

# PROTOCOL

## EURL-*Salmonella* Proficiency test PPS 2019

### Detection of *Salmonella* in chicken faeces

#### Introduction

This protocol describes the procedures for the Proficiency Test (PT) PPS 2019 on the detection of *Salmonella* spp. in chicken faeces amongst the National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) for *Salmonella* in the EU. The samples consist of chicken faeces contaminated with different concentrations of a *Salmonella* serovar.

**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 a second detection method to analyse the sample, if this is (routinely) used in their laboratories. Only the results obtained with EN ISO 6579-1:2017 are used to assess the performance of the NRL. Please report relevant details of the method(s) used in the result form.

#### Objective

The main objective of the Proficiency Test is to evaluate the performance of the NRLs for *Salmonella* for their ability to detect *Salmonella* spp. at different contamination levels in chicken faeces.

#### Outline of the study

Each participant will receive one box containing 2 large plastic safety bags, packed with cooling elements. The plastic safety bags contain 16 numbered plastic bags, consisting of:

- 14 samples of chicken faeces artificially contaminated with different levels of a *Salmonella* serovar (coded B1-B14);
- 2 (empty) sample bags, to be used for the control samples, being only BPW (coded C1), and the (own) positive control of the participating laboratory (coded C2).
- 1 sample bag containing a small electronic temperature recorder (coded with lab code)

**Upon arrival: all samples have to be stored at 5°C ( $\pm$  3 °C) until the day of analyses (30 September 2019).**

The sample bag containing the small electronic temperature recorder will measure the temperature during transport to the laboratory and storage of the samples at the laboratory. The sample bag with the recorder are 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 (30 September 2019).** 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 3 October 2019 (this is 3 working days after the day of mailing).

The performance of the study will start on Monday 30 September 2019.

The documents necessary for performing the study are:

- Protocol EURL *Salmonella* Proficiency test PPS 2019. Detection of *Salmonella* spp. in chicken faeces (this document);
- Short guidance on electronic submission of data in the result form for the EURL *Salmonella* Proficiency Test on the detection of *Salmonella* spp. in chicken faeces;
- 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.

All data have to be reported through the result form. 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 25 **October 2019** (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.

If you have questions or remarks about this study, or in case of problems, please contact:

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**Timetable EURL-*Salmonella* Proficiency Test Primary Production 2019**

| Week (2019) | Date                       | Subject   |
|-------------|----------------------------|---|
| 38          | In week of<br>16 September | Mailing of the protocol, lab code, and the link to the electronic result form to the participants by email.   |
| 39          | 23 September               | Mailing of the parcels to the NRLs as Biological Substance Cat. B (UN3373) by DHL courier service<br><br>Preparation of the media by the NRLs                   |
| 40          | 30 September               | Performance of the study  |
| 43          | 25 October at the latest   | Deadline for completing the electronic submission of results: <b>25 October</b> (23:59 h)<br>After this deadline the electronic submission form will be closed. |