouth masks.

- the carcasses and / or eggs will be disposed of through incineration at the Thermal Unit. There is only one public incinerator which falls under the administration of the Waste Serv. Ltd, which falls under the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs. The carcasses have to be transported in leak-proof containers supplied by Waste Serv and transported drip-proof in vehicles that must be disinfected externally before leaving the holding. Officials from the competent authority have to supervise the arrival of the containers and keep records of the weight

- Class B eggs have to be sent abroad for heat-treatment or destroyed. Eggs are stored on the premises and CA officials carry out practically daily census to verify amounts.

- Feeds will also be considered contaminated and once the flock is culled, any remaining feed has to be destroyed.

Cleaning and disinfection commences as soon as the animals have been killed and removed from the shed. Detailed procedures have been laid down in the guidelines distributed. Attention should be given to areas and equipment difficult to reach. Fans, drains, slats etc should not be neglected. After thorough cleaning (steam cleaning is recommended) fumigation is carried out.

- Environmental samples are taken and re-population will be permitted and all restriction bans lifted when there is a negative result to isolation of salmonella spp.

4.4.5 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the different qualifications of animals and herds

(max. 4000 chars):

Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1168/2006 and Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1237/2007 are directly applicable.

A.) *Salmonella enteritidis* or *salmonella typhimurium* infected flock:

1 Isolation of *Salmonella enteritidis* or *Salmonella typhimurium* from one of the samples taken from that

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Annex 1.2.10

flock

2. The flock would be considered infected with targeted serovars, if it concluded that there was use of antimicrobials was used as preventive measure and no *Salmonella* spp. isolated from samples taken from that flock.

B.) Flock considered not infected by targeted serovars.

1. Flocks whereby no *salmonella* spp. isolated from all samples taken from the flock.

2. *Salmonella* spp. isolated from one or more of the samples taken from that flock but not *salmonella enteritidis* or *Salmonella typhimurium*.

3. Confirmatory sampling on a flock in accordance to CR 1237/2007 resulted in no isolation of *Salmonella enteritidis* or *salmonella typhimurium*.

4.4.6 Control procedures and in particular rules on the movement of animals liable to be affected or contaminated by a given disease and the regular inspection of the holdings or areas concerned

A short description of the control procedures and in particular rules on the movement of animals liable to be affected or contaminated by a given disease and the regular inspection of the holdings or areas is provided

(max. 4000 chars):

Control procedures.

When restriction measures are applicable to a holding:

- The official i/c poultry together with veterinary support officer/s from the poultry section of animal health will carry out an investigation on the farm and conduct a census to verify and update information held on the database of the CA regarding the different batches of birds present on the premises and the quantities of birds.

- No eggs, poultry carcasses, animal feed, material or waste may leave the holding without a written authorisation issued by an official veterinarian.

A census is carried out practically daily of the quantity of Class B eggs stored on the premises. These eggs may be destined for destruction or heat-treatment.

- Persons not directly involved in taking care of the animals are not permitted to enter buildings where infected flocks are kept.

- Appropriate means of disinfection, using a disinfectant officially approved as effective against *Salmonella* spp., is to be used at the entrances and exits of the building housing poultry and of the holding itself.

- Vehicles and equipment used for transport of animals or products have to be cleaned and disinfected with an officially approved disinfectant effective against *Salmonella* spp. immediately after the

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(max. 200)

movement.

Disposal of manure from infected flock is carried out through incineration.

When different flocks on the same holding are not infected, an intense and rigid application of biosecurity measures must be implemented.

Such as: different clothing, foot baths and separate water and feed systems .

Sampling of these flocks is carried out at a maximum of an eight -week interval, to ensure free-status from infection of the targeted serovars.

4.4.7 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the control (testing, vaccination, ...) of the disease

(max. 4000 chars):

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 on the requirements for use of antimicrobials and vaccines in control programmes for poultry is directly applicable and is implemented.

Use of antimicrobials is not permitted as a preventive measure in controlling Salmonella infection. A sample for antimicrobial testing is lifted during every sampling session. One hen is taken from one of the flocks on the premises, chosen at random and tested at the NVL for presence of antimicrobial agents. A screening test is run using the six-plate test.

In 2009, no flocks were found to be infected with the targeted serovars, however in 2010 flocks were found to be positive. The CA has authorised the use of live vaccines that can be distinguished from the wild strain. By the end of 2010, vaccination on local flocks will start to be carried out. Previously vaccination against salmonella was not conducted. If prevalence values of over 10% of targeted serovars will be confirmed by the end of 2010, in accordance to current results, vaccination will become mandatory. According to local legislation, vaccines are prescription drugs.

The use of vaccines administered will be integrated into the Intratrace database of the CA. This database is managed by the Animal Health Section of the Veterinary Regulation Directorate. In accordance to local legislation the farmers are obliged to keep records of vaccination programmes.

Three courses of live vaccines will be given per flock .The first dose as day-olds, the second around 6 weeks and the third between 12-13 weeks of age.

The CALCULATION OF VACCINES to be used is based on the number of imported hatching eggs and day-olds. Considering that vaccination will most probably be mandatory, and there would be a loss of 20% of hatching eggs. There is the tendency that smaller farms will probably close due to the economic burden of the SNCP and welfare issues. It is therefore being estimated that in 2011, around 150,000 birds will be vaccinated three times.

4.4.8 Measures and applicable legislation as regards the compensation for owners of slaughtered and killed animals

(max. 4000 chars):

A Legal notice is soon to be in force under the Veterinary Services Act Chapter 437: titled "Measures for the Eradication of Salmonella Regulations, 2010" (see attachment)

A National Legal Notice is soon to be issued regarding compensation rates to be applied to the poultry flocks under the Salmonella Control programmes.

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(max. 4000 chars)

The valuation of birds will be calculated by the CA, in accordance to details listed in the Legal Notice. However, since compensation is not to exceed the current market value this can vary and that is why exact figures are not detailed in the legal notice since it takes too long to issue any changes. Notices with the precise figures can be issued under the LN, when it is in force. These notices can be issued in shorter time-frames to account for changes in the market value. To date a scale of compensation for birds is not yet publicly available.

4.4.9 Information and assessment on bio-security measures management and infrastructure in place in the flocks/holdings involved

(max. 4000 chars)

The Community guidelines are not available on line but the guidelines for laying hens was distributed to the farmers at a seminar held in May 2010. This seminar was held to explain the relative legislation and hygiene practices on farm. A concise and illustrated version is being compiled for clarity and easy reference. A DVD is also being produced. A veterinarian employed on contract with the Ministry has been carrying out on site-visits on all poultry farms in order to explain clearly and individually biosecurity measures and improvements each farmer can implement.

OV's and auxiliaries carrying out any official controls, make use of checklists in accordance to the requirements of Council regulation (EC) no: 882/2004

CA officials carry out a checklist for animal welfare issues annually on all registered farms. Biosecurity measures has also been integrated in this checklist. When a farm is found to be infected with one of the targeted serovars, the OV or auxiliary staff carry out a census on farm and also verify biosecurity measures. The result of such verification is not only important in prevention of spreading of disease but also affects compensation.

5. General description of the costs and benefits of the programme

A description is provided of all costs for the authorities and society and the benefits for farmers and society in general

(max. 4000 chars)

The poultry industry is quite heavily burdened by analysis. In consideration that most holdings are made up of a number of small houses, the number of samples collected will be greater than a larger farm with one or few houses having a much larger capacity. Therefore even though locally holdings are small the economic impact of analysis is greater felt. The cost of analysis for the size of the local production is disproportionate. The smaller farms are already being discouraged, even because they are currently faced with having to upgrade to an enriched cage system. Eventually, in the long run, for the larger holdings that are able to take on the economic impact of the SNCP and also current welfare issues; the farmer will benefit from a reduction in costs of medicinals and farm management. They will see an increase in production and financial return also from the overall positive impact consumer confidence in local produce.

The costs on the authorities, apart from the sampling and testing, there is also increase in waste material.

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Annex 1.2.01

The benefits will be felt from the food safety with a reduction in the number of human cases.

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6. Data on the epidemiological evolution during the last five years

The data on the evolution of zoonotic salmonellosis are provided according to the tables where appropriate

6.1 Evolution of the zoonotic salmonellosis

6.1.1 Data on evolution of zoonotic salmonellosis for year: 2009

Region	Type of flock	Total number of flocks of (a)	Total number of animals under the programme	Total number of flocks under the programme	Total number of animals under the programme	Number of flocks of positive (c)	Serotype	Number of flocks depopulated	Total number of animals slaughtered or destroyed	kg/number (eggs destroyed)	Quantity of channelled to egg product	kg/number (eggs destroyed product)
Malta / Gozo	Laying flocks of C	102	283666	102	283666	0	salmonella enteritidis or	0	0	0	0	0
Total		102	283666	102	283666	0		0	0	0	0	0

(a) Including eligible and non eligible flocks for the programme

(b) Check means to perform a flock level test under the programme for the presence of salmonella. In this column a flock must not be counted twice even if it has been checked more than one.

(c) If a flock has been checked, in accordance with footnote (b), more than once, a positive sample must be taken into account only once.

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

6.1.1 Data on evolution of zoonotic salmonellosis for year: **2008**

Region	Type of flock	Total number of flocks of (a)	Total number of animals under the programme	Total number of flocks checked (b)	Serotype	Number of positive flocks (c)	Number of flocks depopulated or destroyed	kg/ number of eggs destroyed	kg/ number of eggs channelled to egg product	Quantity of eggs channelled to egg product
Malta/Gozo	Laying flocks of C	0	0	0	salmonella enteritidis or	0	0	0	0	0
Total		0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0

(a) Including eligible and non eligible flocks for the programme

(b) Check means to perform a flock level test under the programme for the presence of salmonella. In this column a flock must not be counted twice even if it has been checked more than one.

(c) If a flock has been checked, in accordance with footnote (b), more than once, a positive sample must be taken into account only once.

6.1.1 Data on evolution of zoonotic salmonellosis for year: **2007**

Region	Type of flock	Total number of flocks of (a)	Total number of animals under the programme	Total number of flocks checked (b)	Serotype	Number of positive flocks (c)	Number of flocks depopulated or destroyed	kg/ number of eggs destroyed	kg/ number of eggs channelled to egg product	Quantity of eggs channelled to egg product
Malta/Gozo	Laying flocks of C	0	0	0	salmonella enteritidis or	0	0	0	0	0
Total		0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

Total						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ADIBAN NEWS																				

(a) Including eligible and non eligible flocks for the programme

(b) Check means to perform a flock level test under the programme for the presence of salmonella. In this column a flock must not be counted twice even if it has been checked more than one.

(c) If a flock has been checked, in accordance with footnote (b), more than once, a positive sample must be taken into account only once.

6.1.1 Data on evolution of zoonotic salmonellosis for year: 2006

Region	Type of flock	Total number of flocks of (a)	Total number of animals (a)	Total number of flocks under the programme (b)	Total number of animals under the programme (b)	Number of flocks checked (c)	Number of animals checked (c)	Serotype	Number of positive flocks (d)	Number of animals destroyed (e)	Number of eggs destroyed (e)	Quantity of channelled to egg product (e)	Total number of animals slaughtered or destroyed (e)	kg/ number (e)	Quantity of eggs (e)				
Malla/Gozo	Laying flocks of C	0	0	0	0	0	0	salmonella enteritidis or	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X			
Total		0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
ADIBAN NEWS																			

(a) Including eligible and non eligible flocks for the programme

(b) Check means to perform a flock level test under the programme for the presence of salmonella. In this column a flock must not be counted twice even if it has been checked more than one.

(c) If a flock has been checked, in accordance with footnote (b), more than once, a positive sample must be taken into account only once.

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

Annex 1.1.1

6.1.1 Data on evolution of zoonotic salmonellosis for year: **2005**

Region	Type of flock	Total number of flocks of (a)	Total number of animals under the programme	Total number of flocks under the programme	Total number of animals under the programme	Number of flocks checked (b)	Serotype	Number of positive flocks (c)	Number of flocks decapitated	Total number of animals slaughtered or destroyed	kg/number of eggs destroyed	kg/number of eggs to egg product	Quantity of eggs charnelled
Malta/Gozo	Laying flocks of C	57	407,662	57	407,662	57	Salmonella spp.	25	0	0	0	0	0
Total		57	0	57	0	57		25	0	0	0	0	0

(a) Including eligible and non-eligible flocks for the programme

(b) Check means to perform a flock level test under the programme for the presence of salmonella. In this column a flock must not be counted twice even if it has been checked more than once.

(c) If a flock has been checked, in accordance with footnote (b), more than once, a positive sample must be taken into account only once.

6.2 Stratified data on surveillance and laboratory tests

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

6.2.1 Stratified data on surveillance and laboratory tests for year : 2009

Region	Test Type	Test Description	Number of samples tested	Number of positive samples
Malta/Gozo	microbiological test	faecal	83	0 X
Malta/Gozo	microbiological test	dust-	66	0 X
Malta/Gozo	serological test	Typing	39	0 X
Malta/Gozo	other test	antimicrobial residue test	39	0 X
Malta/Gozo	microbiological test	eggs - official	200	0 X
			429	0
			2009	ADDA NEW ROW

6.2.1 Stratified data on surveillance and laboratory tests for year :

Region	Test Type	Test Description	Number of samples tested	Number of positive samples
Malta/Gozo	microbiological test	0	0	0 X
Total			0	0
			ADDA NEW ROW	

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

6.2.1 Stratified data on surveillance and laboratory tests for year : 2007

Region	Test Type	Test Description	Number of samples tested	Number of positive samples
Malta/Gozo	microbiological test	0	0	0 X
Total			0	0
			ADD A NEW ROW	

6.2.1 Stratified data on surveillance and laboratory tests for year : 2006

Region	Test Type	Test Description	Number of samples tested	Number of positive samples
Malta/Gozo	microbiological test	0	0	0 X
Total			0	0
			ADD A NEW ROW	

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

6.2.1 Stratified data on surveillance and laboratory tests for year : **2005**

Region	Test Type	Test Description	Number of samples tested	Number of positive samples
malta/Gozo	microbiological test		0	0
Total			0	0
			ABDIA NEW ROW	

6.3 Data on infection for year : **2009**

Region	Number of heads infected	Number of animals infected
Malta/Gozo	0	0
Total	0	0
		ABDIA NEW ROW

6.3 Data on infection for year : **2008**

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

Region	Number of herds infected	Number of animals infected
Malta/Gozo	0	0
Total	0	0
Add a new row		

6.3 Data on infection for year: 2007

Region	Number of herds infected	Number of animals infected
Malta/Gozo	0	0
Total	0	0
Add a new row		

6.3 Data on infection for year: 2006

Region	Number of herds infected	Number of animals infected
Malta/Gozo	0	0
Total	0	0
Add a new row		

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

6.3 Data on infection for year: 2005

Region	Number of herds infected	Number of animals infected
Malta/Gozo	0	0
Total	0	0
		Add a new row

6.4 Data on vaccination or treatment programmes for year: 2009

Region	Total number of herds	Total number of animals	Number of herds in vaccination or treatment programme	Number of herds vaccinated or treated	Number of animals vaccinated or treated	Number of doses of vaccine or treatment administered
Malta/Gozo	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0
						Add a new row

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

6.4 Data on vaccination or treatment programmes for year: 2008

Region	Total number of herds	Total number of animals	Number of herds in vaccination or treatment programme	Number of herds vaccinated or treated	Number of animals vaccinated or treated	Number of doses of vaccine or treatment administered
Malta/Gozo	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0
						Add a new row

6.4 Data on vaccination or treatment programmes for year: 2007

Region	Total number of herds	Total number of animals	Number of herds in vaccination or treatment programme	Number of herds vaccinated or treated	Number of animals vaccinated or treated	Number of doses of vaccine or treatment administered
Malta/Gozo	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0
						Add a new row

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

6.4 Data on vaccination or treatment programmes for year: 2006

Region	Total number of herds	Total number of animals	Number of herds in vaccination or treatment programme	Number of herds vaccinated or treated	Number of animals vaccinated or treated	Number of doses of vaccine or treatment administered
Malta/Gozo	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0
						Add a new row

6.4 Data on vaccination or treatment programmes for year: 2005

Region	Total number of herds	Total number of animals	Number of herds in vaccination or treatment programme	Number of herds vaccinated or treated	Number of animals vaccinated or treated	Number of doses of vaccine or treatment administered
Malta/Gozo	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0
						Add a new row

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

Annex 1.1.1.1

7. Targets

7.1 Targets related to testing (one table for each year of implementation)

The blocks 7.1.1, 7.1.2.1, 7.1.2.2, 7.2, 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 are repeated multiple times corresponding to the number of years you selected in 1) Request of Community co-financing from/to.

7.1.1 Targets on diagnostic tests for year: 2011

Region	Type of the test (description)	Target population (categories and species targeted)	Type of sample	Objective	Number of planned tests
Malta/Gozo	microbiology	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	Faeces and dust	surveillance	350
Malta/Gozo	serology	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	isolate	surveillance	40
Malta/Gozo	antibiotic residue analysis test	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	muscle	surveillance	45
Total					435
Add a new row					

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

7.1.2 Targets on testing of flocks for year: **2011**

Region	Type of flock	Total number of flocks of (a)	Total number of animals of	Total number of flocks/ herds under the programme	Total number of animals under the programme	Number of flocks checked (b)	Serotype	Number of positive flocks (c)	Number of flocks depopulated	Total number of animals slaughtered or destroyed	kg number (eggs destroyed)	Quantity of eggs destroyed	kg/ number (eggs channelled to egg product)	Quantity of eggs channelled to egg product
MaliatGozo	Laying flocks of	102	238566	102	238566	102	salmonella enteritidis	16	12	70030	number	200000	number	1406000
Total		102	238 566	102	238 566	102		16	12	70 000		102		

(a) Including eligible and non eligible flocks for the programme

(b) Check means to perform a flock level test under the programme for the presence of salmonella. In this column a flock must not be counted twice even if it has been checked more than one.

(c) If a flock has been checked, in accordance with footnote (b), more than once, a positive sample must be taken into account only once.

7.2 Targets on vaccination or treatment

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

7.2.1 Targets on vaccination or treatment for year: 2011

Targets on vaccination or treatment programme							
NUTS Region	Total number of herds in vaccination or treatment programme	Total number of animals in vaccination or treatment programme	Number of herds or flocks in vaccination or treatment programme	Number of herds or flocks expected to be vaccinated or treated	Number of animals expected to be vaccinated or treated	Number of doses of vaccine or treatment expected to be administered	
Malta/Gozo	100	238 000	100	60	150 000	450 000	
Total	100	238 000	100	60	150 000	450 000	
					Additional row		

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

8. Detailed analysis of the cost of the programme for year: 2011

Block 8 is repeated multiple times corresponding to the number of years you selected in 1) Request of Community co-financing from/to

Specification	Cost related to	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Community funding requested
microbiology	Cost of analysis	350	35	12250	yes
serology	Cost of analysis	40	30	1200	yes
antibiotic residue test	Cost of analysis	45	6	270	yes
Add a new row					
Specification	Cost related to	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Community funding requested
vaccination	Purchase of vaccine/treatment of animal products	450 000	0.08	36000	yes
Add a new row					
Specification	Cost related to	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Community funding requested
destruction of eggs	Destruction costs	200 000	0.09	19000	yes
heat-treatment of eggs	Costs from treatment of animal products (milk, eggs...)	1 400 000	0.04	56000	yes

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

Cost related to	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Community funding requested
compensation of animals	70 000	3	210 000	yes
Add a new row				
Specification				
After culling of infected flock	12	150	1800	yes
Add a new row				
Specification				
laboratory staff	2	14800	29200	yes
Add a new row				
Specification				
included writings	0	0	0	no
Add a new row				
Specification				
Transport of eggs to be destroyed	200 000	0,07	4000	yes
Add a new row				
Total	2 320 440		369 720	

Standard requirement for the submission of programme for eradication, control and monitoring

2019-09-11 11:11

Attachments

IMPORTANT :

- 1) The more files you attach, the longer it takes to upload them .
- 2) This attachment files should have one of the format listed here : [zip](#).
- 3) The total file size of the attached files should not exceed 2 500Kb (+- 2.5 Mb). You will receive a message while attaching when you try to load too much.
- 4) IT CAN TAKE **SEVERAL MINUTES TO UPLOAD ALL THE ATTACHED FILES**. Don't interrupt the uploading by closing the pdf and wait until you have received a Submission Number!

Attachment reference	a_1272633092101
Attachment reference	a_1272633209838
Attachment reference	a_1272633220573
Attachment reference	a_1272633227042
Attachment reference	a_1286799552353



*Taqsimta ta' Regolament Veterinarju,
Konservazzjoni u Kontroll tas-Sajd*

*Veterinary Regulation, Fisheries
Conservation & Control Division*

Authority to Purchase Chicks

Reference: [AuthNo]

Date of issue: [Date of Issue]

[Producer Name] is granted authority to purchase [Number] [Sex] chicks on [Date from] and up to 15 days after, and must be kept at:

Premises code: [Premises Code]

[PremAddr]

& [PremAddr]

& [PremAddr]

The birds may not be moved from the above premises, except for immediate slaughter, without written permission from the Director General of the Veterinary Affairs Division.

This authority may be revoked at any time, and is subject to the number of [Sex] chickens kept at the premises never exceeding the authorised capacity of _____ birds.

Signature of issuing officer:

Signature of producer:

.....
f/ Dr. Anthony Gruppeta

Director General VRFCC



Layer Chicks

Batch code: Batch ID in Full

Supplier: Hatchery Name

Batch size: [Batch Size] chicks

Arrival date: [Date of Delivery]

Producer: [Producer Name & Address]

License No. - [Premises Code]

➤ Total Mortality: _____

➤ Date of Slaughter: _____

➤ No. of spent hens sold / discarded: _____

➤ Proof of slaughter / dumping: _____

➤ Processing Plant No. / Dumping Site: _____

Nota: Importanti hafna li din il-karta tigi rritornata fl-ufficju l-Biccerija fl-ahhar tal-produzzjoni, wara li jinqatlu jew jintremew it-tigieg, flimkien ma' kopja tal-prova tal-qatta fil-biccerija jew il-karta tal-mizbla.

Dr. Anthony Gruppetta

Director General VRFCC

Producer