



Annex II : Control programme submitted for obtaining EU cofinancing - Reduction of prevalence of Salmonella serotypes

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- 7) For simplification purposes you are invited to submit **multi-annual programmes**.
- 8) As mentioned during the Plenary Task Force of 28/2/2014, you are invited to submit your programmes in **English**.

Submission Date

Sunday, November 08, 2015 12:05:30

Submission Number

1446980729651-6981

Programme of eradication of Salmonella serotypes

Identification of the programme

Member state : MALTA

Disease Salmonella

This program is multi annual : yes

Type of submission : New multiannual programme

Request of Union co-financing
from beginning of :

2016

To end of

2017

Contact

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Animal population

Animal population Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

Programme of eradication of *Salmonella* serotypes

A. Technical information

By submitting this programme, the Member State (MS) attests that the relevant provisions of the EU legislation will be implemented during its entire period of approval, in particular:

- Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 on the control of *Salmonella* and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents,
- Regulation (EU) No 517/2011 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 *Salmonella* serotypes in laying hens of *Gallus gallus*,
- Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 as regards requirements for the use of specific control methods in the framework of the national programmes for the control of *Salmonella* in poultry.

As a consequence, the following measures will be implemented during the whole period of the programme:

1. Aim of the programme

It is to implement all relevant measures in order to reduce the prevalence of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium (including the serotypes with the antigenic formula 1,4,[5],12:i:-) in adult laying hens of *Gallus gallus* ('Union target') as follows:

An annual minimum percentage of reduction of positive flocks of adult laying hens equal to at least 10% where the prevalence in the preceding year was less than 10%.

An annual minimum percentage of reduction of positive flocks of adult laying hens equal to at least 20% where the prevalence in the preceding year was more than or equal to 10% and less than 20%.

A reduction of the maximum percentage equal to 2% or less of positive flocks of adult laying hens.

The Member States has less than 50 flocks of adult laying hens:
 the target is to have not more than one adult flock remaining positive.

The Union target shall be achieved every year based on the monitoring of the previous year.

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Comments(max. 32000 chars) :

In 2014, there were 33 (thirty-three) operational farms with a total of 85 flocks. Only nineteen farms have a capacity of over 350 birds, hence the remaining fourteen are not fully commercial. The different houses on a holding are considered as individual flocks. Sixty-one of the flocks have a capacity of 1000 birds and over. Malta started implementing the SNCP in 2009 and has been very successful in reducing the percentage of positive flocks from 13.22% in 2010 to 1.2% in 2013. At this stage, having just an average of 85 flocks, the achievement of the Union target is challenging.

Owing to the restrictive availability of space and the presence of multiple small houses; quite a number of operators follow the first-in first-out system of production. This renders the interpretation of the definition of 'flock' difficult. Until 2014, as long as a batch of layers was still present in one housing, even if a new batch was introduced, the unit was still considered as the same flock. As from 2015, every time a new batch of birds is introduced in a house already holding laying hens; this will be considered as a new flock.

Multi-age flocks:

All batches found in the same house are considered as one flock since they are sharing the same airspace as per definition found in Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003, Article 2, Paragraph 3(b). Usually houses where different age groups are mixed would be using cage rearing systems and there would be no fences between the batches, however they would be placed in different cages. There is no identification between different age group and we should rely on what the farmer has declared, however all batches on the farm would be registered in our system on the day the chicks/pullets are being purchased. Thus from this system we would know which batches are present on the farm. The sampling approach in houses with multi-age groups is sampling every 15 weeks in the laying phase. Pullets in these houses are sampled for the first time at the age of 24 weeks +/-2weeks as per Commission Regulation (EU) 517/2011 Annex, 2, 2.1 Paragraph 2, or two weeks prior to moving to their laying unit as per table found in Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003, Annex 2, B, Part 1, thereafter they are sampled every 15 weeks with the rest of the batches.

2. The programme will be implemented on the **whole territory** of the MS.

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

Malta is an archipelago. There are two main islands which are Malta and the smaller island of Gozo. 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. Out of the thirty-three holding, are located in Gozo. Malta and Gozo are considered as one region. The CA administers the whole region.

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3. Flocks subject to the programme

The programme covers all flocks of adult laying hens of *Gallus gallus* but does not apply to flocks for private domestic use or leading to the direct supply, by the producer, of small quantities of table eggs to the final consumer or to local retail establishments directly supplying the eggs to the final consumer. For the latter case (direct supply), national rules are adopted ensuring *Salmonella* control in these flocks. The programme covers also all rearing flocks of future laying hens.

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

The egg-laying poultry industry has been on the decline these past few years. A number of holdings have closed down since the SNCP commenced. Another issue that is affecting the industry is the introduction of enriched cages which is a heavy financial burden for the smaller holdings. All those commercial egg-laying flocks of *Gallus gallus* registered with the competent authority fall under this programme. Those with very small capacities supplying eggs directly to the final consumer or to a local retailer are under the official control of the CA but would not be reported under the SNCP framework.

The total number of operational holdings to date is thirty- three (33). These include holdings having less than 1000 birds.

Number of flocks: Currently there are eighty-five (85) kept on commercial egg-laying holdings. The number of houses in use can fluctuate.

	Total number of flocks of layers in the MS	Number of flocks covered by the programme	Number of flocks where FBO sampling shall take place	Number of flocks where official sampling will take place
Rearing flocks	1		1	1
Adult flocks	84	84	84	61
Number of holdings with more than 1,000 laying hens				18
Number of flocks in these holdings				61
<i>NB : All cells shall be filled in with the best estimation available.</i>				

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

The CA, to date, has been carrying out the majority of sampling described in point 2.1 of the Annex of Commission Regulation (EC) No 517/2011, this means that the CA carries out both official and non-official sampling of most layer farms. The non-official samples taken by the CA on behalf of the FBO are reported as unofficial. There are between 6-7 laying-hen holdings which actually carry out own self-checks. The number of flocks where FBO sampling is carried out are around 20 flocks. However the CA still carries out official sampling once annually on these flocks.

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4. Notification of the detection of target *Salmonella* serovars

A procedure is in place which guarantees that the detection of the presence of the relevant *Salmonella* serotypes during sampling at the initiative of the food business operator (FBO) is notified without delay to the competent authority by the laboratory performing the analyses. Timely notification of the detection of the presence of any of the relevant *Salmonella* serotypes remains the responsibility of the food business operator and the laboratory performing the analyses.

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

The food business operators that carry out own-checks are asked to send in the laboratory results not later than two weeks from due date of sampling. In July 2014, an official veterinarian has been put responsible of the Poultry Section within the Animal Health Unit of the CA. Amongst other responsibilities, the Unit is responsible for the registration and issuing of the unique batch identification number of a poultry flock purchased by the operators. The Unit is also responsible for the management of all data related to poultry holdings uploaded on the National Livestock Database (Intertrace). The Unit is responsible for poultry on-farm sampling, including that the SNCP. The support staff have the tools to keep track of the sampling frequency. If the FBO fails to provide the results, after attempts to remind him, the CA would carry out the sampling. The CA may also consider recommending the Ministry of Energy and Health, responsible for retail shops, to withdraw the approval of the sale of commercial eggs of a particular establishment, in accordance to Regulation (EC) 2160/2003.

The CA under In June of 2015, a re-training on sampling techniques according to CR (EU) 517/2011 is going to be carried out for the FBO. During this training session, the obligation of the FBO are going to be explained once again and a letter is going to be sent to all FBO's.

5. Biosecurity measures

FBOs have to implement measures to prevent the contamination of their flocks.

Comments - Describe also the biosecurity measures that shall be applied, quote the document describing them (if any) (max. 32000 chars) :

In Malta a national legislation is in force for providing general rules for the eradication of salmonella in broiler and laying hen flocks (Veterinary Services Act SL 104). The regulation refers to the control measures stated in the EU legislation and provides rules for the producer eligibility for compensation, including biosecurity measures. The mentioned national legislation states that "the producer shall follow all advices and recommendations regarding biosecurity measures to prevent salmonella infection" and the compensation of infected flocks is connected to the presence of proper biosecurity measures, a biosecurity programme is not officially requested to the farmers except for breeding animal farms (Animal Welfare Act SL 119/2005).

In 2010 a training course was organised for the farmers with the aim of improving their knowledge on the good hygiene practices and on the measures foreseen withing the control programmes. During this training course, the need of biosecurity measures were detailed and a video detailing proper cleaning and disinfection practices was shown. Two documents were also distributed; "The Community Guide for Good Hygiene Practices in pullet Rearing and Egg Laying Flocks" and the other one was aimed at the Broiler industry. In June of 2015, a retraining course is being organised for the poultry FBO. During this

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session , a document regarding the general rules for biosecurity, general hygiene and good husbandry of the animals will be distributed. The Evidence of this will be kept.

This document will deal with :

- Hygiene and biosecurity measures (e.g. disinfection facilities at the entrance of the farm, clean area around the holdings, usage of separate clothes, separate area for the storage of tools, proper feed storage, disinfection of the holdings before the introduction of new animals)
- Measures to prevent incoming infections carried by animals, feed, vehicles, people, pests, etc.

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
PERSONNEL ON FARM:

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 to FBO by sampling staff.

WATER SUPPLY:

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.

Since the start of the SNCP, FBOs have become motivated and are very conscious of the importance to respect biosecurity measures. The fact that compensation is also penalised if biosecurity measures are not maintained has helped in investment by the FBO into upgrading the buildings.

6. Minimum sampling requirements for food business operators (FBO):

Samples at the initiative of the FBOs will be taken and analysed to test for the target *Salmonella* serovars respecting the following minimum sampling requirements:

- a. Rearing flocks: day-old chicks, two weeks before moving to laying phase or laying unit
- b. Adults laying flocks: every 15 weeks during the laying period

Comments - Indicate also who takes the FBO samples, and, if additional FBO sampling, going beyond the minimum sampling requirements, is performed, please describe what is done.

Around 6 - 7 FBO's carry out own checks.

a. The day-olds are still sampled and checked by the CA. When these are imported as day-ols from other MS, the day -olds are sampled at the trade post. In this case chick liners and any dead chicks (10/ consignment) are sampled by the support staff. This is not a common occurrence . The FBO prefer to import point -of -lay pullets which would be then sampled on farm. In this case two faecal samples are

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taken from each flock.

b. Adult laying hens: two faecal samples are taken per flock present on the holding. There are very few barn houses and from these boot swabs are collected. There are no free-range farms.

Only the FBO trained by the CA are permitted to sample, otherwise the sampling is carried out by the CA. An SOP detailing the procedure of sampling based on the Regulation is available. The support staff under the CA responsible for the on-farm sampling, have undergone training on sampling techniques and biosecurity measures on different occasions. In 2010, a training session in sampling techniques under the SNCP, was organised by the CA for business operators. Attendance certificates were issued. When carrying out own-checks, the operator has to fill in the official sampling sheet provided by the CA with all details relevant to the samples. This has to be signed and submitted to the NVL, within a few days after sampling together with a culled layer hen taken from one of the houses just sampled. Antimicrobial residue screening analysis is carried out by the NVL on muscle tissue sample using the six-plate test. This way the CA can cross-check the information supplied with the Intratrace. In June 2015, another training session is being carried out for the FBO.

7. Samples are taken in accordance with provisions of point 2.2 of Annex to Regulation (EU) No 517/2011

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

The authorised FBO collects two faecal samples from houses holding caged flocks. The faeces have to be collected after running the manure belt for a short time.. The samples have to be collected from the different belts in the house to make up at least 2 samples of 150grams each. To date, there is one FBO with a barn house, carrying out own-checks and is authorised to sample. In this case two bootswabs are taken. As with broiler houses, the boot swabs are to be moistened in a sterile diluent and then worn on the boots. The sampler has to walk around the house possibly sampling all parts of the house. The boot swabs are then taken off gently not to shake off faecal matter, turned inside out and placed in a sterile bag.

Some samplers find it difficult to walk on the slats and try to collect from under the slats. When the FBO carries out own - samples, the CA, on request would provide the sterile bags, sterile diluent and swabs.

8. Specific requirements laid down in Annex II.D of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 will be complied with where relevant. In particular:

- due to the presence or the suspicion of the presence of SE or ST (including monophasic ST I,4,[5],12:i:-) in the flock, eggs cannot be used for human consumption unless heat treated;
- eggs from these flocks shall be marked and considered as class B eggs.

Comments - Indicate also if prompt depopulation of the infected flocks is compulsory (max. 32000 chars) :

Flocks suspected of or found to be positively infected with the targeted serovars are placed under official

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restrictions and no eggs, poultry or poultry meat will be permitted to be moved from the infected house without authorisation from the CA. A census is carried out within a few days from official restriction on the holding by officials from the CA, to verify the size of the infected flock/s.

Destination of products:

Eggs originating from positive flocks are not sold as fresh eggs but have to be either destroyed or heat-treated. Officials from the Competent Authority (CA) are to 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. If the operator chooses to go for heat-treatment. The eggs are generally sent to Italy to a heat-treating facility since there is no heat-treating facility on the Island. The eggs are stored over a few days at the holding and not permitted to be moved from the premises. When the eggs are dispatched, an Intra-trade document is issued by the CA and signed by the Official Veterinarian. This option is rarely chosen it was found not to be cost-effective once the cost of packaging and transport is deducted.

Generally the operator decides to destroy the eggs, they are placed in approved leak-proof bins and transported in approved vehicles to the only Thermal facility Unit present on the Island for incineration. At the Thermal facility records of the weight of material incinerated is produced and passed on to the Poultry Unit at the CA. The Ca may verified with the records obtained from the checks carried out on-farm.

Destination of infected flocks:

The infected positive flocks are culled. In Malta spent laying hens do not enter the food chain. Even more so, infected laying hen flocks are not slaughtered for human consumption. If the case had to arise than the measures elaborated in point 9 would be implemented.

The infected flock is culled and then discarded. This procedure is carried out under the supervision of officials from the CA . Once culled, the birds are loaded in leak-proof bins which are transported to the Thermal facility. The same procedure of disposal is followed , as described above for condemned for the eggs above. birds from an infected flock, when culled , are sent for incineration. The same procedure as for the destruction of eggs is observed for the culling of infected flocks.

9. If birds from flocks infected with SE or ST are slaughtered, please describe the measures that shall be implemented by the FBO and the CA to ensure that fresh poultry meat meet the relevant **EU microbiological criteria** (row 1.28 of Chapter 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005): absence of SE/ST in 5 samples of 25g:

Measures implemented by the FBO (max. 32000 chars) :

if the case should arise that a flock of infected laying-hens is to be slaughtered fo human consumption:

a) The owner has to respect the restrictive measures . The entry of vehicles and personnel on the infected holding is to be restricted and strict biosecurity measures (protective clothing, boots, the use of foot baths and disinfection pits for vehicles) have to be respected to avoid spreading of infection out of the holding and between different houses.

b) The operator is to inform the CA on the date or dates of slaughter. information of the Salmonella

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status has to appear on the food chain information form which the operator submits to the slaughterhouse.

c) Once the infected flock arrives at the slaughterhouse, the crates have to be washed and disinfected properly.

d) The slaughter house has to include in its HACCP plan, the procedure and precautions to take when slaughtering Salmonella infected flock or flocks of unknown Salmonella status.

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.

Cleaning and disinfection after slaughter has to be carried out with utmost care .

e) The slaughterhouse will take samples in accordance to the Annex of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1086/2011. A copy of the result of the analysis has to be submitted immediately to the CA.

f) The animal by products produced are collected in bins. These bins are supplied by the Thermal Facility. The feathers and green offals are collected in separate bins. The by-products are Category 2 and their collection is controlled and verified by the officer in charge of animal by-products.

g) If the poultry carcasses are to be processed, than the processing plant is to ensure and verify that the batch number of the processed products can be traced back to the origin. The processing plant has to comply with CR (EU) No. 1086/2011 and carry out analysis in accordance to this Regulation.

h) If Salmonella spp. is isolated from the neck skins , the serovar has to be typed. If serotyping results in identification of SE or ST, the slaughterhouse has to implement the measures requested by the CA.

Measures implemented by the CA (max. 32000 chars) :

a) The CA would have issued the report with restrictive measures. There is to be no movement of infected animals between houses and out of the holding only for the purpose of culling or until slaughter. The movement document prior to slaughter is issued by the Animal Health Unit of the CA.

b) The OV has to make sure that the FCI is duly filled. The CA has an SOP to outline slaughter procedures and management of such carcasses and of results from analysis of slaughtered infected flocks, to guarantee reduction of spread of the zoonoses. The OV has to record on a checklist that a number of precautions and conditions are in accordance to the SOP . An example of the precautions is that the infected flock is to be slaughtered at the end of slaughter or the flock is slaughtered on it's own during the slaughter day.

c) The OV has to ensure that the slaughterhouse operator samples neck skins in accordance to the Regulation on microbiological criteria.

d) If serotyping of neck skins results in identification of SE or ST, the CA carries out a traceability exercise and appropriate action is taken.

e) Cleaning of the house were the flock originated from has to be verified by the CA to have been effective , through microbiological analysis. The Animal Health & Welfare Unit of the CA will only issue

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permit for re-stocking if no Salmonella spp. is isolated from official samples taken after disinfection of the infected house / houses.

10. Laboratories in which samples (official and FBO samples) collected within this programme are analysed are accredited to ISO 17025 standard and the analytical methods for *Salmonella* detection is within the scope of their accreditation.

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

There are two state laboratory involved in the SNCP and both are ISO accredited according to ISO 17025. The National Veterinary laboratory (NVL) is responsible for all analysis of official samples and for the majority of analysis of unofficial samples, which are carried out on behalf of the FBO. The NVL has just achieved ISO 17025 accreditation (end of April 2015) and the analysis of Salmonella, according to EN/ISO 6579-2002/Amd 1:2007, is included in the accreditation scope. The NVL sends all Salmonella spp. isolates for serotyping to the Public Health Laboratory (PHL) which falls under a different Ministry, The Ministry of Energy and Health. The PHL is also NRL for Zoonotic Salmonellosis and the analysis of serotyping is included in the accreditation scope.

To date there are two private laboratories mainly involved in the few unofficial analysis carried out under the SNCP. There is one local laboratory with whom the NRL has a memorandum of understanding. This laboratory is ISO 17025 accredited and Salmonella analysis is according to legislative requirements and is included in the accreditation scope. Some FBO send their samples to a lab in Italy (Sicily). The laboratory is accredited and has also submitted it's PT documentation to the NRL. There is one FBO that sometimes send his samples to an ISO 17025 accredited lab in Italy also carrying out analysis according to legislative requirements and included in their accreditation scope.

A list of approved laboratories will be made public on the website of the Ministry by the beginning of 2016.

11. The **analytical methods** used for the detection of the target *Salmonella* serovars is the one defined in Part 3.2 of the Annex of Regulation (EU) No 517/2011 i.e. Amendment 1 of EN/ISO 6579-2002/Amd1:2007. *'Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs - Horizontal method for the detection of Salmonella spp. -- Amendment 1: Annex D: Detection of Salmonella spp. in animal faeces and in environmental samples from the primary production stage'*.

Serotyping is performed following the Kaufman-White-Le Minor scheme.

For samples taken on behalf of the FBO alternative methods may be used if validated in accordance with the most recent version of EN/ISO16140.

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

The method of analysis used by the four laboratories currently involved in the SNCP is that recommended by the Community Reference Laboratory for Salmonella, being the current version of draft Annex D of ISO 6579 : "Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs- Horizontal method for the detection of Salmonella spp -Amendment 1: Annex D; Detection of Salmonella spp. in animal faeces and in samples of primary production". The National Veterinary Laboratory carries out analysis until

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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- Le Minor scheme by the Public Health laboratory. The PHL has included serotyping analysis in the accreditation scope since 2014. Results are then sent through e-mail & later by mail to the NVL.

Both private labs, currently involved in the SNCP are ISO 17025 accredited and the analysis of Salmonella is included in their accreditation scope. One private laboratory involved in unofficial analysis under the SNCP is situated in Sicily. The other private laboratory is a local lab and carries out typing only for Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium. However, the local private laboratory has undertaken to submit any positive isolates of Salmonella spp. to the NVL, for further typing.

12. Samples are transported and stored in accordance with point 3.1 of the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 517/2011. In particular, samples examination shall start in the laboratory within 4 days after sampling.

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

The majority of both official and non-official samples are collected by CA staff. Training is carried out for sampling officers and records of such training is kept at the NVL. Attached is PI 70 (attachment 1) describing sampling and submission procedures.

The samples are collected first thing in the morning, generally between 6.00 and 10.00 (the latest). They 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. The time of sampling and the time of submission appear on the sampling form and are also recorded in the report form.

The samples arriving at the NVL 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.

The unofficial samples analysed at the local laboratory may be either sampled by the laboratory staff of this lab or by authorised FBO's. The NVL had also conducted a training session for technicians of the private lab. The training session was conducted with the help of a power point presentation and a practical session on-farm. The training material on sampling techniques is used for the training of technicians and of FBO's. In the case of FBO's, it would not be possible to do an on-farm practical demonstration. The conditions of transport and sampling requirements are elaborated in the memorandum of understanding with the local laboratory.

The NVL verifies the sampling requirements for those unofficial samples sent to Sicily, through document check of the reports sent at a later date. However, the FBO sending unofficial samples both locally and abroad, fills in the official sampling form (attachment 2) and sends it to the NVL with details

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of the house sampled, the batch sampled etc.. The FBO also sends a culled hen from one of the houses sampled for antimicrobial residue analysis.

13. Please describe the **official controls at feed level** (including sampling).

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

Official controls at feed -level:

There are six larger 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 predominately from EU. A small number of farms carry out home mixing.

To date only two of the feed mills carry out their own sampling.

Official visits are 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. The CA also runs an annual sampling programme on feeds, whereby official samples are collected from all the major feedmills. The sampling programme includes residue analysis but also analysis for Salmonella spp. An average of ten twelve samples are collected from the feed mills. Random sampling, is also carried out on some of the home mixers. In 2014, there were no positive samples for Salmonella isolation from the samples analysed under the national control programme on commercial feed mills.

Samples of feed are also collected from the all layer holdings at least once annually as part of the SNCP. The finished feed is sampled direct from farm. from feed that is being used in the houses at the time of sampling. In 2014, seventy samples (70) were collected and 4 resulted positive. In cases when there is a positive isolation of Salmonella, depending on the circumstances, CA officers may return to the farm to investigate and re-sample. In cases of home mixing, the different components would be sampled.

14. Official controls at holding, flock and hatchery level

- a. Please describe the official checks concerning the **general hygiene provisions** (Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004) including checks on biosecurity measures, and consequences in case of unsatisfactory outcome.

(max. 32000 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

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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, the vast majority of sampling under the framework of the legislation 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. A biosecurity check-list, common to all commercial flocks is also filled in once annually. Every check-list is a control document.

Any non-compliance follows the internal SOP for enforcement. The enforcement measures consist of: verbal and written improvement notice, Corrective action request with deadline, warning letter, Fine and finally suspension and or revocation of license.

b. Routine official **sampling scheme**: EU minimum requirements are implemented i.e. official sampling are performed:

- in one flock per year per holding comprising at least 1,000 birds;
- at the age of 24 +/- 2 weeks in laying flocks housed in buildings where the relevant Salmonella was detected in the preceding flock;
- in any case of suspicion of Salmonella infection when investigating food-borne outbreaks in accordance with Article 8 of Directive 2003/99/EC or any cases where the competent authority considers it appropriate, using the sampling protocol laid down in point 4(b) of Part D to Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003;
- in all other laying flocks on the holding in case Salmonella Enteritidis or Salmonella Typhimurium is detected in one laying flock on the holding;
- in cases where the competent authority considers it appropriate.

Comments - Indicate also 1)if additional official sampling going beyond EU minimum requirements is performed give a description of what is done 2)who is taking the official samples

Official controls at flock-level:

All registered and functioning layer flocks as described in the NCP, on both Malta and Gozo , are sampled.

The CA, to date , has been carrying out the majority of sampling described in point 2.1 of the Annex of Commission Regulation (EC) No 517/2011, this means that the CA carries out both official and non-official sampling of most layer farms. Two veterinary support officers are responsible for sampling on poultry farms. They have been trained in sampling techniques as per Regulation requirements. they also take blood samples for Avian Influenza monitoring and residue analysis samples. These samples fall

Programme of eradication of Salmonella serotypes

under the Animal Unit and are supervised by the OV incharge of the Poultry Section. Official Samples to be taken are in accordance to Annex point 2.1 (a) to (e) of CR No. 517/2011.

Targeted age-groups:

Official Samples to be taken

(i) Day-olds (when available since operators are preferring to get point-of-lay flocks). These are generally sampled at the BIP.

(ii) Pullets

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.

1bird from one house is tested for antibiotic residue

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

c. Official confirmatory sampling:

After positive official samples at the holding

Always

Sometimes (criteria apply)

Never

After positive FBO samples at the holding

Always

Sometimes (criteria apply)

Never

Comments - Describe also the criteria (if any) quoted above (max. 32000 chars) :

Official confirmatory sampling is performed in certain situations:

(i) when either only dust sample have resulted positive to the targeted serovars or if the farmer have requested such analysis after that targeted serovars have been isolated from a sampling other than official sampling

Programme of eradication of *Salmonella* serotypes

- (ii) reasonable suspicion of improper sampling, not according to Regulation 517/2011.
- (iii) Furthermore, official confirmatory sampling is performed if there would be any *Salmonella* outbreaks in humans which would be reported to the CA and which would lead to a particular farm or area.
- (iv) The FBO requests confirmatory sampling since there is documented proof that a complete vaccination programme according to requirements was carried out on the suspect flock and the premises are up to relevant standards of hygiene and biosecurity.

- d. Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 (**antimicrobials** shall not be used as a specific method to control *Salmonella* in poultry): please describe the official controls implemented (documentary checks, sampletaking) to check the correct implementation of this provision. For samples please describe the samples taken, the analytical method used, the result of the tests.

Comments - Describe also if any other measures are implemented (max. 32000 chars) :

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, even when the FBO carries own - checks. 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 antimicrobial residue test. In 2014 the method was validated also for poultry muscle and the analysis is included in the accreditation scope.

When a positivity arises, the FBO is asked to produce a prescription.

(i) If the FBO has a valid prescription and the use of antimicrobials is according to Regulation requirements, an appropriate withdrawal time is allowed and re-sampling and analysis is carried out. The sale of eggs is restricted until the CA is satisfied that the withdrawal period has been respected and a negative screening result is obtained from the re-sampling after the prescribed withdrawal period.

(ii) If no prescription is produced and the FBO denies use of antimicrobials, the sample would be sent for confirmatory analysis abroad since such analysis is not carried out locally. The sample is sent abroad to the contracted foreign accredited laboratory for confirmatory analysis of antimicrobial residue. There is no restriction imposed since the first analysis is a screening test and the result from the confirmatory analysis can take up to three weeks. If a positive confirmatory result is issued for antimicrobial residues, an investigation is carried out and restriction imposed on the flock.

Layer flocks are generally not slaughtered for human consumption in Malta. However, if the FBO would want to slaughter the layer flock for human consumption, the procedure for positive broiler flocks is implemented. The flock is slaughtered at end of slaughter day. The FBO samples the neck skins in accordance to CR 2073/2005. Decision is taken in accordance with the hygiene package. Local produce is generally consumed fresh. If *Salmonella* spp. is isolated from the neck skins, the isolates are typed. If the targeted serovars are identified, traceability exercise is carried out, if meat is present on the market then

Programme of eradication of *Salmonella* serotypes

recall is initiated. A corrective action will be also implemented in the slaughter house.

15. *Salmonella* vaccination

Voluntary

Compulsory

Forbidden

Use of *Salmonella* vaccines is in compliance with provisions of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006.

Comments - If performed please describe the vaccination scheme (vaccines used, vaccines providers, target flocks, number of doses administered per bird, etc) (max. 32000 chars) :

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. From 2011, vaccination of new flocks was mandatory. The CA has approved the use of two live vaccines (Avi pro of Lohmann and Merial) that have to be used in accordance to the recommendations of the producer. The birds are given three doses, as day-olds, at 7 weeks and 13 weeks.

Any point-of-lay pullets imported had to be certified as vaccinated with live vaccines approved by the CA.

The vaccination has to be carried out under veterinary supervision and only those flocks with a veterinary certificate will be recorded.

vaccination was not mandatory since 2012 once the seroprevalence was under 10%.

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. From 2011, vaccination of new flocks was mandatory. The CA has approved the use of two live vaccines that have to be used in accordance to the recommendations of the producer. Any point-of-lay pullets imported had to be certified as vaccinated with live vaccines approved by the CA.

The vaccination has to be carried out under veterinary supervision and only those flocks with a veterinary certificate will be recorded.

vaccination was not mandatory since 2012 once the seroprevalence was under 10%.

16. System for **compensation to owners** for the value of their birds slaughtered or culled and the eggs destroyed or heat treated.

Programme of eradication of Salmonella serotypes

Describe the system for compensation to owners. Indicate also how improper implementation of biosecurity measures can affect the payment of compensation (max. 32000 chars) :

The Legal notice under the Veterinary Services Act Chapter 437: LN 255 of 2012 titled "Measures for the Eradication of Salmonella Regulations, 2012" has the compensation rates applicable for 2012. New rates are going to be published for the current year.

The LN provides a deduction in compensation rates depending on the biosecurity conditions and also if the FBO has already had a positive flock in the past. (refer to attachment 3)

17. Official procedure to test, after the depopulation of an infected flock, the **efficacy of the disinfection** of a poultry house.

(max. 32000 chars) :

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

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 during the 2010 session.

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.

In the SOP regarding sampling (PI70 as attachment 1), such sampling procedures are also laid out .

Samples are taken using sterile moistened boot swabs to wipe areas like the walls, feeders, drinkers and fans. A pair of boot swabs is used per area sampled , then the floor of the house is sampled by walking with the bootswabs in a zig-zag manner to cover the surface area properly .

Programme of eradication of Salmonella serotypes

C. Targets

1 Targets related to flocks official monitoring

1.1 Targets on laboratory tests on official samples for year :

2016

Region	Type of the test (description)	Target population (categories and species targeted)	Type of sample	Objective	Number of planned tests	
Malta	Bacteriological detection test	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	animals	routine sampling	60	X
Malta	Serotyping	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	-	-	28	X
Malta	Antimicrobial detection test	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	animals	routine test	18	X
Malta	Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	-	-	20	X
Add a new row						
Total					126	
Total Antimicrobial detection test					18	
Total Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection					20	
Total Bacteriological detection test					60	
Total Serotyping					28	

Programme of eradication of Salmonella serotypes

1.1 *Targets on laboratory tests on official samples for year :*

2017

Region	Type of the test (description)	Target population (categories and species targeted)	Type of sample	Objective	Number of planned tests		
Malta	Bacteriological detection test	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	animals	routine sampling	60	X	
Malta	Antimicrobial detection test	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	animals	routine test	15	X	
Malta	Serotyping	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	-	-	25	X	
Malta	Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	-	-	20	X	
					Add a new row		
					Total	120	
					Total Antimicrobial detection test	15	
					Total Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	20	
					Total Bacteriological detection test	60	
					Total Serotyping	25	

1.2 *Targets on official sampling of flocks for year :*

2016

Programme of eradication of Salmonella serotypes

Region	Type of flock	Total number of flocks (a)	Number of flocks in the programme	Number of flocks checked (b)	Number of flock visits to take official samples (d)	Number of official samples taken	Targeted serotypes (c)	Possible number of positive flocks	Number of flocks to be depopulated	Total number of animals to be slaughtered or destroyed	Quantity of eggs to be destroyed (number)	Quantity of eggs to be channelled to egg product (number)	
Malta	Laying flocks of	100	100	100	32	126	SE+ST	1	1	10 000	35 000	0	X
Total		100	100	100	32	126		1	1	10 000	35 000	0	
										Add a new row			

(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) Salmonella Enteritidis + Salmonella Typhimurium = SE + ST Salmonella Enteritidis + Salmonella Typhimurium + Salmonella Hadar + Salmonella Infantis + Salmonella Virchow = SE+ ST + SH +SI + SV

(d) Each visit for the purpose of taking official samples shall be counted. Several visits on the same flock for taking official samples shall be counted separately.

1.2 Targets on official sampling of flocks for year :

2017

Region	Type of flock	Total number of flocks (a)	Number of flocks in the programme	Number of flocks checked (b)	Number of flock visits to take official samples (d)	Number of official samples taken	Targeted serotypes (c)	Possible number of positive flocks	Number of flocks to be depopulated	Total number of animals to be slaughtered or destroyed	Quantity of eggs to be destroyed (number)	Quantity of eggs to be channelled to egg product (number)	
Malta	Laying flocks of	100	100	100	30	120	SE+ST	1	1	12 000	38 000	0	X
Total		100	100	100	30	120		1	1	12 000	38 000	0	
										Add a new row			

Programme of eradication of Salmonella serotypes

(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) Salmonella Enteritidis + Salmonella Typhimurium = SE + ST Salmonella Enteritidis + Salmonella Typhimurium + Salmonella Hadar + Salmonella Infantis + Salmonella Virchow = SE+ ST + SH +SI + SV

(d) Each visit for the purpose of taking official samples shall be counted. Several visits on the same flock for taking official samples shall be counted separately.

2 *Targets on vaccination*

2.1 *Targets on vaccination for year :*

2016

		Targets on vaccination			
NUTS Region	Number of flocks in the programme	Number of flocks expected to be vaccinated	Number of animals expected to be vaccinated	Number of doses of vaccine expected to be administered	
Malta	100	20	30 000	90 000	X
			Add a new row		

2.1 *Targets on vaccination for year :*

2017

Programme of eradication of Salmonella serotypes

NUTS Region	Number of flocks in the programme	Number of flocks expected to be vaccinated	Number of animals expected to be vaccinated	Number of doses of vaccine expected to be administered	
		Targets on vaccination			
NUTS Region	Number of flocks in the programme	Number of flocks expected to be vaccinated	Number of animals expected to be vaccinated	Number of doses of vaccine expected to be administered	
Malta	100	18	28 000	84 000	X
			Add a new row		

Programme of eradication of Salmonella serotypes

D. Detailed analysis of the cost of the programme

1 Costs of the planned activities for year :

2016

1. Testing of official samples						
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of tests	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Cost of analysis	Bacteriological detection test	60	18.19	1091.4	yes	X
Cost of analysis	Serotyping	28	38.38	1074.64	yes	X
Cost of analysis	Antimicrobial detection test	18	3.43	61.74	yes	X
Cost of analysis	Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	20	16.72	334.4	yes	X
2. Vaccination (if you ask cofinancing for purchase of vaccins, you should also fill in A.15 and E.1.d)						
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of vaccine dosis	Average cost per dose in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Vaccination	Purchase of vaccine doses	90 000	0.05	4500	yes	X
3. Slaughter and destruction (without any salaries)						
Cost related to	<u>Compensation of</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Slaughter and destruction	Animals culled or slaughtered	10 000	4.4	44000	yes	X
Slaughter and destruction	Table eggs/hatching eggs destroyed	35 000	0.07	2450	yes	X

Programme of eradication of Salmonella serotypes

4.Cleaning and disinfection						
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
				Add a new row		
5.Other essential costs (Art. 8.1.h of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014)						
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
				Add a new row		
6. Cost of official sampling						
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Official sampling of poultry flocks	Cost of official sampling	32	5.97	191.04	yes	X
				Grand Total		
				53703.22		

1 *Costs of the planned activities for year :* **2017**

1. Testing of official samples						
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of tests	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Cost of analysis	Bacteriological detection test	60	18.19	1091.4	yes	X
Cost of analysis	Antimicrobial detection test	15	3.43	51.45	yes	X

Programme of eradication of Salmonella serotypes

Cost of analysis	Serotyping	25	38.38	959.5	yes	X
Cost of analysis	Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	20	16.72	334.4	yes	X
2. Vaccination (if you ask cofinancing for purchase of vaccins, you should also fill in A.15 and E.1.d)						
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of vaccine dosis	Average cost per dose in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Vaccination	Purchase of vaccine doses	84 000	0.06	5040	yes	X
3. Slaughter and destruction (without any salaries)						
Cost related to	<u>Compensation of</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Slaughter and destruction	Animals culled or slaughtered	12 000	4.4	52800	yes	X
Slaughter and destruction	Table eggs/hatching eggs destroyed	38 000	0.08	3040	no	X
4.Cleaning and disinfection						
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
				Add a new row		
5.Other essential costs (Art. 8.1.h of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014)						
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
				Add a new row		
6. Cost of official sampling						
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Official sampling of poultry flocks	Cost of official sampling	30	5.97	179.1	yes	X

Programme of eradication of Salmonella serotypes

		Grand Total	63495.85

E. Financial information

1. Identification of the implementing entities - financial circuits/flows

Identify and describe the entities which will be in charge of implementing the eligible measures planned in this programme which costs will constitute the reimbursement/payment claim to the EU. Describe the financial flows/circuits followed.

Each of the following paragraphs (from a to e) shall be filled out if EU cofinancing is requested for the related measure.

a) Implementing entities - **sampling**: who perform the official sampling? Who pays?
(e.g. authorised private vets perform the sampling and are paid by the regional veterinary services (state budget); sampling equipment is provided by the private laboratory testing the samples which includes the price in the invoice which is paid by the local state veterinary services (state budget))

There is only one central CA and official sampling is carried out by trained support officers. The salary, cost of fuel, and consumables come from the state budget.

b) Implementing entities - **testing**: who performs the testing of the official samples? Who pays?
(e.g. regional public laboratories perform the testing of official samples and costs related to this testing are entirely paid by the state budget)

Programme of eradication of Salmonella serotypes

The NVL under the Veterinary Regulation Directorate (VRD) carries out the testing and has a contract with the PHL to pay for the serotyping analysis . Payment for analysis is paid by the VRD from th state budget.

- c) Implementing entities - **compensation**: who performs the compensation? Who pays?
(e.g. compensation is paid by the central level of the state veterinary services,
or compensation is paid by an insurance fund fed by compulsory farmers contribution)

Compensaton is paid by the VRD under the Ministry from State funds . There is a LN regulating compensation payments. This had been included as an attachment. As prescribed in para 5, the rates are prescribed by a notice issues. The average market prices are provided by the National Statistics office. Timelines are not detailed in the legislation. The farmer applies for the compensation and once the vetting of all the documents is satisfactory and the rates have been published, the compensation is passed for payment.

- d) Implementing entities - **vaccination**: who provides the vaccine and who performs the vaccination? Who pays the vaccine? Who pays the vaccinator?
(e.g. farmers buy their vaccine to the private vets, send the paid invoices to the local state veterinary services which reimburse the farmers of the full amount and the vaccinator is paid by the regional state veterinary services)

The farmer pays for the vaccination bought from the veterinary pharmacy. The invoices ae then sent to the CA for reimbursement.

- e) Implementing entities - **other essential measures**: who implement this measure? Who provide the equipment/ service? Who pays?

Programme of eradication of Salmonella serotypes

Any other essential measures are always paid for by the VRD from State funds.

2 Co-financing rate (see provisions of applicable Work Programme)

The maximum co-financing rate is in general fixed at 50%. However based on provisions of Article 5.2 and 5.3 of the Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, we request that the co-financing rate for the reimbursement of the eligible costs would be increased:

- Up to 75% for the measures detailed below
- Up to 100% for the measures detailed below

Please explain for which measures and why co-financing rate should be increased to 75%

The cost of serotyping has been increased to 39.00 euro/sample.

Programme of eradication of Salmonella serotypes

3. Source of funding of eligible measures

All eligible measures for which cofinancing is requested and reimbursement will be claimed are financed by public funds.

yes

no

Programme of eradication of Salmonella serotypes

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 : **jpg, jpeg, tiff, tif, xls, xlsx, doc, docx, ppt, pptx, bmp, pna, pdf.**
- 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!
- 5) Only use letters from a-z and numbers from 1-10 in the attachment names, otherwise the submission of the data will not work.

List of all attachments

	Attachment name	File will be saved as (only a-z and 0-9 and -_):	File size
	6981_4356.doc	6981_4356.doc	84 kb
	6981_4357.doc	6981_4357.doc	18 kb
		Total size of attachments :	102 kb



Annex II : Control programme submitted for obtaining EU cofinancing - Reduction of prevalence of Salmonella serotypes

Member States seeking a financial contribution from the European Union for national programmes of eradication, control and surveillance shall submit online this application completely filled out.

In case of difficulty, please contact SANTE-VET-PROG@ec.europa.eu, describe the issue and mention the version of this document 2015 1.00

Your current version of Acrobat is: 11.015

Instructions to complete the form:

- 1) You need to have at least the **Adobe Reader version 8.1.3** or higher to fill and submit this form.
- 2) To verify your data entry while filling your form, you can use the "**verify form**" button at the top of each page.
- 3) When you have finished filling the form, verify that your internet connection is active, save a copy on your computer and then click on the "**submit notification**" button below. If the form is properly filled, the notification will be submitted to the EU server and a submission number will appear in the corresponding field. If you don't succeed to submit your programme following this procedure, check with your IT service that the security settings of your computer are compatible with this online submission procedure.
- 4) All programmes submitted online are kept in a central database. However only the information in the last submission is used when processing the data.
- 5) **IMPORTANT:** Once you have received the submission number, **save the form on your computer** for your records.
- 6) If the form is not properly filled in, an alert box will appear indicating the number of incorrect fields. Please check your form again, complete it and re-submit it according to steps 3). Should you still have difficulties, please contact SANTE-VET-PROG@ec.europa.eu.
- 7) For simplification purposes you are invited to submit **multi-annual programmes**.
- 8) As mentioned during the Plenary Task Force of 28/2/2014, you are invited to submit your programmes in **English**.

Submission Date

Monday, June 01, 2015 00:11:29

Submission Number

1433110306848-5781

Programme of eradication of Salmonella serotypes

Identification of the programme

Member state : MALTA

Disease Salmonella

This program is multi annual : yes

Type of submission : New multiannual programme

Request of Union co-financing
from beginning of :

2016

To end of

2018

Contact

Name : Susan Chircop

Your job type within the CA : Principle Veterinary officer

Phone : +356.22925389

Email : susan.chircop@gov.mt

Animal population

Animal population Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus

Programme of eradication of *Salmonella* serotypes

A. Technical information

By submitting this programme, the Member State (MS) attests that the relevant provisions of the EU legislation will be implemented during its entire period of approval, in particular:

- Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 on the control of *Salmonella* and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents,
- Regulation (EU) No 200/2012 concerning a Union target for the reduction of *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella Typhimurium* in flocks of broilers,
- Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 as regards requirements for the use of specific control methods in the framework of the national programmes for the control of *Salmonella* in poultry.

As a consequence, the following measures will be implemented during the whole period of the programme:

1. The **aim of the programme** is to implement all relevant measures in order to reduce the maximum annual percentage of flocks of *broilers* remaining positive to *Salmonella* Enteritidis (SE) and *Salmonella* Typhimurium (ST) (including the serotypes with the antigenic formula 1,4,[5],12:i:-) ('Union target') to 1% or less.

Comments(max. 32000 chars) :

The flock prevalence of the targeted serovars (*Salmonella* Enteritidis, *Salmonella* Typhimurium and Monophasic *Salmonella* Typhimurium) for 2014 is 1%. The flock prevalence demonstrates that the SNCP in Malta, continues to be successful in maintaining the Commission target of 1% or less (CR (EU) 200/2012 ; art.1).

In 2014, five flocks were found to be infected with the targeted serovars . One flock was positive, one with *Salmonella* Enteritidis , three with *Salmonella* Typhimurium. and two with monophasic *Salmonella* Typhimurium

The flock prevalence for other serovars is of 11.8%. The prevalence of other serovars is slowly decreasing from one year to the next. The most isolated serovar in 2014 was *Salmonella* Croft and *Salmonella* Kentucky .

Malta has been very successful in achieving the Commission target,

2013: The flock prevalence for the targeted serovars was of 0.6%. Other serovars had a seroprevalence of 15%.

2012: The flock prevalence for the targeted serovars was of 0.35%. other serovars had a seroprevalence of 17%.

2011: The flock prevalence of the targeted serovars (*Salmonella* enteritidis (SE) and *Salmonella* typhimurium (ST)) in 2011 was of 0.71%. Out of 567 flocks, 561 were tested. There has been a significant reduction in the prevalence from 2010, where the prevalence was of 4.1%, eventhough *Salmonella* typhimurium was relatively more frequently isolated. In 2011, four (4) flocks were positive, three with

Programme of eradication of Salmonella serotypes

Salmonella Enteritidis and one with Salmonella Typhimurium. Malta has successfully achieved the targets as required by Commission Regulation. There has been an intense and effective control on the local broiler population .

The flock prevalence for other serovars is of 24.1% and therefore has decreased slightly compared to the flock prevalence in 2010 of 29%. The most isolated serovar remains Salmonella Kentucky which is represented by 12.8% of infected flocks, followed by Salmonella Infantis at 2.7% and Salmonella Haifa at 21.4%. This year a larger number of other uncommon serovars were typed such as Salmonella Konongo II, Salmonella Farmingdale and Salmonella Szentes .I

2010: The flock prevalence of the targeted serovars (Salmonella enteritidis (SE) and Salmonella typhimurium (ST)) in 2010 was of 4.1%.

Out of a total of 798 flocks , 587 were sampled and analysed since in the beginning of 2010 not all houses were being sampled and/or analysed separately. However this is the first close value of the flock prevalence to be taken as a reference point. The vast majority of isolates were ST (21 out of 24).

2. Geographical coverage of the programme

The programme will be implemented on the **whole territory** of the MS.

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

Malta is an archipelago. There are two main islands which are Malta and the smaller island of Gozo. 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. Out of the thirty-three holding, are located in Gozo. Malta and Gozo are considered as one region. The CA administers the whole region.

3. Flocks subject to the programme

The programme covers all flocks of broilers. It does not apply to flocks for private domestic use.

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

The maltese legislation, Animal Welfare Act. 439 LN 119 of 2005, states that any person or establishment rearing or keeping more than 20 broilers, should be licensed by the CA. Those flocks registered with the CA are covered by the SNCP. The CA is the Veterinary Regulation Directorate under the Veterinary and Phytosanitary Department. the holdings having the smallest capacities are around 700.

	Number of holdings
Total number of holdings with broilers in the MS	65
Total number of houses in these holdings	476
Number of holdings with more than 5,000 broilers	30

Programme of eradication of *Salmonella* serotypes

4. Notification of the detection of target *Salmonella* serovars

A procedure is in place which guarantees that the detection of the presence of the relevant *Salmonella* serotypes during sampling at the initiative of the food business operator (FBO) is notified without delay to the competent authority (CA) by the laboratory performing the analyses. Timely notification of the detection of the presence of any of the relevant *Salmonella* serotypes remains the responsibility of the FBO and the laboratory performing the analyses.

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

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.

The CA, to date, has been carrying out the majority of sampling described in point 2.1a & b of the Annex of Commission Regulation (EC) No 200/2012, this means that the CA carries out both official and non-official sampling of most broiler farms.

The FBO has to submit the salmonella status in the Food Information Chain Form when slaughtering any flock of birds, even if the same flock is slaughtered at different slaughterhouses. When the FBO carries out his own checks, the FBO has to submit the official sampling sheet filled in properly to the CA within days of sampling. The form is submitted with a broiler taken from the same flock which will be tested for antimicrobial residue analysis. Another tool that assists in the control of SNCP in broilers is that on the National livestock Database, all broiler flocks are automatically flagged up at 15 days of age.

5. Biosecurity measures

FBOs have to implement measures to prevent the contamination of their flocks.

Comments - Describe also the biosecurity measures that shall be applied, quote the document describing them (if any) and attach a copy

Comments - Describe also the biosecurity measures that shall be applied, quote the document describing them (if any) (max. 32000 chars) :

In Malta a national legislation is in force for providing general rules for the eradication of salmonella in broiler and laying hen flocks (Veterinary Services Act SL 104). The regulation refers to the control measures stated in the EU legislation and provides rules for the producer eligibility for compensation, including biosecurity measures. The mentioned national legislation states that "the producer shall follow all advices and recommendations regarding biosecurity measures to prevent salmonella infection" and the compensation of infected flocks is connected to the presence of proper biosecurity measures, a biosecurity programme is not officially requested to the farmers except for breeding animal farms (Animal Welfare Act SL 119/2005).

In 2010 a training course was organised for the farmers with the aim of improving their knowledge on the good hygiene practices and on the measures foreseen within the control programmes. During this training course, the need of biosecurity measures were detailed and a video detailing proper cleaning and disinfection practices was shown. Two documents were also distributed; "The Community Guide for Good Hygiene Practices in pullet Rearing and Egg Laying Flocks" and the other one was aimed at the

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Broiler industry. In June of 2015, a retraining course is being organised for the poultry FBO. During this session, a document regarding the general rules for biosecurity, general hygiene and good husbandry of the animals will be distributed. The Evidence of this will be kept.

This document will deal with :

- Hygiene and biosecurity measures (e.g. disinfection facilities at the entrance of the farm, clean area around the holdings, usage of separate clothes, separate area for the storage of tools, proper feed storage, disinfection of the holdings before the introduction of new animals)
- Measures to prevent incoming infections carried by animals, feed, vehicles, people, pests, etc.

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
PERSONNEL ON FARM:

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 to FBO by sampling staff.

WATER SUPPLY:

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.

Since the start of the SNCP, FBOs have become motivated and are very conscious of the importance to respect biosecurity measures. The fact that compensation is also penalised if biosecurity measures are not maintained has helped in investment by the FBO into upgrading the buil

6. Minimum sampling requirements for food business operators (FBO):

Samples at the initiative of the FBO's will be taken and analysed to test for the target *Salmonella* serovars respecting the following minimum sampling requirements:

All flocks of broilers within three weeks before slaughter.

Comments - Indicate also who takes the FBO samples

Only those FBOs trained by the CA can carry out sampling under the SNCP. The CA, often supplies them with the consumables.

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The CA accepts to derogate from this sampling rule and instead of this the FBOs shall sample at least one flock of broilers per round on holdings with more than one flock where:

- (i) an all in / all out system is used in all flocks of the holding;
- (ii) the same management applies to all flocks;
- (iii) feed and water supply is common to all flocks;
- (iv) during at least the last six rounds, tests for *Salmonella* spp. according to the sampling scheme set out in the first subparagraph in all flocks on the holding and samples of all flocks of at least one round were carried out by the competent authority;
- (v) all results from the testing according to the first subparagraph and point (b) for SE or ST were negative.

Comments - Indicate if the derogation is applied and in this case how many holdings and flocks are concerned

so far no derogation has been granted ,re-evaluation is being carried out.

The CA accepts to derogate from the general sampling rule and authorises FBO sampling in the last six weeks prior to the date of slaughter in case the broilers are either kept more than 81 days or fall under organic broiler production according to Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008.

Comments - Indicate if the derogation is applied and in this case how many holdings and flocks are concerned

N/A

7. Samples are taken in accordance with provisions of point 2.2 of Annex to Regulation (EU) No 200/2012

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

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 considered as a separate flock and sampled separately.

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8. When birds from flocks infected with SE or ST are slaughtered, please describe the measures that shall be implemented by the FBO and the CA to ensure that fresh poultry meat meet the relevant EU **microbiological criteria** (row 1.28 of Chapter 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005): absence of SE/ST in 5 samples of 25g.

Measures implemented by the FBO (max. 32000 chars) :

- a) The owner has to respect the restrictive measures . The entry of vehicles and personnel on the infected holding is to be restricted and strict biosecurity measures (protective clothing, boots, the use of foot baths and disinfection pits for vehicles) have to be respected to avoid spreading of infection out of the holding and between different houses.
- b) The operator is to inform the CA on the date or dates of slaughter. information of the Salmonella status has to appear on the food chain information form which the operator submits to the slaughterhouse.
- c) Once the infected flock arrives at the slaughterhouse, the crates have to be washed and disinfected properly.
- d) The slaughter house has to include in its HACCP plan, the procedure and precautions to take when slaughtering Salmonella infected flock or flocks of unknown Salmonella status. 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. Cleaning and disinfection after slaughter has to be carried out with utmost care .
- e) The slaughterhouse will take samples in accordance to the Annex of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1086/2011. A copy of the result of the analysis has to be submitted immediately to the CA.
- f) The animal by products produced are collected in bins. These bins are supplied by the Thermal Facility. The feathers and green offals are collected in separate bins. The by-products are Category 2 and their collection is controlled and verified by the officer in charge of animal by-products.
- g) If the poultry carcasses are to be processed, than the processing plant is to ensure and verify that the batch number of the processed products can be traced back to the origin. The processing plant has to comply with CR (EU) No. 1086/2011 and carry out analysis in accordance to this Regulation.
- h) If Salmonella spp. is isolated from the neck skins , the serovar has to be typed. If serotyping results in identification of SE or ST, the slaughterhouse has to implement the measures requested by the CA.

Measures implemented by the CA (max. 32000 chars) :

- a) The CA would have issued the report with restrictive measures. There is to be no movement of infected animals between houses and out of the holding only for the purpose of culling or until slaughter. The movement document prior to slaughter is issued by the Animal Health Unit of the CA.

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- b) The OV has to make sure that the FCI is duly filled. The CA has an SOP to outline slaughter procedures and management of such carcasses and of results from analysis of slaughtered infected flocks, to guarantee reduction of spread of the zoonoses. The OV has to record on a checklist that a number of precautions and conditions are in accordance to the SOP. An example of the precautions is that the infected flock is to be slaughtered at the end of slaughter or the flock is slaughtered on its own during the slaughter day.
- c) The OV has to ensure that the slaughterhouse operator samples neck skins in accordance to the Regulation on microbiological criteria.
- d) If serotyping of neck skins results in identification of SE or ST, the CA carries out a traceability exercise and appropriate action is taken.
- e) Cleaning of the house where the flock originated from has to be verified by the CA to have been effective, through microbiological analysis. The Animal Health & Welfare Unit of the CA will only issue permit for re-stocking if no *Salmonella* spp. is isolated from official samples taken after disinfection of the infected house / houses.

9. **Laboratories** in which samples (official and FBO samples) collected within this programme are analysed are accredited to ISO 17025 and the analytical methods for *Salmonella* detection is within the scope of their accreditation.

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

There are two state laboratory involved in the SNCP and both are ISO accredited according to ISO 17025. The National Veterinary laboratory (NVL) is responsible for all analysis of official samples and for the majority of analysis of unofficial samples, which are carried out on behalf of the FBO. The NVL has just achieved ISO 17025 accreditation (end of April 2015) and the analysis of *Salmonella*, according to EN/ISO 6579-2002/Amd 1:2007, is included in the accreditation scope. The NVL sends all *Salmonella* spp. isolates for serotyping to the Public Health Laboratory (PHL) which falls under a different Ministry, The Ministry of Energy and Health. The PHL is also NRL for Zoonotic Salmonellosis and the analysis of serotyping is included in the accreditation scope.

To date there are two private laboratories mainly involved in the few unofficial analysis carried out under the SNCP. There is one local laboratory with whom the NRL has a memorandum of understanding. This laboratory is ISO 17025 accredited and *Salmonella* analysis is according to legislative requirements and is included in the accreditation scope. Some FBO send their samples to a lab in Italy (Sicily). The laboratory is accredited and has also submitted its PT documentation to the NRL. A list of approved laboratories will be made public on the website of the Ministry by the beginning of 2016.

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10. The **analytical methods** used for the detection of the target *Salmonella* serovars is the one defined in Part 3.2 of the Annex of Regulation (EU) No 200/2012 i.e. Amendment 1 of EN/ISO 6579-2002/Amdl: 2007.

'Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs - Horizontal method for the detection of Salmonella spp.

— *Amendment 1: Annex D: Detection of Salmonella spp. in animal faeces and in environmental samples from the primary production stage'.*

Serotyping is performed following the Kauffman-White-Le Minor scheme.

For samples taken on behalf of the FBO alternative methods may be used if validated in accordance with the most recent version of EN/ISO 16140.

Comments

The method of analysis used by the four laboratories currently involved in the SNCP is that recommended by the Community Reference Laboratory for Salmonella, being the current version of draft Annex D of ISO 6579 : "Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs- Horizontal method for the detection of Salmonella spp -Amendment 1: Annex D; 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- Le Minor scheme by the Public Health laboratory. The PHL has included serotyping analysis in the accreditation scope since 2014. Results are then sent through e-mail & later by mail to the NVL.

Both private labs , currently involved in the SNCP are ISO 17025 accredited and the analysis of Salmonella is included in their accreditation scope. One private laboratory involved in unofficial analysis under the SNCP is situated in Sicily. The other private laboratory is a local lab and carries out typing only for Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium. However, the local private laboratory has undertaken to submit any positive isolates of Salmonella spp. to the NVL, for further typing.

11. Samples are transported and stored in accordance with point 2.2.4 and 3.1 of the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 200/2012. In particular samples examination at the laboratory shall start within 48 hours following receipt and within 4 days after sampling.

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

The majority of both official and non-official samples are collected by CA staff . Training is carried out for sampling officers and records of such training is kept at the NVL. The SOP is PI 70 (attachment in layer programme) describing sampling and submission procedures.

The samples are collected first thing in the morning , generally between 6.00 and 10.00 (the latest). They

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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. The time of sampling and the time of submission appear on the sampling form and are also recorded in the report form.

The samples arriving at the NVL 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.

The unofficial samples analysed at the local laboratory may be either sampled by the laboratory staff of this lab or by authorised FBO's. The NVL had also conducted a training session for technicians of the private lab. The training session was conducted with the help of a power point presentation and a practical session on-farm. The training material on sampling techniques is used for the training of technicians and of FBO's. In the case of FBO's, it would not be possible to do an on-farm practical demonstration. The conditions of transport and sampling requirements are elaborated in the memorandum of understanding with the local laboratory.

The NVL verifies the sampling requirements for those unofficial samples sent to Sicily, through document check of the reports sent at a later date. However, the FBO sending unofficial samples both locally and abroad, fills in the official sampling form (attachment 2) and sends it to the NVL with details of the house sampled, the batch sampled etc.. The FBO also sends a culled broiler from one of the houses sampled for antimicrobial residue analysis.

12. Please describe the **official controls at feed level** (including sampling).

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

Official controls at feed -level:

There are six larger 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 predominately from EU. A small number of farms carry out home mixing.

To date only two of the feed mills carry out their own sampling.

Official visits are 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. The CA also runs an annual sampling programme on feeds, whereby official samples are collected from all the major feedmills. The sampling programme includes residue analysis but also analysis for Salmonella spp. An average of ten twelve samples are collected from the feed mills. Random sampling, is also carried out on some of the home mixers. In 2014, there were no positive samples for Salmonella isolation from the samples analysed under the national control programme on commercial feed mills.

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13. Official controls at holding and flock level

a. Please describe the official checks concerning the **general hygiene provisions** (Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004) including checks on biosecurity measures, and consequences in case of unsatisfactory outcome.

(max. 32000 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, the vast majority of sampling under the framework of the legislation 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. A biosecurity check-list, common to all commercial flocks is also filled in once annually. Every check-list is a control document.

Any non-compliance follows the internal SOP for enforcement. The enforcement measures consist of: verbal and written improvement notice, Corrective action request with deadline, warning letter, Fine and finally suspension and or revocation of license.

There are two registered hatcheries. These will be visited at least once a year. national legislation regulates Hatchery establishments.

b. Routine official **sampling scheme**: EU minimum requirements are implemented i.e. official sampling are performed:

■ in one flock of broilers per year on 10% of holding comprising at least 5,000 birds;

Comments - Indicate also: 1) if additional official sampling going beyond EU minimum requirements is performed give a description of what is done 2) who is taking the official samples (max. 32000 chars) :

Official Samples to be taken

(i) from at least one flock of broilers on 10% of those holdings with more than 5,000 birds.

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- (ii) environmental samples from house after disinfection, after slaughtering of a positive flock.
- (iii) if deemed necessary, on other flocks in a holding where a positive flock was identified , up to six-months prior.
- (iii) In case of suspicion of Salmonella infection .

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 considered as a separate flock and sampled separately.

c. Official confirmatory sampling:

After positive official samples at the holding

- Always
- Sometimes (criteria apply)
- Never

After positive FBO samples at the holding

- Always
- Sometimes (criteria apply)
- Never

Comments - Justify the confirmatory sampling strategy - Describe also the criteria (if any) quoted above (max. 32000 chars) :

N/A

- d. Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 (**antimicrobials** shall not be used as a specific method to control *Salmonella* in poultry): please describe the official controls implemented (documentary checks, sample taking) to check the correct implementation of this provision. For samples please describe the samples taken, the analytical method used, the result of the tests.

(max. 32000 chars) :

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, even when the FBO carries own -

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checks. 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 antimicrobial residue test. In 2014 the method was validated also for poultry muscle and the analysis is included in the accreditation scope.

When a positivity arises, the FBO is asked to produce a prescription. If the FBO has a valid prescription and the use of antimicrobials is according to Regulation requirements, an appropriate withdrawal time is allowed and re-sampling and analysis is carried out.

If no prescription is produced and the FBO denies use of antimicrobials, the sample would be sent for confirmatory analysis abroad since such analysis is not carried out locally. In the meantime, the flock is slaughtered, it may then be slaughtered under unknown Salmonella status, if there is no time for re-analysis. If antimicrobial residue is confirmed, then in accordance to the internal enforcement procedure, a warning letter is sent to the FBO. A repeated offense would then give rise to a fine, according to the Veterinary Service Act and if the situation continues to repeat itself, the Veterinary Service Act allows the CVO to withdrawal or suspend the license.

14. Official procedure to test, after the depopulation of an infected flock, the **efficacy of the disinfection** of a poultry house.

(max. 32000 chars) :

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

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 during the 2010 session. 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. In the SOP regarding sampling (PI70 as attachment 1), such sampling procedures are also laid out. Samples are taken using sterile moistened boot swabs to wipe areas like the walls, feeders, drinkers and fans. A pair of boot swabs is used per area sampled, then the floor of the house is sampled by walking with the bootswabs in a zig-zag manner to cover the surface area properly.

B. General information

1. Structure and organisation of the **Competent Authorities** (from the central CA to the local CAs)

Short description and/or reference to a document presenting this description (max. 32000 chars) :

There is only one Competent Authority being the Veterinary Regulation and Phytosanitary Department, which is made up of two Directorates:

Veterinary Regulation Directorate

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Animal Welfare and Promotion Services Directorate

The Veterinary Regulation Directorate (VRD), primarily the National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL), which falls under this Directorate, is in charge of supervising, coordinating, implementing and reporting of 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 four Units:

A) The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL): responsible for the supervision, management, implementation and reporting of the Salmonella Control Programme.

B) The Animal Health & Welfare Unit: 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 Unit : responsible for slaughterhouses and processing plants

D) Trade Unit: implements checks for intracommunity trade and third country imports.

A) The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL):

(i) Principal Veterinary officer in charge will be responsible for:

- appropriate training of personnel responsible for collecting the samples and organising training session for operators
- in charge of supervising that the programme is adhered to and that the samples are collected according to the programme by co-ordinating with the Animal Health Section but also private laboratories.
- 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
- co-ordinate with Public Health Laboratory (NRL) for typing of positive isolates and co-ordinate with private labs, authorised to carry out analysis of unofficial samples in transmission of results.
- carry out audits of authorised private laboratories to verify compliancy with Commission Regulation (EU) No 200/2012.
- reporting of all results to the Animal Health section and Official veterinarians at white meat slaughterhouse
- inform Director of Safety of the Food Chain, CVO and slaughterhouse of any infected flocks
- collecting/ filing all relevant data and inputting of results into Livestock database and reporting of SNCP to Commission.

B) Animal Health & Welfare Section:

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

- the management of the National Livestock database (Intratrace). All information relative to any local livestock is held in the database, the data of which is accessible to staff of the CA. The Animal Health Section is also responsible for issuing unique batch identification numbers to a batch of birds purchased by operators.
- co-ordination of sampling team. The National Livestock Database is programmed to flag up any broiler flocks at fifteen days of age. This permits officer in charge to print out a list of holdings that have to be sampled. A copy of this list is passed to the NVL, providing a tool for the monitoring of those holdings carrying out own checks.
- collaborating with the principal veterinary officer i/c lab.
- collection and input of data regarding slaughter, culling and vaccination records of local poultry flocks.
- organising on farm investigation, as required.

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- collaborate in census, movement restriction, eradication and disinfection measures, as required.
- collaborate in farm investigations, in view of re-population of holding.

(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 NVL.
- 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) Safety of the Food Chain

(vi) Director is responsible for;

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

(vii) OV at white meat slaughterhouse is responsible :

- for checking food chain information submitted by operator and cross-checking SNCP results communicated by NVL .
- careful supervision of slaughtering of infected flocks in accordance to SOP and communicating all relevant data to NVL.
- collecting official samples as may be required in accordance to CR (EC) No 2073/2005.

Chief Veterinary Officer

Following recommendations from principal veterinary officer i/c lab;

- Responsible for issuing restriction movement documents

2. Legal basis for the implementation of the programme

(max. 32000 chars) :

There is only one Competent Authority being the Veterinary Regulation and Phytosanitary Department, which is made up of two Directorates:

Veterinary Regulation Directorate
Animal Welfare and Promotion Services Directorate

The Veterinary Regulation Directorate (VRD), primarily the National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL), which falls under this Directorate, is in charge of supervising, coordinating, implementing and reporting of the

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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 four Units:

A) The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL): responsible for the supervision, management, implementation and reporting of the Salmonella Control Programme.

B) The Animal Health & Welfare Unit: 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 Unit : responsible for slaughterhouses and processing plants

D) Trade Unit: implements checks for intracommunity trade and third country imports.

A) The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL):

(i) Principal Veterinary officer in charge will be responsible for:

- appropriate training of personnel responsible for collecting the samples and organising training session for operators
- in charge of supervising that the programme is adhered to and that the samples are collected according to the programme by co-ordinating with the Animal Health Section but also private laboratories.
- 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
- co-ordinate with Public Health Laboratory (NRL) for typing of positive isolates and co-ordinate with private labs, authorised to carry out analysis of unofficial samples in transmission of results.
- carry out audits of authorised private laboratories to verify compliancy with Commission Regulation (EU) No 200/2012.
- reporting of all results to the Animal Health section and Official veterinarians at white meat slaughterhouse
- inform Director of Safety of the Food Chain, CVO and slaughterhouse of any infected flocks
- collecting/ filing all relevant data and inputting of results into Livestock database and reporting of SNCP to Commission.

B) Animal Health & Welfare Section:

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

- the management of the National Livestock database (Intratrace). All information relative to any local livestock is held in the database, the data of which is accessible to staff of the CA. The Animal Health Section is also responsible for issuing unique batch identification numbers to a batch of birds purchased by operators.
- co-ordination of sampling team. The National Livestock Database is programmed to flag up any broiler flocks at fifteen days of age. This permits officer in charge to print out a list of holdings that have to be sampled. A copy of this list is passed to the NVL, providing a tool for the monitoring of those holdings carrying out own checks.
- collaborating with the principal veterinary officer i/c lab.
- collection and input of data regarding slaughter, culling and vaccination records of local poultry flocks.
- organising on farm investigation, as required.
- collaborate in census, movement restriction, eradication and disinfection measures, as required.
- collaborate in farm investigations, in view of re-population of holding.

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

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- ensuring to follow appropriate training.
- collecting and transporting samples appropriately.
- deliver samples within 24hours from collection to the NVL.
- 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) Safety of the Food Chain

(vi) Director is responsible for;

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

(vii) OV at white meat slaughterhouse is responsible :

- for checking food chain information submitted by operator and cross-checking SNCP results communicated by NVL .
- careful supervision of slaughtering of infected flocks in accordance to SOP and communicating all relevant data to NVL.
- collecting official samples as may be required in accordance to CR (EC) No 2073/2005.

Chief Veterinary Officer

Following recommendations from principal veterinary officer i/c lab;

- Responsible for issuing restriction movement documents

3. Give a short summary of the outcome of the **monitoring of the target *Salmonella* serovars** (SE, ST) implemented in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 2003/99/EC (evolution of the prevalence values based on the monitoring of animal populations or subpopulations or of the food chain).

(max. 32000 chars) :

Malta has been very successful in achieving the Commission target,

In 2014, the flock prevalence was of 1%.

2013: The flock prevalence for the targeted serovars was of 0.6%. Other serovars had a seroprevalence of 15%.

2012: The flock prevalence for the targeted serovars was of 0.35%. other serovars had a seroprevalence of 17%.

2011: The flock prevalence of the targeted serovars (*Salmonella enteritidis* (SE) and *Salmonella typhimurium* (ST)) in 2011 was of 0.71%. Out of 567 flocks, 561 were tested. There has been a significant

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reduction in the prevalence from 2010, where the prevalence was of 4.1%, even though Salmonella typhimurium was relatively more frequently isolated. In 2011, four (4) flocks were positive, three with Salmonella Enteritidis and one with Salmonella Typhimurium. Malta has successfully achieved the targets as required by Commission Regulation. There has been an intense and effective control on the local broiler population .

The flock prevalence for other serovars is of 24.1% and therefore has decreased slightly compared to the flock prevalence in 2010 of 29%. The most isolated serovar remains Salmonella Kentucky which is represented by 12.8% of infected flocks, followed by Salmonella Infantis at 2.7% and Salmonella Haifa at 21.4%. This year a larger number of other uncommon serovars were typed such as Salmonella Konongo II, Salmonella Farmingdale and Salmonella Szentes .I

2010: The flock prevalence of the targeted serovars (Salmonella enteritidis (SE) and Salmonella typhimurium (ST)) in 2010 was of 4.1%.

Out of a total of 798 flocks , 587 were sampled and analysed since in the beginning of 2010 not all houses were being sampled and/or analysed separately. However this is the first close value of the flock prevalence to be taken as a reference point. The vast majority of isolates were ST (21 out of 24).

2009: Prevalence data is incomplete. The SNCP commenced mid-2009 due to lack of human resources. A total of eighty-seven flocks were sampled. Out of the 87 flocks, twenty-seven (27) flocks were positive to Salmonellosis . Two (2) 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 of Salmonellosis was of 31% with a 2.2% prevalence for the targeted serovars.

The SNCP has been very successful so far, with a significant reduction in the flock prevalence of the targeted serovars and a slight reduction in the flock prevalence of the other serovars

4. System for the registration of holdings and identification of flocks

(max. 32000 chars) :

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 Department 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 themselves 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. The number of birds reared has decreased by about 500,000 between 2010 and 2011. In 2011, there were 74 operational holdings compared to 89 holdings in 2010.

Hatcheries:

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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.

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 Animal Health Unit 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 National Livestock database (Intratrace).

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.

Structure of Broiler holdings:

The number of birds reared has decreased by about 500,000 between 2010 and 2011. In 2011, there were 74 operational holdings compared to 89 holdings in 2010 (798 flocks) . Holdings are family-run and are generally part-time businesses. There are no free-range farms on Malta / Gozo. All broilers are bred in closed houses, kept on bedding. The houses are generally situated very close to each other. A holding with a capacity of 5000 - 6000 can be divided up into three houses (therefore flocks).

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 an all-in-all-out system with a three -week resting period between flocks.

Total amount of birds reared in 2014 was around 2,500,000.

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).

5. System to monitor the implementation of the programme.

(max. 32000 chars) :

Through internal audits

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C. Targets

1 Targets related to flocks official monitoring

1.1 Targets on laboratory tests on official samples for year :

2016

Region	Type of the test (description)	Target population (categories and species targeted)	Type of sample	Objective	Number of planned tests	
Malta	Bacteriological detection test	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	animals	routine sampling	20	X
Malta	Serotyping	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	-	-	18	X
Malta	Antimicrobial detection test	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	animals	routine test	12	X
Malta	Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	-	-	30	X
					Add a new row	

1.1 Targets on laboratory tests on official samples for year :

2017

Region	Type of the test (description)	Target population (categories and species targeted)	Type of sample	Objective	Number of planned tests	
Malta	Bacteriological detection test	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	animals	routine sampling	25	X
Malta	Antimicrobial detection test	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	animals	routine test	15	X

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Malta	Serotyping	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	-	-	18	X
Malta	Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	Broiler flocks of Gallus gallus	-	-	25	X
					Add a new row	

1.2 Targets on official sampling of flocks for year :

2016

Region	Type of flock	Total number of flocks (a)	Number of flocks in the programme	Number of flocks checked (b)	Number of flock visits to take official samples (d)	Number of official samples taken	Targeted serotypes (c)	Possible number of positive flocks	Number of flocks to be depopulated	Total number of animals to be slaughtered or destroyed	Quantity of eggs to be destroyed (number)	Quantity of eggs to be channelled to egg product (number)	
Malta	Broiler flocks of	480	480	480	40	83	SE+ST	3	0	25 000	0	0	X
										Add a new row			

(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) Salmonella Enteritidis + Salmonella Typhimurium = SE + ST Salmonella Enteritidis + Salmonella Typhimurium + Salmonella Hadar + Salmonella Infantis + Salmonella Virchow = SE+ ST + SH +SI + SV

(d) Each visit for the purpose of taking official samples shall be counted. Several visits on the same flock for taking official samples shall be counted separately.

1.2 Targets on official sampling of flocks for year :

2017

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Region	Type of flock	Total number of flocks (a)	Number of flocks in the programme	Number of flocks checked (b)	Number of flock visits to take official samples (d)	Number of official samples taken	Targeted serotypes (c)	Possible number of positive flocks	Number of flocks to be depopulated	Total number of animals to be slaughtered or destroyed	Quantity of eggs to be destroyed (number)	Quantity of eggs to be channelled to egg product (number)	
Malta	Broiler flocks of	500	500	500	42	83	SE+ST	3	0	25 000	0	0	X
										Add a new row			

(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) Salmonella Enteritidis + Salmonella Typhimurium = SE + ST Salmonella Enteritidis + Salmonella Typhimurium + Salmonella Hadar + Salmonella Infantis + Salmonella Virchow = SE+ ST + SH +SI + SV

(d) Each visit for the purpose of taking official samples shall be counted. Several visits on the same flock for taking official samples shall be counted separately.

2 Targets on vaccination

2.1 Targets on vaccination for year :

2016

NUTS Region	Number of flocks in the programme	Targets on vaccination			
		Number of flocks expected to be vaccinated	Number of animals expected to be vaccinated	Number of doses of vaccine expected to be administered	
Malta	0	0	0	0	X

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NUTS Region	Number of flocks in the programme	Number of flocks expected to be vaccinated	Number of animals expected to be vaccinated	Number of doses of vaccine expected to be administered	
			Add a new row		

2.1 *Targets on vaccination for year :*

2016

		Targets on vaccination			
NUTS Region	Number of flocks in the programme	Number of flocks expected to be vaccinated	Number of animals expected to be vaccinated	Number of doses of vaccine expected to be administered	
Malta	0	0	0	0	X
			Add a new row		

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D. Detailed analysis of the cost of the programme

1 Costs of the planned activities for year :

2016

1. Testing of official samples						
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of tests	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Cost of analysis	Bacteriological detection test	20	18.19	363.8	yes	X
Cost of analysis	Serotyping	18	38.38	690.84	yes	X
Cost of analysis	Antimicrobial detection test	12	3.43	41.16	yes	X
Cost of analysis	Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	30	16.72	501.6	yes	X
2. Vaccination (if you ask cofinancing for purchase of vaccins, you should also fill in A.16 and E.2)						
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of vaccine dosis	Average cost per dose in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
3. Slaughter and destruction (without any salaries)						
Cost related to	<u>Compensation of</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Slaughter and destruction	Animals culled or slaughtered	10 000	4.4	44000	no	X
Slaughter and destruction	Table eggs/hatching eggs destroyed	35 000	0.07	2450	no	X
Slaughter and destruction	Animals culled or slaughtered	10 000	0	0	no	X

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Slaughter and destruction	Table eggs/hatching eggs destroyed	35 000	0	0	no	X
Slaughter and destruction	Animals culled or slaughtered	25 000	0	0	no	X
Slaughter and destruction	Table eggs/hatching eggs destroyed	35 000	0	0	no	X
Slaughter and destruction	Animals culled or slaughtered	25 000	0	0	no	X
Slaughter and destruction	Animals culled or slaughtered	25 000	0	0	no	X
4.Cleaning and disinfection						
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
				Add a new row		
5.Other essential costs (Art. 8.1.h of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014)						
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Official sampling of poultry flocks	Cost of official sampling	40	5.97	238.8	yes	X
				Add a new row		
6. Cost of official sampling						
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
				Add a new row		
		Total			48286.2	

1 *Costs of the planned activities for year :* **2017**

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1. Testing of official samples						
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of tests	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Cost of analysis	Bacteriological detection test	25	18.19	454.75	yes	X
Cost of analysis	Antimicrobial detection test	15	3.43	51.45	yes	X
Cost of analysis	Serotyping	18	38.38	690.84	yes	X
Cost of analysis	Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	25	16.72	418	yes	X
2. Vaccination (if you ask cofinancing for purchase of vaccins, you should also fill in A.16 and E.2)						
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of vaccine dosis	Average cost per dose in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
3. Slaughter and destruction (without any salaries)						
Cost related to	<u>Compensation of</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Slaughter and destruction	Animals culled or slaughtered	12 000	4.4	52800	yes	X
Slaughter and destruction	Table eggs/hatching eggs destroyed	38 000	0.08	3040	no	X
Slaughter and destruction	Animals culled or slaughtered	12 000	0	0	no	X
Slaughter and destruction	Table eggs/hatching eggs destroyed	38 000	0	0	no	X
Slaughter and destruction	Animals culled or slaughtered	25 000	0	0	no	X
Slaughter and destruction	Table eggs/hatching eggs destroyed	38 000	0	0	no	X
Slaughter and destruction	Animals culled or slaughtered	25 000	0	0	no	X
Slaughter and destruction	Animals culled or slaughtered	25 000	0	0	no	X

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4.Cleaning and disinfection						
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
				Add a new row		
5.Other essential costs (Art. 8.1.h of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014)						
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Official sampling of poultry flocks	Cost of official sampling	42	5.97	250.74	yes	X
				Add a new row		
6. Cost of official sampling						
Cost related to	<u>Specification</u>	Number of units	Unitary cost in EUR	Total amount in EUR	Union funding requested	
Total				57705.78		

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E. Financial information

1. Identification of the implementing entities - financial circuits/flows

Identify and describe the entities which will be in charge of implementing the eligible measures planned in this programme which costs will constitute the reimbursement/payment claim to the EU. Describe the financial flows/circuits followed.

Each of the following paragraphs (from a to e) shall be filled out if EU cofinancing is requested for the related measure.

a) Implementing entities - **sampling**: who perform the official sampling? Who pays?
(e.g. authorised private vets perform the sampling and are paid by the regional veterinary services (state budget); sampling equipment is provided by the private laboratory testing the samples which includes the price in the invoice which is paid by the local state veterinary services (state budget))

There is only one central CA and official sampling is carried out by trained support officers. The salary, cost of fuel, and consumables come from the state budget.

b) Implementing entities - **testing**: who performs the testing of the official samples? Who pays?
(e.g. regional public laboratories perform the testing of official samples and costs related to this testing are entirely paid by the state budget)

The NVL under the Veterinary Regulation Directorate (VRD) carries out the testing and has a contract with the PHL to pay for the serotyping analysis . Payment for analysis is paid by the VRD from the state budget.

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c) Implementing entities - **compensation**: who performs the compensation? Who pays?
(e.g. compensation is paid by the central level of the state veterinary services,
or compensation is paid by an insurance fund fed by compulsory farmers contribution)

Compensation is paid by the VRD under the Ministry from State funds

d) Implementing entities - **vaccination**: who provides the vaccine and who performs the vaccination? Who pays the vaccine? Who pays the vaccinator?
(e.g. farmers buy their vaccine to the private vets, send the paid invoices to the local state veterinary services which reimburse the farmers of the full amount and the vaccinator is paid by the regional state veterinary services)

The farmer pays for the vaccination bought from the veterinary pharmacy. The invoices are then sent to the CA for reimbursement.

e) Implementing entities - **other essential measures**: who implement this measure? Who provide the equipment/service? Who pays?

Any other essential measures are always paid for by the VRD from State funds.

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2 Co-financing rate (see provisions of applicable Work Programme)

The maximum co-financing rate is in general fixed at 50%. However based on provisions of Article 5.2 and 5.3 of the Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, we request that the co-financing rate for the reimbursement of the eligible costs would be increased:

Up to 75% for the measures detailed below

Up to 100% for the measures detailed below

Please explain for which measures and why co-financing rate should be increased to 75%

The cost of serotyping has been increased to 39.00 euro.

3. Source of funding of eligible measures

All eligible measures for which cofinancing is requested and reimbursement will be claimed are financed by public funds.

yes

no

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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 : **jpg, jpeg, tiff, tif, xls, xlsx, doc, docx, ppt, pptx, bmp, pna, pdf.**
- 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!
- 5) Only use letters from a-z and numbers from 1-10 in the attachment names, otherwise the submission of the data will not work.

List of all attachments

	Attachment name	File will be saved as (only a-z and 0-9 and -_):	File size
	5781_3942.pdf	5781_3942.pdf	169 kb
	5781_3943.doc	5781_3943.doc	18 kb
	5781_3944.doc	5781_3944.doc	83 kb
		Total size of attachments :	270 kb