



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

04 - Veterinary control programmes

Working document
SANCO/10257/2008

REPORT OF THE
"FOODBORNE ZONOSSES –SALMONELLOSIS"
SUB-GROUP TASK FORCE
The Kick off meeting held in Vienna
Austria
20-21 September 2007

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF SALMONELLA SUB-GROUP OF THE TASK FORCE FOR
MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION HELD IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA , 20-21 SEPTEMBER
2007**

Participants: see Annex I

Agenda: see Annex II

Introduction

The following is a short summary of the various informative presentations given during the kick off meeting of the salmonella subgroup. Altogether an overview of the background and the most important aspects of the control programme for zoonotic salmonellosis in breeding flocks of poultry were presented by experts from Denmark, Italy and from the United Kingdom as well as more detailed presentations on the situation in Slovak Republic and in Austria.

Scope

The Vienna meeting was the kick off for a planned series of meetings with the scope of examining national Salmonella control programs for poultry in EU Member states in order to share experiences, identify common obstacles as regards the implementation of programs, and to identify areas where further work and solutions would be needed.

The meeting encompassed the following subject presentations from Member States.

- The Austrian Salmonella control program – C. Kostenzer/AT
- The Slovak Salmonella control program – S. Samajdakova/SK
- The Italian situation of Salmonellosis – A. Ricci/IT
- The Danish situation of Salmonellosis – M. Madsen/DK
- Organization of vaccination in the UK – R. Davies/UK

The meeting also included discussion sessions after each presentation, plus a final discussion with common conclusions and recommendations from the meeting, see Annex II Agenda.

Conclusions and recommendations of the subgroup

During the meeting a number of issues of common interest were raised and discussed, as regards obstacles to successful implementation of Salmonella control programmes in poultry. These issues will be discussed in future meetings of the subgroup, integrating the experiences from the implementation of control programmes of more Member states. However, conclusions and recommendations from the subgroup's kick-off meeting in Vienna were:

- Biosecurity measures: Biosecurity measures and standards vary between Member states, as existing regulations are not specific on standards for biosecurity. The subgroup recommends, that standards for biosecurity measures at poultry holdings should be harmonised in order to facilitate intra-community trade.
- Exchange of national experiences: The apparent value of the subgroup activities is the sharing of common problems and solutions encountered in implementing national

control programmes. The subgroup recommends that an exchange programme should be established in order to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experiences of implementing national control programmes, on a bilateral basis between Member states.

- Compensation models: In the Member states the implementation of control programmes may be accompanied by various degrees of compensation to farmers when removing infected stock. The subgroup agrees that compensation is important in order to keep farmers and companies motivated, and recommends that the subgroup in its future work continues to collect information on compensation models and strategies in national control programs.
- Vaccination experiences: Most Member states control programmes include the use of vaccination in order to reduce Salmonella prevalence. Although there is general evidence for the benefits of using vaccination as a control measure, the effects are not well documented, and the subgroup will continue to collect information from national programmes in order to better document the effects of vaccination.
- Logistics and data reporting: Depending on the size, infrastructure and poultry population in the Member state different set-ups for the logistics of national control programmes have been established. Most programs include a solution with a central database for the reporting of test results, and communication to holdings and local authorities. The subgroup acknowledges that various solutions to this exist, and will continue to use the subgroup meetings for exchange of information on this matter for mutual benefit among participants.
- Cleaning-up infected premises: One of the most difficult tasks in a control programme is the cleaning-up and disinfection of Salmonella infected premises, in order to allow the holding to get back into production. There is a need for a common 'tool box' or best practice for this procedure, and the subgroup recommends that work within the subgroup continues to collect experiences from member state programmes in order to provide precise guidelines or advice for infected premises.
- Imports of Day-Old Chicks (DOCs): Not all Member states have a national production of breeding stock, thus some rely on import of DOCs for the maintenance of the national poultry population. The subgroup feels that import constitutes a possible weakness as to the progress of national programmes, and will look into this aspect in future meetings.
- Antibiotic treatment: Antibiotic treatment of poultry flocks included in a national programme is restricted to treatment of diseased animals. However, experiences discussed in the subgroup indicate that this restriction is monitored with different strengths in different Member states. The subgroup recommends that this issue should be looked further into, possibly by changing existing regulations into more specific monitoring measures for antibiotic usage in poultry flocks.
- Hatchery monitoring: At present, Salmonella monitoring of breeding flocks may be carried out at flock or at hatchery level. The monitoring at hatchery is more convenient in daily operations, but creates problems of back-tracing to the individual flocks when positive samples are found at the hatchery. The subgroup recommends that the present model of breeders' monitoring should be looked into, with the ultimate purpose of harmonising monitoring procedures (instead of having a choice between flock or hatchery monitoring).

Finally, the subgroup wishes to thank the Austrian hosts for the informative discussions and wish them every success with the progress of the control programme.

Annex I

Participants:

Participants:

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Hosts

Representatives from the Austrian Ministry of Health and Woman

ANNEX II

AGENDA

20 September 2007 – Day 1

Time	Item	Speaker
11:00-11:40	Introduction + group discussions on the aim of the Task Force meeting on foodborne zoonoses – subgroup salmonella	Commission – Sarolta Idei + Discussions with Task Force salmonella subgroup Delegates from AT, DE, DK, IT, SK, UK
11:40-12:40	Presentation on the Austrian salmonella control programme in breeding flocks of <i>Gallus gallus</i> followed by discussions	Host – Klaus Kostenzer
12:40	Lunch break	
14:20	Presentation on the salmonella control programme in breeding flocks of <i>Gallus gallus</i> in the Slovak Republic followed by discussions	Sylvia Samajdakova
15:30	General discussion on recommendations for further cooperation	Task Force subgroup salmonella
17:00	Closing of day 1	

21 September 2007 – Day 2

Time	Item	Speaker
9:00 – 10:00	Organization of vaccination on salmonella in poultry in the UK Control of efficiency of the vaccination followed by discussions	Rob Davies
10:00 11:00	Situation of salmonellosis in Italy followed by discussions	Antonia Ricci
11:00	Coffee break	
11:15-12:15	Situation of salmonellosis in Denmark followed by discussions	Mogens Madsens
12:15-13:00	Discussions on presentations of the morning session	Task Force subgroup salmonella
13:00	Lunch	
14:30	Discussions on the draft report to the Plenary meeting Recommendations	Task Force subgroup salmonella
15:30	Coffee break	
15:45-16:45	Conclusions	Task Force Secretariat