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# PROTOCOL

## 20th INTERLABORATORY COMPARISON STUDY ON THE DETECTION OF *SALMONELLA* spp. IN SAMPLES FROM THE PRIMARY PRODUCTION STAGE

### organised by EURL-*Salmonella*, 2017

#### Introduction

This protocol describes the procedures for the 20<sup>th</sup> interlaboratory comparison study on the detection of *Salmonella* spp. in samples from the primary production stage amongst the National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) for *Salmonella* in the EU. The samples consist of chicken faeces contaminated with different concentrations of *Salmonella*. Hence, the samples can be analysed 'as such' and no reference materials need to be added at the laboratory of the NRL. **Note that the samples are transported with cooling packs and need to be stored at 5°C upon arrival.**

The prescribed method is described in Annex D of ISO 6579 (EN-ISO 6579:2002/Amd1: 2007: Amendment 1: Annex D: Detection of *Salmonella* spp. in animal faeces and in environmental samples from the primary production stage). Additionally, laboratories (who are interested) can also perform their 'own' PCR method on the samples, if this is (routinely) used in their laboratories.

The samples consist of 18 samples of contaminated chicken faeces and 2 control samples. The samples are artificially contaminated with three different levels (blank, low and high level) of a *Salmonella* serovar (coded B1-B18). The control samples consist of only BPW (coded C1) and one sample which needs to be used with an own positive control from the participating laboratory in BPW (coded C2). Each laboratory has to examine 20 samples in total. Upon arrival at your laboratory, please store the samples at 5 °C.

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The samples will be packed in 2 plastic safety bags in one large box together with cooling elements. **Both bags need to be stored at 5°C until the day of analyses (20 March 2017).** One safety bag will also contain a temperature recorder to measure the temperature during transport to the laboratory and storage of the samples at the laboratory. The recorder will be packed in a plastic bag, which will also contain your lab code. **You are urgently requested to return this complete plastic bag with recorder and lab code to the EURL-*Salmonella*, at the day your laboratory starts the study (20 March 2017).** For this purpose a return envelope with a preprinted address label of the EURL-*Salmonella* will be included.

Each box will be sent as biological substance category B (UN3373) by door-to-door (for non-EU-MS sometimes door-to-airport) courier service DHL. Please contact EURL-*Salmonella* when the parcel has not arrived at your laboratory by 23<sup>th</sup> of March 2017 (this is 3 working days after the day of mailing).

### Objectives

The main objective of the interlaboratory comparison study is to evaluate the performance of the NRLs for *Salmonella* for their ability to detect *Salmonella* spp. at different contamination levels in samples from the primary production stage.

### Outline of the study

Each participant will receive (in week 11 of 2017) one box containing 2 plastic safety bags, packed with cooling elements. The plastic safety bags contain:

20 numbered plastic bags containing contaminated chicken faeces:

- 18 bags numbered B1 - B18;
- 2 bags numbered C1 and C2;

**Store the plastic bags in the refrigerator at 5°C immediately after receipt.**

One plastic safety bag will also contain the small electronic temperature recorder in a plastic bag with your lab code. **This recorder (in the plastic bag) should be returned to the EURL-*Salmonella* at the day your laboratory starts the study (20 March 2017).**

The performance of the study will be in week 12 (starting on Monday 20 March 2017).

The documents necessary for performing the study are:

- Protocol Interlaboratory comparison study on the detection of *Salmonella* spp. in samples from the primary production stage, PPS XX (2017) (this document);
- Instructions for the web based test report Interlaboratory comparison study on the detection of *Salmonella* spp. in samples from the primary production stage;
- ISO 6579 (2002). Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs – Horizontal method for the detection of *Salmonella* spp.;
- ISO 6579:2002/Amd 1: 2007 Amendment 1 Annex D: Detection of *Salmonella* spp. in animal faeces and in environmental samples from the primary production stage.

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**The media to be used for this study will not be supplied by the EURL**

All data have to be reported through an electronic result form. The link, which will also become available on the EURL-*Salmonella* website, and the password for this form will be sent by email to the participants. Submission of data has to be finalised on **14 April 2017** (23:59 h CET) at the latest. **Mind that the electronic result form is no longer accessible after this deadline!** In case you foresee problems with the deadline, please contact us beforehand. The EURL will prepare a summary report soon after the study to inform all NRLs on the overall results.

**Timetable EURL-*Salmonella* interlaboratory comparison study on the detection of *Salmonella* spp. in samples from the primary production stage, 2017**

Week (2017)	Dates	Subject
9	In week of 27 February	Mailing of the protocol, lab code, the questions and instructions for the web based test report to the NRLs by email.
10	In week of 6 March	Sending the link and the password for the electronic results form to the participants by email.
11	13 March	Mailing of the parcels to the NRLs as Biological Substance Cat. B (UN3373) by DHL courier service  Preparation of the media by the NRLs
12	20 March	Performance of the study
15	<u>Before 14 April</u>	Deadline for completing the electronic submission of results: 14 April (23:59) After this deadline the electronic submission form will be closed.

If you have questions or remarks about this study, or in case of problems using the electronic result form, please contact:

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