



PROTOCOL

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

Organised by EURL-*Salmonella*, 2018

Introduction

This protocol describes the procedures for the interlaboratory comparison study on the detection of *Salmonella* spp. samples from the primary production stage amongst the National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) for *Salmonella* in the EU. The samples consist of bootsocks contaminated with chicken faeces. *Salmonella* is added to the bootsocks at the laboratory of the EURL-*Salmonella*.

Note that the samples are transported with cooling packs and need to be stored at 5°C upon arrival.

The prescribed method is EN ISO 6579-1:2017 (Microbiology of the food chain - Horizontal method for the detection, enumeration and serotyping of *Salmonella* - Part 1: Detection of *Salmonella* spp.). Additionally, laboratories (who are interested) can also perform their 'own' PCR method on the samples, if this is (routinely) used in their laboratories.

Objective

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 one box containing two large plastic safety bags, packed with cooling elements. The plastic safety bags contain 20 numbered plastic bags, consisting of:

- 18 samples of chicken faeces adhering to bootsocks artificially contaminated with different levels of a *Salmonella* serovar (coded B1-B18);
- 2 samples of (moisturised) bootsocks, to be used for the control samples, being only BPW (coded C1), and the (own) positive control of the participating laboratory (coded C2).

Upon arrival: immediately store all the samples at 5°C (\pm 3 °C) until the day of analyses (1 October 2018).

One safety bag will also contain the small electronic temperature recorder to measure the temperature during transport to the laboratory and storage of the samples at the laboratory. The recorder is packed in a plastic bag coded with 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 (1 October 2018).** For this purpose a return envelope with a preprinted address label of the EURL-*Salmonella* is 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 27 September 2018 (this is 3 working days after the day of mailing).

The performance of the study will start in week 40 (starting on Monday 1 October 2017).

The documents necessary for performing the study are:

- Protocol Interlaboratory comparison study on the detection of *Salmonella* spp. in samples from primary production stage 2018 (this document);
- Instructions for the web based test report: EU Interlaboratory comparison study on the detection of *Salmonella* spp. in samples from primary production stage, chicken faeces adhering to bootsocks 2018;
- EN ISO 6579-1:2017. Microbiology of the food chain - Horizontal method for the detection, enumeration and serotyping of *Salmonella* - Part 1: Detection of *Salmonella* spp.

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. This year, the EURL *Salmonella* has changed software for this electronic reporting form to Form desk. The link, which will also become available on the EURL-*Salmonella* website, will be sent by email to the participants. Submission of data has to be finalised on **26 October 2018 (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 (2018)

Week (2018)	Dates	Subject
37	In week of 10 September	Mailing of the protocol, lab code, and the questions of the web based test report to the NRLs by email.
38	In week of 17 September	Sending the link for the electronic results form to the participants by email.
39	24 September	Mailing of the parcels to the NRLs as Biological Substance Cat. B (UN3373) by DHL courier service Preparation of the media by the NRLs
40	1 October	Performance of the study
43	<u>Before 26 October</u>	Deadline for completing the electronic submission of results: 26 October (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, please contact:

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