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FINAL REPORT OF AN AUDIT

CARRIED OUT IN

HUNGARY

FROM 21 TO 30 JANUARY 2014

IN ORDER TO EVALUATE THE SALMONELLA NATIONAL CONTROL PROGRAMMES
FOR PARTICULAR POULTRY POPULATIONS (BREEDERS, LAYING HENS, BROILERS
AND TURKEYS)

Executive Summary

This report describes the outcome of an audit carried out by the Food and Veterinary Office in Hungary, from 21 to 30 January 2014.

The objective of the current audit was to evaluate the actions taken by the Hungarian competent authorities in order to control Salmonella, in particular the implementation of the Salmonella National Control Programmes in the different poultry populations.

The report concludes that the Salmonella National Control Programmes are implemented in Hungary and cover all poultry populations. Improvements have been made by the Hungarian competent authorities in implementing the programmes in poultry since the previous Food and Veterinary Office audit on the same theme. These improvements are evidenced by the significant decrease in Salmonella prevalence and the meeting of European Union targets for each of the relevant poultry populations.

However some deficiencies in the implementation of the programmes still need to be addressed, in particular as regards, recognising, recording and evaluating deficiencies, official and own-check sampling, measures taken once eggs are suspected of being infected with Salmonella serotypes and compliance of laboratories involved with programme requirements.

The report addresses to the Hungarian competent authorities a number of recommendations aimed at rectifying identified shortcomings and enhancing the control system in place.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

Abbreviation	Explanation
CA	Competent Authority
CCA	Central Competent Authority
CGO	County Government Office
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EU	European Union
FBO	Food Business Operator
FCI	Food Chain Information
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
NRL	National Reference laboratory
OV	Official Veterinarian
PT	Proficiency test
SE	<i>Salmonella Enteritidis</i>
SNCP	<i>Salmonella</i> National Control Programme
ST	<i>Salmonella Typhimurium</i>

1 INTRODUCTION

The audit took place in Hungary from 21 to 30 January 2014 and was undertaken as part of the Food and Veterinary Office's (FVO) planned audit programme.

The audit team comprised two inspectors from the FVO. Representatives from the competent authorities (CAs) accompanied the audit team during the whole audit.

An opening meeting was held on 21 January 2014 with the Central CA (CCA). At this meeting the audit team confirmed the objectives of, and itinerary for the audit, and requested additional information required for its satisfactory completion.

2 OBJECTIVES

The objective of the audit was to evaluate the actions taken by the Hungarian CAs in order to control *Salmonella* in poultry, in particular their implementation of the *Salmonella* National Control Programmes (SNCPs) for different poultry populations.

In order to achieve this objective the audit team evaluated the organisation of the CAs and their capacity for implementing the relevant European Union (EU) requirements.

The table below lists the sites visited and the meetings held in order to achieve the above objective:

Competent Authorities		
Central	1	Opening and closing meeting
County	1	
District	3	
Laboratories		
Official laboratory	1	This laboratory also tests Food Business Operators' (FBOs) own-check samples
Primary production		
Breeding farms (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	2	
Laying hen farms	2	
Broiler farms	1	
Turkey breeding farm	1	
Turkey fattening farm	1	

3 LEGAL BASIS

The audit was carried out under the general provisions of EU legislation and, in particular:

- Article 45 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules;
- Article 17 of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the control of *Salmonella* and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents.

Full references to EU legal instruments quoted in this report are provided in Annex 1 and refer, where applicable, to the last amended version.

4 BACKGROUND

The most recent poultry sector audit covering *Salmonella* to Hungary prior to the current one, took place in 2010. The report of the 2010 audit (DG(SANCO) 2010-8481 - MR FINAL) is available on the EU website at: http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ir_search_en.cfm.

The report of the audit noted weaknesses concerning biosecurity in farms, confirmatory sampling and monitoring of sampling by the CA. Written guarantees have been received from the CA in relation to the implementation of recommendations intended to address these weaknesses.

In Hungary, according to the CCA, there are currently 1,422 breeding *Gallus gallus* flocks, 724 flocks of laying hens, 5,540 broiler flocks, 150 breeding turkey flocks and 2,702 turkey fattener flocks subject to SNCPs.

According to the CCA the latest known infection prevalences in 2012 were as follows:

- Breeding hens: 0.81 % (EU average is 0.6%)
- Laying hens: 1.77 % (EU average is 1.5%)
- Broilers: 0.38 % (EU average is 0.3%)
- Breeding turkeys: 0.0 % (EU average is 0.2%)
- Turkey fatteners: 0.25 % (EU average is 0.5%)

5 FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Legal requirements

Article 3(1) of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 requires Member States to designate a CA or CAs for the purpose of this Regulation and notify the Commission thereof.

Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 requires CAs to carry out internal audits or may have external audits carried out.

Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 requires CAs to ensure that staff performing official controls receive, for their area of competence, appropriate training.

Audit findings

The CCA for official controls over implementation of the SNCPs is the National Food Chain Safety Office which is under the Ministry of Rural Development.

Ministerial decrees form the legal basis for the implementation of the SNCPs.

The CCA is responsible for drafting and managing the SNCPs. To facilitate uniform implementation, the CCA has developed and issued several guidelines and circulars for county and district CAs.

The role of the CCA is to collect and collate data on implementation of the programmes, report these data to European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and European Commission, plan official controls, organise training courses and coordinate and supervise work of County Government Offices (CGOs). In addition, the CCA designates the official laboratories and approves private laboratories to carry out tests on official and FBO own-check samples under the SNCPs.

As of 1 January 2011, regional administrative bodies have been integrated into CGOs and as of 1 January 2013 administrative districts and districts offices were created as units of the government offices. These offices are under the administrative direction of the Ministry for Public Administration and Justice; however, the county and district authorities are under the functional authority and the technical guidance of the CCA.

The CGOs are responsible for SNCP decisions at county level, supervision of district offices, the collection and initial evaluation of data at county level, the preparation of semi and annual reports to the central level, training for county and district staff, financial reports and authorisation of confirmatory sampling.

District offices are directly responsible for the implementation of the SNCPs. This includes drafting and fulfilment of official sampling plans, approving FBO epidemiological control plans, authorisation of farm stocking, monitoring FBO sampling plan, issuing certificates on *Salmonella* free status for holdings. At least semi-annually and annually they report the data on the SNCPs to the CGO.

Relations between the CCA and CGOs are based on a direct line of command and a system of top-down supervision. Supervision inspections (which existed prior to the implementation of the new administrative structures on 1 January 2011) are carried out by the CCA of the county level (called technical internal checks) and by county of the district level.

Evidence of these generally comprehensive inspections and technical internal checks were noted by the audit team. Since 2010 two technical internal checks on implementation of the SNCPs and two additional fact finding visits have been carried out by the CCA at county levels. The reports of these checks were available and the audit team noted that no major deficiencies had been detected.

At county level the audit team was provided with the reports from supervision controls carried out by the CGOs on work of districts. These reports included a specific section related to implementation of the SNCPs.

The audit team was informed by the CCA that the CAs have the legal powers to enforce legal requirements related to SNCPs. The audit team saw evidence that when a flock was positive for targeted *Salmonella* serotypes, the district offices issued restrictive decisions (including restriction on movement of birds, hatching eggs, feedstuffs and restriction on placing eggs on the market).

A more detailed description of the CAs can be found in the country profile for Hungary on the following website: http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/last5_en.cfm?co_id=HU.

Legislation

The legal powers to carry out official controls are granted by the Food Chain Act and the government decree on the National Food Chain Safety Office.

Implementation of the official control system is based on various government decrees and several CCA issued guidelines and instructions. The latter include checklists and inspection templates used for the various controls involved.

The main piece of national legislation for implementation of the SNCPs is Decree No 180/2009 of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on specific rules of protection against *Salmonellosis* which has been in force since 6th of January 2010.

For the implementation of the national legislation, a written guide was published by the CCA. This guide contains detailed information on the duties, sampling, tests and the measures to be taken regarding SNCPs.

The CCA usually sends internal instructions (circulars) to the CGOs, when there is an amendment

of the legislation, to inform the counties on a specific topic, or to request data. Since the beginning of 2011, 16 such circulars have been sent (most of them requesting data).

Training

The audit team was informed by the CCA that training sessions have been provided to county and district staff such as Updates on the national control programmes, Updates of animal health situation (including SNCPs) and training regarding food chain events, extraordinary events, protocols and simulation exercise for *Salmonella* as a food borne disease.

The CGOs informed the audit team that, when needed, they organise specific training for official veterinarians (OVs) and approved veterinarians involved in the implementation of the SNCPs. The participant lists and topics covered from these trainings were available to the audit team.

In addition regular meetings are held at county level for District Chief Veterinary Officers where various topics are discussed, including issues related to the SNCPs. Following such meetings it is responsibility of the District Chief Veterinary Officer to disseminate this information to all staff involved, including private veterinarians.

National Audit and Supervision

Internal audits according to Article 4.6 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 are performed by the System Development Directorate which is under the supervision of the president of the CCA.

However to date, no such audit has been carried out covering the SNCPs implementation.

Nevertheless as it has already been stated there is a system of supervision inspections called technical audits which are carried out by specialists of responsible directorates of the CCA.

Conclusions

The CA responsible for official controls within the scope of this audit is clearly designated in compliance with EU requirements.

The staff responsible for the implementation of controls under the SNCPs receive relevant training.

5.2 CONTROLS AT FARM LEVEL

Legal requirements

Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 requires Member States to carry out regularly, on a risk basis and with appropriate frequency controls on feed or food businesses.

Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 sets out the general hygiene provisions for FBOs involved in primary production.

Chapter I of Annex II to Council Directive 2009/158/EC requires at least one inspection per year per holding by an official veterinarian in order to be approved by the CA for the purposes of intra-EU trade in poultry or hatching eggs.

Audit findings

The poultry farms have to be registered according to Ministerial Decree No. 119/2007.

Under this Decree all commercial poultry which:

- Are considered as large-scale holdings (that means with more than 2,000 broilers or 500 other adult poultry).

- Send poultry directly to the slaughterhouse.
- Have a slaughtering permit for small producers.
have to be registered.

Participation in the SNCPs is compulsory for:

- All flocks of breeding turkeys.
- Breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus* consisting of at least 250 birds.
- Laying hen flocks consisting of at least 50 birds.
- All flocks of broilers and fattening turkeys.

Participation in the SNCPs is voluntary for:

- Hatcheries.
- Flocks not subjected to mandatory participation.

The farms visited by the audit team were adequately registered in the central database called “Poultry Information System” which is based on holding registration number.

In addition, there is a registry of poultry holdings and poultry houses (airspace) kept at district offices for the implementation of the SNCPs.

The audit team noted that farm inspections are carried out, based on risk criteria, as part of the national twelve month control plan (differs from the calendar year) . The monitoring of the implementation of the SNCPs, at farm level, is part of this exercise. The CCA provides lists of establishments that should be subjected to the official controls (including poultry farms) and in addition the CCA sets the total number of extra inspections for each CGO. Based on the target received from the CCA CGOs break down this figure to district offices instructing them to prepare a detailed annual inspection plan based on local knowledge and experience.

Furthermore the audit team noted that FBO compliance with the SNCPs is also verified by the district offices during cross-compliance audits and targeted inspections. The FBOs to be checked during cross-compliance audits are selected at central level.

The uniform checklists for comprehensive inspections and cross-compliance controls have been developed by the CCA and used in the official controls. The reports from comprehensive inspections are recorded at district level in a database accessible also at central level.

The reports from several official controls were available and the audit team noted that the implementation of the SNCPs was included in a specific section of the reports (such as FBO and official sampling plans and biosecurity measures in place).

Under national legislation, a biosecurity plan ("epidemiological plan"), approved by the CA, is compulsory for all poultry farms in the framework of SNCPs. Appropriate biosecurity measures to prevent the introduction of *Salmonella* were in place in all farms visited. Adequate flock records of animal treatment, mortality, sampling, vaccination etc. were kept at farm level.

Water control

General water control plans were in place. The FBO sampling plan usually consists of at least one sample of water for bacteriological analyses per year.

Feed control

After each feed consignment delivery to a holding, the FBO takes and stores a feed sample which he can send for laboratory analysis in case of any doubts or suspicion. The audit team noted in

some farms visited that heat treated feed was used and the laboratory results for *Salmonella* in feed samples taken in feed mills were available to the FBO.

Cleaning and disinfection

The audit team noted that after depopulation of a flock an effective cleaning and disinfection is carried out by the FBO and verified by environmental samples (i.e. swab samples). In a case of flock positive for *Salmonella* these samples are taken as an official control. Evidence of this sampling was provided to the audit team.

Epidemiological surveys

In all *Salmonella* positive cases reviewed by the audit team epidemiological investigations were carried out, however, it was not always possible for the CA to identify the source of *Salmonella* contamination. Within these investigations a review of FBO epidemiological action plans was carried out, including a review of the hygiene conditions, in particular disinfection and pest control measures, the test results regarding the possible source of infection (including staff screening for *Salmonella*) and the list of actions deemed necessary. According to the national legislation the same procedures apply for all targeted serotypes, including *Salmonella* Virchow, Infantis and Hadar.

In all farms visited and in all files reviewed, the reports from these investigations were available to audit team, including the laboratory results of feed and water tests.

Conclusions

Farms are appropriately registered, and under regular official supervision.

Appropriate tools to prevent *Salmonella* contamination are in place, such as effective cleaning and disinfection, controls on biosecurity conditions and on feedingstuffs.

Legislation for the implementation of SNCs is in place.

5.3 GENERAL ISSUES ON SNCs

Decree No 180/2009 stipulates that official samples for *Salmonella* may be taken either by official or approved veterinarians designated by the CA. The audit team noted that, in a majority of cases, official sampling for *Salmonella* was carried out by an approved veterinarian (a private veterinarian appointed by the CA to carry out, inter alia, official sampling).

The audit team noted in the farms visited that FBO samples were taken by the private veterinarian servicing the farm, in one case by the FBO under private veterinarian supervision. The private veterinarians met during the audit informed the audit team that they had received training on sampling during county organised sessions and regular meetings with district offices.

Official and own-check samples are accompanied to the laboratory by a submission form which indicates: e.g. date of sampling, flock identification, type of sample, number of sample units, age of birds in the flock and composition of sample (including weight). In addition this standardised form (used for both official and own-check sampling) contains information on vaccination, use of antibiotics and purpose of sampling (if official or own-check). The audit team noted that the submission forms were properly completed.

Actions in cases of *Salmonella* positive flocks

Following isolation of *Salmonella* spp. in a private/official testing laboratory, the isolate is forwarded to the *Salmonella* National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for confirmation and

serotyping. In case of detection of *Salmonella* spp. some laboratories are authorised to carry out tests on exclusion of targeted serotypes by serogrouping.

If serotyping identifies *Salmonella enteritidis*(SE)/*Salmonella typhimurium*(ST)/ monophasic ST non-vaccine strains, the NRL immediately notifies the laboratory of first contact.

The testing laboratory shall communicate the sample results to the FBO, the veterinarian who took the sample, the district office and in the event of positive test results, also to the CCA.

Under current national legislation routine confirmatory sampling is not allowed. The confirmatory sampling may be carried out only in instances authorised by the CGO on a case by case basis. The CCA provided the audit team with details of confirmatory tests carried out in 2012/2013 broken down for specific poultry populations. In districts visited the audit team noted that the confirmatory samples were taken very sporadically, in one instance due to incorrect number of sampling units in official sample taken and in three instances day old chicks positive for *Salmonella* were repeatedly sampled and those repeated samples were considered by the CA as confirmatory.

Monitoring of the SNCPs' implementation

The audit team was informed by the CA that the verification of implementation of FBO own-check sampling is carried out as a desk exercise (based on cross-checking information provided by FBO and information in laboratory results) and during official controls on the farms.

In the district offices visited the audit team noted the existence of spreadsheets on official sampling combined with detailed records on FBO own-check sampling carried out (either on spreadsheets or in the paper form) and on *Salmonella* positive test results. These spreadsheets contained detailed information regarding official sampling and the flocks in question (provided by the FBO before restocking). No central database exists regarding sampling.

These spreadsheets are regularly (at least semi-annually and annually) sent to the CGO where all data for the relevant county are collected and collated for transmission to the central level.

At central level, data collected are used for drafting reports for EFSA and the EU Commission. As regards evaluation of data and results obtained under the SNCPs, the CCA informed the audit team that they mostly rely on the outcome of technical internal checks (for more see chapter 5.1. on competent authority). However the audit team noted that the deficiencies detected by the FVO audit team had not previously been detected during those checks. Given that the CA remained ignorant of such deficiencies no evaluation of the problem nor follow-up occurred.

Vaccination policy

The audit team was informed by the CA that there is no mandatory *Salmonella* vaccination in Hungary within the SNCPs. *Salmonella* vaccines which have marketing authorisation may be used on a voluntary basis.

Conclusions

A reporting system is available for the CA to monitor the implementation of the SNCPs.

Some deficiencies in SNCP implementation still need to be addressed, in particular as regards recording and evaluation of deficiencies by the CCA.

5.4 SNCP FOR BREEDING HENS

Legal requirements

Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 outlines how targets shall be established for the reduction of the

prevalence of zoonoses, including *Salmonella*. The target for breeding hens has been fixed by Commission Regulation (EU) No 200/2010. To achieve the targets, Member States have to implement a SNCP in breeding hens, which includes detailed sampling rules both for FBOs and for the official services.

The requirements applicable until March 2010 were outlined in Regulation (EC) No 1003/2005.

Audit findings

According to data provided by the CCA the percentage of breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus* positive for the targeted *Salmonella* serotypes in Hungary was 1.3 % in 2011 and 0.81% in 2012. It means that by the end of 2012 the EU target – a reduction to 1% or less – has been achieved in Hungary.

The audit team was informed that all holding with more than 250 breeding hens are covered by the SNCP.

The audit team noted that the SNCP for breeding flocks is implemented in the regions visited and based on sampling at the holding.

Although it is not mandatory either under the SNCP or under EU legislation, vaccination against ST/SE was carried out in all farms visited. Before restocking, environmental swab samples were taken by the FBO and analysed for Total Bacterial Count and *Salmonella*.

In the districts visited the audit team noted that own-check sampling was carried out in compliance with EU legislation regarding the sampling frequency and sampling protocol applied. However as regards official sampling, in some cases official samples were not taken three times during the laying period as required by Point 2.1.2.2., Annex to Regulation (EU) No 200/2010 but only twice.

Conclusions

The implementation of the SNCP for the breeding hen population is satisfactory apart from some deficiencies as regards the frequency of official sampling.

5.5 SNCP FOR LAYING HENS

Legal requirements

Both Regulations (EC) No 2160/2003 and (EU) No 517/2011 lay down rules for SNCPs for laying hen populations of Member States. The requirements applicable until May 2011 were outlined in Regulation (EC) No 1168/2006.

Audit findings

The baseline study organised by EFSA indicated for Hungary a combined prevalence figure of 33% for SE and ST in the laying hen population in 2004-2005. According to data provided by the CCA the *Salmonella* prevalence figure had decreased to 3.0 % in 2011 and 1.77 % in 2012 thus reaching the EU target.

The audit team noted that the SNCP for laying flocks is implemented in all regions visited.

Since 2011 own-check sampling has been carried out in all flocks reviewed by the audit team. However, in some instances reviewed FBO sampling frequency and time limits were not fully in line with Part B, Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 (instead of 15 weeks, flocks sampled at frequency 17, respectively 18 weeks) and with Point 2.1., Annex to Regulation (EU) No 517/2011 (the first sampling shall take place at the age of 24 ± 2 weeks and in instances reviewed by the audit team it was at 29 weeks).

Furthermore the official sampling protocol was not always in line with Point 2.2.2, Annex to Regulation (EU) No 517/2011. In such instances a dust sample or an additional faecal sample was not taken.

Given that post 2008 there was no mandatory requirement to vaccinate as the rate of infection was below 10%, vaccination ceased to be obligatory in 2010. However in farms visited the audit team noted that vaccination still was being practiced.

The audit team also reviewed positive cases for *Salmonella* and noted that measures (ban on marketing of eggs) were not taken until positive results for serotypes SE/ST were available to the CA (in accordance with the national legislation). No ban is imposed on the eggs by the CA during the period when only the positive *Salmonella* spp. laboratory results are available. This is not fully in line with Annex II D to Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003. In the cases reviewed no confirmatory samples were taken. The epidemiological plan was revised by the FBO and approved by the district office as required under national legislation. The official samples were taken in all other flocks on the same holding and also the sample was taken at age of 24 weeks in the subsequent flock placed in the same house where *Salmonella* had previously been detected. In this respect Regulation (EU) No 517/2011, Annex, point 2.2.2 requires the verification of the absence of the use of antimicrobials potentially affecting the sampling results, namely by laboratory tests or documentary checks. The CA informed the audit team that no specific test was carried out in this respect, nevertheless according to national legislation the laboratory shall communicate to the CA, including relevant district office when the tested sample failed to contain the normal intestinal flora either. However this procedure on unusual non-growth of any flora during the *Salmonella* isolation is not in line with EU provisions to check for absence of antimicrobial substances.

Conclusions

The SNCP for laying hens is implemented with some deficiencies concerning own-check sampling frequency, time limits, official sampling protocol, and verification of the absence of the use of antimicrobials.

Measures taken after positive results are in general acceptable, although they are adopted in some cases with unnecessary delay (at serotyping stage).

5.6 SNCP FOR BROILERS

Legal requirements

Both Regulations (EC) No 2160/2003 and (EU) No 200/2012 set rules for SNCPs in the broiler population of the Member States.

Audit findings

According to data provided by the CCA the percentage of broiler flocks of *Gallus gallus* positive for the targeted *Salmonella* serotype in Hungary was 0.7 % in 2011 and 0.38% in 2012. It means that the EU target – a reduction to 1% or less – has been achieved in Hungary.

Official sampling is carried out by the CA each year as prescribed in EU legislation i.e. in at least one flock of broilers on 10 % of the holdings with more than 5,000 birds. The audit team noted that the 10% target for official sampling was achieved in the district offices visited. The farms officially sampled were selected by the district offices (after consultation with the CGO) based on size and some risk criteria (including *Salmonella* history).

When visiting a broiler farm, the audit team was informed by the private veterinarian that own-check sampling of day old chicks (meconium and 10 dead chicks taken) and three weeks before

slaughter has been carried out. In the latter case, two pairs of boot/sock swabs were taken.

The audit team noted one case in 2012 when *Salmonella* positive broilers were sent for slaughter. The documents accompanying the birds, Food Chain Information (FCI) and animal health certificate, indicated that these birds were infected with SE. The audit team was informed by the farm operator and the CA that the necessary precaution measures had been taken during bird slaughter.

Under national legislation, FCI shall include information on *Salmonella* test three weeks prior to slaughter. In the cases reviewed by the audit team FCI included *Salmonella* test results. The national legislation contains the detailed rules regarding meat derived from infected flocks.

Conclusions

The implementation of the SNCP for broilers is in compliance with EU legal requirements applicable to this poultry population.

The selection of the farms for official control / sampling is based on risk analysis criteria.

5.7 SNCP FOR TURKEYS

Legal requirements

Regulations (EC) No 2160/2003 and (EU) No 1190/2012 set rules for the SNCP in the turkey populations of Member States. The requirements applicable until December 2012 were outlined in Regulation (EC) No 584/2008.

Audit findings

Breeding turkeys

According to data provided by the CCA the percentage of adult breeding flocks positive for the targeted *Salmonella* serotype in Hungary was 0.8 % in 2011 and 0% in 2012. It means that the EU target – a reduction to 1% or less – has been achieved in Hungary.

The audit team noted that the SNCP for breeding turkey flocks is implemented in the region visited. In the breeding turkey holding visited, own-check sampling was carried out in compliance with EU legislation exceeding sampling frequency required under EU requirements.

However, the audit team noted that only two pairs of boot swabs were taken by the veterinarian during official sampling and not five as required under the relevant EU legislation (which may be pooled up to minimum two pools).

Fattening turkeys

According to data provided by the CCA the percentage of fattening turkey flocks positive for the targeted *Salmonella* serotype in Hungary was 0.3 % in 2011 and 0.25% in 2012. It means that the EU target – a reduction to 1% or less – has been achieved in Hungary.

The audit team noted that in the fattening turkey holding visited, own-check sampling was carried out in compliance with EU legislation regarding sampling frequency and sampling protocol used. The audit team also noted that in the cases reviewed, *Salmonella* samples were taken within three weeks before slaughter in compliance with EU legislation.

Each year official sampling is carried out by the CA of at least one flock of turkeys on 10% of the holdings with more than 500 birds. At the start of each calendar year, 10% of holdings are selected by the CA. In the districts visited the audit team noted that the 10% target for official sampling of

holdings was achieved.

In the cases reviewed by the audit team FCI included *Salmonella* test results.

Conclusions

The implementation of the SNCP for turkeys is in compliance with the majority of EU legal requirements applicable to this poultry population, apart from some deficiencies found in official sampling protocol.

5.8 LABORATORIES

Legal requirements

Article 33 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 lays down the responsibilities and tasks of the NRLs designated by the Member States.

Article 12 (2) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 requires CAs to only designate official laboratories that fulfil certain quality standards.

Additionally, Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 lays down requirements for laboratories participating in SNCs, including the need to apply quality assurance systems and to participate in collaborative testing.

The relevant regulations for the different poultry populations lay down rules for the detection method (ISO 6579 Annex D) and serotyping method (White-Kaufmann-LeMinor scheme) to be used in the context of SNCs.

Audit findings

The CA informed the audit team that an official laboratory must be designated and a private laboratory must be approved by the CCA to perform analyses within the SNCs.

In order to be designated or approved a laboratory has to provide evidence that it complies with Article 12 of Regulation (EC) 2160/2003 either by accreditation or by application of a quality assurance system that conforms to the requirements of current ISO standard. In addition the laboratory has to demonstrate that it has participated in a proficiency test (PT) for *Salmonella*, organised by the NRL. Official samples can be analysed only by laboratories designated by the CCA. A list of designated and approved laboratories is publicly available on the CCA's website. However in one district office visited, when reviewing FBO own-check test results, the audit team noted that FBO samples were sent for analyses to another member state laboratory not approved by the Hungarian CCA. The NRL was not aware of any foreign laboratory analysing samples within the Hungarian SNCs. The foreign laboratory sent laboratory results to the FBO and consequently the FBO provided the results to the district office. The district office informed the audit team that as regards this laboratory they rely on information on the laboratory protocol indicating that the laboratory is accredited and approved by the CA in a given member state. According to the requirements laid down by national legislation every laboratory must regularly submit cumulative analyses results and send isolates to the NRL in the case of *Salmonella* spp. detection, however this task was not done by this foreign laboratory. In addition according to the national legislation the laboratory should regularly participate in the PTs organised by the NRL and communicate the positive laboratory results to the FBO, district office and the CCA. However no evidence was provided to the audit team that these tasks are accomplished by this laboratory.

The audit team was informed by the CCA that four out of 25 laboratories (official and private) participating in the SNCs are not accredited to EN ISO/IEC standard 17025. One of these four

non-accredited laboratories is an official laboratory whose accreditation had not been renewed.

The audit team was informed that re-accreditation of this official laboratory is underway. However the audit team noted that more than two years had elapsed since expiry of the previous accreditation. The laboratory staff informed the audit team that they considered that this delay was due to a major public services re-organisation which took place in previous years.

According to data provided by the CCA, the NRL and all laboratories participating in SNCPs analyse samples using the EU testing method EN/ISO 6579-2002/Amd1:2007, Annex D.

The NRL is responsible for carrying out inter alia:

- serotyping of samples as part of the SNCP;
- tests to distinguish vaccine strains;
- tests for confirmatory analyses including tests for antimicrobials or bacterial growth inhibitors;
- training for veterinarians and laboratory staff;
- on the spot checks (inspections) of the SNCP listed laboratories.

The NRL annually organises PTs for laboratories participating in the SNCPs. The audit team noted that, in general, laboratories participating in PTs achieved satisfactory results. For those laboratories which failed a PT the NRL organized an additional PT and the audit team saw evidence that the NRL assisted those laboratories in identifying the reason for failure.

The audit team visited one official laboratory (testing official and own-check samples), currently in the process of re-accreditation. The audit team noted that the laboratory regularly participated in PTs with satisfactory results. Laboratory staff was knowledgeable.

The audit team was informed by laboratory staff of procedures for rejecting non-compliant samples taken within the framework of the SNCPs. Under these procedures the samples which are not in line with the SNCP are not analysed. However the audit team saw examples of testing of some samples that did not meet the EU requirements (for more see chapters 5.5 and 5.7.).

Conclusions

Not all laboratories involved in the SNCPs are in compliance with the requirements laid down in Regulations (EC) Nos 2160/2003 and 882/2004 and requirements established under the SNCPs in particular as regards accreditation (one official laboratory non-accredited) and notification and communication of laboratory results and evidence of participation in the PTs.

6 OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

The *Salmonella* National Control Programmes are implemented in Hungary and cover all poultry populations. Improvements have been made by the Hungarian CA in implementing the programmes in poultry since the previous FVO audit on the same theme. These improvements are evidenced by the significant decrease in *Salmonella* prevalence and the meeting of EU targets for each of the relevant poultry populations.

However some deficiencies in the implementation of the programmes still need to be addressed, in particular as regards recognising, recording and evaluating deficiencies, official and own-check sampling, measures taken once eggs are suspected of being infected with *Salmonella* serotypes and compliance of laboratories involved with programme requirements.

7 CLOSING MEETING

During the closing meeting held in Budapest on 30 January 2014, the audit team presented the findings and preliminary conclusions of the audit to the CAs.

At this meeting, the CCA acknowledged FVO findings.

Additional information was also provided to the audit team during the meeting.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

The CCA should provide Commission services with guarantees and an action plan, including a timetable for its completion, within twenty five working days of receipt of the report in order to address all the deficiencies identified and in particular, the following recommendations:

N°.	Recommendation
1.	The CA should ensure that they collect all the data/information needed to evaluate the means used and the results obtained in the implementation of SNCPs as required by Article 3.2 (b) of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003.
2.	The CAs should ensure that the monitoring and sampling programme applied in breeding flocks of Gallus gallus complies fully with the requirements of Regulations (EC) No 2160/2003 and (EU) No 200/2010, notably as regards a frequency of official sampling.
3.	The CAs should ensure that the monitoring and sampling programme applied in laying flocks is fully in compliance with the requirements of Regulations (EC) No 2160/2003 and (EU) No 517/2011, in particular regarding own-check sampling frequency, time limits and official sampling protocol, verification of the absence of the use of antimicrobials and measures taken once eggs are suspected of being infected with Salmonella serotypes.
4.	The CAs should ensure that the monitoring and sampling programme applied in turkey breeding flocks complies fully with the requirements of Regulation (EU) No 1190/2012, in particular regarding official sampling protocol.
5.	The CA should ensure that official laboratories designated under the SNCPs are accredited in accordance with an appropriate standard (e.g. EN ISO/IEC 17025) in line with Article 12 (2) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and the laboratories involved in the SNCPs meet all requirements laid down in these programmes.

The competent authority's response to the recommendations can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/rep_details_en.cfm?rep_inspection_ref=2014-7157

ANNEX 1 - LEGAL REFERENCES

Legal Reference	Official Journal	Title
Dir. 2009/158/EC	OJ L 343, 22.12.2009, p. 74-113	Council Directive 2009/158/EC of 30 November 2009 on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in, and imports from third countries of, poultry and hatching eggs
Reg. 2160/2003	OJ L 325, 12.12.2003, p. 1-15	Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the control of salmonella and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents
Reg. 852/2004	OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 1, Corrected and re-published in OJ L 226, 25.6.2004, p. 3	Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs
Reg. 882/2004	OJ L 165, 30.4.2004, p. 1, Corrected and re-published in OJ L 191, 28.5.2004, p. 1	Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules
Reg. 1003/2005	OJ L 170, 1.7.2005, p. 12-17	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1003/2005 of 30 June 2005 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 as regards a Community target for the reduction of the prevalence of certain salmonella serotypes in breeding flocks of Gallus gallus and amending Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003
Reg. 1168/2006	OJ L 211, 1.8.2006, p. 4-8	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1168/2006 of 31 July 2006 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 as regards a Community target for the reduction of the prevalence of certain salmonella serotypes in laying hens of Gallus gallus and amending Regulation (EC) No 1003/2005
Reg. 584/2008	OJ L 162, 21.6.2008, p. 3-8	Commission Regulation (EC) No 584/2008 of 20 June 2008 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a Community target for the reduction of the prevalence of Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium in turkeys

Legal Reference	Official Journal	Title
Reg. 200/2010	OJ L 61, 11.3.2010, p. 1-9	Commission Regulation (EU) No 200/2010 of 10 March 2010 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a Union target for the reduction of the prevalence of Salmonella serotypes in adult breeding flocks of Gallus gallus
Reg. 517/2011	OJ L 138, 26.5.2011, p. 45-51	Commission Regulation (EU) No 517/2011 of 25 May 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a Union target for the reduction of the prevalence of certain Salmonella serotypes in laying hens of Gallus gallus and amending Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 and Commission Regulation (EU) No 200/2010
Reg. 200/2012	OJ L 71, 9.3.2012, p. 31-36	Commission Regulation (EU) No 200/2012 of 8 March 2012 concerning a Union target for the reduction of Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium in flocks of broilers, as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council
Reg. 1190/2012	OJ L 340, 13.12.2012, p.29-34	Commission Regulation (EU) No 1190/2012 of 12 December 2012 concerning a Union target for the reduction of Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium in flocks of turkeys, as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Text with EEA relevance)